



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 9: 28 September 2017

Our Vision

At St Mary's we aim to be Christ-like through prayerful hearts and willing hands. With reflective and creative minds we challenge ourselves to be the difference.

Our Learning Vision

To develop assessment capable students, teachers, school leaders and parents.

Our People Our Place

be. informed

oxforddictionaries.com / informed.

adj: having or showing knowledge of a subject or situation.

Message from the Principal

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

Great to write to you at this time of celebration for our school. The planning and preparation for our Jubilee provided a time to reflect on the very special place our school holds within the wider community of Tauranga Moana. We are not just a Catholic School, we are one of the first schools established in our area. However, the fact that we are indeed a Catholic School, commissioned by Bishop Liston and established by our Cluny Sisters richens this. The place we hold in Tauranga Moana is significant for the growth of our Church and our city. It is therefore fitting that we celebrated it as we have.

A very big thank you to all those who attended our Jubilee and a special thank you to all those who worked so hard and assisted in making it such a memorable weekend.

We had many past pupils return to the school from all parts of New Zealand and from overseas. All attendees appreciated the school's hospitality, especially the students participation in the Kapa Haka welcome, the performances on Saturday and the Sursum Corda and Pasfika Group at Sunday's Jubilee Mass. Our Year 6 students who offered to conduct tours of the school did an amazing job.

It was great to see so many of our families and pupils taking part in the performances and old fashioned games at the Saturday picnic.

One of the highlights at the Saturday night dinner was having two past pupils Kevin Farrelly and Jeremy Redmore entertain us with their singing. Jeremy, a former member of the band Midnight Youth.

Michael Cooney spoke about the origins of the school paying tribute to the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny and proposed a toast of thanks to the Sisters for establishing the school.

In her reply Sister Allison said how the Sisters were delighted that the charism of their foundress Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey is still being kept alive and how all members of the school community strive to live by her motto "To do a little good each day".

The Jubilee Mass celebrated by Bishop Steve, Fathers Mark and Danny and Father John Joliffe was a wonderful and very fitting conclusion to our weekend.

In the words of Pope John Paul the second our Jubilee did express our gratitude for the past, our enthusiasm for the present and we pray that God will continue to abundantly bless St Mary's School community in the future.

This week I have been visiting the Cluny Mother House in Paris. A trip I have been looking forward to and anticipating for a long time. When I first started at St Mary's I was introduced to the history of our school and quickly made a connection with our origins and the success of today. One of the key ingredients of this is our Cluny Charism.

I had initially thought of Charism as a gift, and it is, but it is a gift that we need to develop, enhance and in turn pass on to those that will follow into our community. We have an obligation to add to the amazing work of those who have made St Mary's what it is today. To contribute to the many qualities our school is so proud of and for whom our students benefit.

It is my intention to therefore better understand the Cluny Charism on which our school was built and has prospered and hopefully return with an enhanced ability to continue the work our Cluny Sisters started so passionately 75 years ago.

Summer Uniform

In starting the new term the expectation is to see a major focus on personal uniform standards. A slight transition to summer footwear and the retirement of any visible under garments should take place by Monday 16 October. Summer hats are also compulsory.

Absences

If your child is absent from school, please notify the school office by phone or text before 9.00am on the morning of the absence. The school absentee mobile number is: 021 2969437. When a child returns to school after an absence please give a written explanation to his/her classroom teacher.

Late arrivals to school

We have noticed a growth in the number of students who are arriving late to school. I realise that, on occasion, this cannot be avoided but unfortunately we have a number of students who arrive regularly after 9.00am. The start of the school day is 8.50am. It is important that students are here before this to ensure that they are ready for learning and do not disrupt a functioning class on their arrival.

An alarming statistic at St Mary's is that of all students who are late or absent for more than 15% of the school year, over 50% have achievement concerns. Something that I believe is easily addressed. Please make a big commitment next term to be at school on time.

Ben Fuller
Principal

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2017 Dates to Remember

Monday 16 October

- Term 4 starts
- Liturgy - Rosary 9am
- Aroha Camp starts

Tuesday 17 October

Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm

Wednesday 18 October

Aroha Camp returns

Thursday 19 October

Room 5 Class Mass 9am

Friday 20 October

Jump Jam School Tours 12.30pm

Monday 23 October

Labour Day - Public Holiday

Tuesday 24 October

Jump Jam School Tours 9am

Wednesday 25 October

- Photo Life School Photos
- Polyfest 9am
- Room 4, 9 & 15 baking for Merivale
- Western Bay of Plenty Tennis
- International Parent Afternoon Tea 2pm

Thursday 26 October

- Whakapono Team Marae Visit 9am
- Room 7 Class Mass 9am
- Jump Jam Performance 2.10pm

Friday 27 October

- Polyfest cancellation date 9am
- Sursum Corda trip to Taupo

Saturday 28 October

Jump Jam Nationals in Auckland

Monday 30 October

Liturgy - All Souls 9am

Thursday 2 November

Aroha Team Athletics at the Domain

Friday 3 November

Whole School Mass - All Saints 9.30am

Saturday 4 November

Taylor Brothers Fireworks Extravaganza 5pm

Tuesday 7 November

Welcome to new children and new families liturgy 10am

2018 Term Dates

Term 1

Thursday 1 February to Friday 13 April

Term 2

Monday 30 April to Friday 6 July

Term 3

Monday 23 July to Friday 28 September

Term 4

Monday 15 October to Tuesday 18 December



SPECIAL CHARACTER

Sacramental Programme for 2018

The next Sacramental programme for Year 4, 5 & 6 students will run from 11 February to 1 July 2018.

Enrolment Sunday	11 February
Classes for Reconciliation	5, 12, 19 March
Reconciliation	23 March (SMI)
Classes for Confirmation	30 April, 7, 14 May
Confirmation (Bishop Steve - Pentecost Sunday)	20 May
Classes for Eucharist	28 May, 4, 11, 18 June
Eucharist	23-24 June (SMI) 1st July (Te Puna)

The Sacramental Programme will be based at the Parish. Classes will be on a Monday 4pm-5:30pm. (There will be no lessons taught at the School)

Thank you

We thank Father Mark, Father Danny and our Parish of St Thomas Aquinas for the gift of a stunning new stained glass window of St Joseph, patron saint of the Cluny Sisters for our cluny Chapel to mark the occasion of our 75th Jubilee. Father Mark blessed the window during Room 10's class mass this week.



St Francis of Assisi

On Monday during our school liturgy the school focused on St Francis of Assisi.

St Francis was a wealthy young man of privilege, he served as a soldier and was a prisoner of war. He heard Gods call and went on to be one of the most venerated catholic saints. It is said he designed one of the first nativity sets and was the first man recorded to receive the Stigmata, the wounds of Christ.

Francis was a man of action. His simplicity of life extended to ideas and deeds. If there was a way, no matter how impossible it seemed, Francis would take it. So when Francis wanted approval for his brotherhood, he went straight to Rome to see Pope Innocent III. You can imagine what the Pope thought when this beggar approached him! As a matter of fact he threw Francis out. But when he had a dream that this tiny man in rags held up the tilting Lateran Basilica, he quickly called Francis back and gave him permission to preach. He died on October 4, 1226 at the age of 45. Francis is considered the founder of all Franciscan orders and the patron saint of ecologists and merchants.

To read the full story: http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=50

October: Month of the Rosary

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary.

How to pray the Rosary as a family:

Personalize it: Each family member should have their own Rosary. Children may play with it. Girls may wear it as a necklace. Boys will try to use it as a lasso. That's fine. It helps them become familiar with a Rosary. Eventually they will learn and grow in reverence for their Rosary.

Create a habit: Set a time that is comfortable for your family and that works without adding stress. When it doesn't happen, don't give up entirely, just pick it up again the next day.

Create a space: Set the tone for prayer so young children understand this is different than other family activities. If possible, light a candle and play some soft, background, instrumental music.

Start small: Be patient. Don't try to complete an entire Rosary the first time you gather together in prayer, particularly if you have young children. Start with a decade and build over time.

Keep it simple: The Rosary is a great way for young children to learn the Hail Mary, Our Father and Apostle's Creed and to learn about the lives of Jesus and his Mother Mary.

Involve all family members: If children have a role, they will participate more fully and be more attentive. Let them lead a reflection or the prayers depending on their age.

Opportunity to teach: Use the Rosary as a starting point to teach children about other aspects of their faith. Children are curious and will ask questions. Pause in prayer as necessary to answer their questions. As they get older, you can hold their questions until prayer is complete.

Just start: There's no time like the present and no place like home.

Pope Francis' Monthly Intention for October

Workers and the Unemployed

That all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.

Teresa Rush, DRS



Photos: 1. Congratulations to Freddie, Mollie and Chloe Gleaves and Emma and Max Page who were recently Baptised in our Chapel 2. Cluny Sisters at our Friday night Jubilee Celebrations 3. Finn Richards 2nd place at WBoP Speech Competition 4. Jeremy Redmore sings 'Run Run' at the Jubilee Dinner 5. Jubilee liturgy 75 balloons released into the air 6. Kapa Haka perform on Friday night 7. 1942 Foundation Pupils 8. Pasifika Group Paddle Dance 9. 75th Jubilee wall with 465 children pictured on the wall.



Check out the 465 smiley faces are on the Room 10 wall.

FROM THE BOARD TABLE

Yet another busy term seems to have flown by, but what a lot we have achieved.

As Mr Fuller shared in the last newsletter, the opening and blessing of our new Sister Gabrielle Innovative Learning Environment is a fantastic achievement and significant milestone in our school's history and a very proud moment for all those involved. We especially thank the teaching staff, students and parents of our Maramatanga team for ensuring a smooth and seamless transition, and know they'll have a wonderful time learning there.

It was of course perfect timing to have it officially open and ready for our 75th Jubilee Celebrations. The Jubilee was a great success and well received by those who attended. It was quite amazing to have discussions with some of our early students remembering how it was 'back then'. Very special times and memories. A huge thank you to the organising committee, the staff, helpers and students involved in making this a memorable and successful occasion. A great example of our community working together.

A thank you to the staff and community also for your ongoing patience with the works going on around the school over the last year, and particularly this last term, when painting and maintenance kicked up another level. It made for a noisy and disruptive environment, especially with some pretty nasty weather thrown into the mix. We are very grateful for your perseverance, and hope you think the school looks fresh and tidy.

At a Board level, the school recently underwent a Catholic Character Review, which involved discussions and observations with staff, students, the Board and parents. We are yet to receive the final report, but can say that on the whole they were very happy and hope that we continue to build on the good practice that is evident in our school. We as a Board, will continue to work with Mr Fuller, Mrs Rush, the rest of the staff, and parish community to ensure we fully embrace our Catholic Character in all things.

We extend our thanks to our long-serving outgoing Proprietor Representatives, Paul Callinan and Vic Villegas, and wish you all the best in the future. You've been amazing to work with and we have valued your contributions and knowledge.

Lastly, I'd like to warmly welcome two newly appointed Proprietor's Representatives to the Board of Trustees. We have official notification that Sister Emeli, our very own Cluny Sister, and Terry Considine will be joining our team for the next three years. We look forward to working with them and sharing their wisdom in our work.

I hope you all have a lovely break over the holidays. Take care and God Bless.

Claire Stott
Board of Trustee Chair



2.

TWO NEW GOLD GROUP SPONSORS

Thank you to our two new sponsors who joined our St Mary's Gold Group. Bernadette Ryan-Hopkins from **Ryan + Alexander Consultancy** and Anthea Fantham from **Smart Business Centre**. We will hear more from Anthea and Smart Business Centre in our next newsletter.



Ryan + Alexander Consultancy (R + A) is a Tauranga-based professional recruitment firm founded by its two directors, Kiri Burney and Bernadette Ryan-Hopkins in February 2016. Its goal is to support Bay of Plenty's immense growth with a locally-based, regionally-focussed, globally-capable recruitment service. The directors come from differing recruitment backgrounds so their collaboration offers clients the potent fusion of two distinct specialities. Kiri is a specialist in temp and all recruitment up to mid-tier, while Bernadette is an executive recruitment specialist. They have also recently appointed their first consultant, Danielle Ross to the growing team.

Bernadette returned to the BOP in 2013 to manage Zespri's Global Recruitment. She was joined by her husband, Gareth Hopkins and their two boys, George and Henry, who are currently in Year 2 and 3 at St Mary's Catholic School. R+A are driven to support local businesses with hiring top-tier candidates and to support talented individuals into professional roles. They are privileged to also be able to support the local Community and St Mary's School. www.ryanandalexander.co.nz

SCHOOL NEWS

School Lunches Term 4 - Sushi and La Brioche
In Term 4 we will trial **Sushi Thursday** at lunchtime. Orders and payment must be at the school office no later than Wednesday morning at 9am. More information regarding menu and price will be emailed to you at the beginning of term. If this works well we will continue it next year.

We will still have **La Brioche** lunch orders on Fridays. A menu is on our school website and orders need to be at the school office no later than 9am on Fridays.

Western Bay Speech Competition
Congratulations to Finn Richards for your 2nd placing in the WBOP Speech Finals. St Mary's School is very proud of your fantastic effort.



3.



Our People Our Place
75 years
2017



8.



7.



6.



5.



4.



St Mary's School encourages you to support our Gold Group Sponsors



Our People Our Place

be. thankful

[oxforddictionaries.com / thankful.](http://oxforddictionaries.com/thankful)

adj: 1. pleased and relieved. 2. expressing gratitude.

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