



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 5: 1 April 2020

What families are doing during lockdown



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Our People Our Place

be. informed

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

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

Message from the Principal

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A

Sunday, March 29, 2020

Gospel Reading

John 11:1-45 (shorter version John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45)

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Our Gospel on this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent, is again taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading from John continues the break from Cycle A's focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Today's Gospel reading recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. As our catechumens move closer to the celebration of their Baptisms at the Triduum, today's reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the life.

The context for the story of the raising of Lazarus is the Jewish leaders' growing animosity toward Jesus. Jesus has been in Jerusalem, taking part in the feast of the Dedication, which we have come to know as Hanukkah. The people have been pressing him to declare plainly whether he is the Messiah. Jesus tells them to look to his works, which testify to his coming from God. Many do not believe Jesus, however, and some try to stone him for blasphemy.

Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that his friend is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but he delays his journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus' obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus's resurrection. When Jesus finally declares that he will journey to Bethany, his disciples fear for his life. Thomas declares that he and the other disciples should prepare to die with Jesus.

The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus' death.

Set against the backdrop of Jesus' impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus' own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the conflict with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb.

With our catechumens preparing for their Baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin's power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.



be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

I want to start this newsletter off by saying a huge thank-you to everyone in our community for the way you have communicated and supported the school over the last couple of weeks. As we know every family now will be going through some form of challenge that is affecting them and their future. During these trying times it is now more important than ever that we focus on the importance of relationships. Firstly, our family relationships and spending and sharing our time over the coming weeks of the lockdown. Secondly, those in our wider circles by continuing to offer support and connecting through social media as best we can.

Even though this is currently school holidays it is different in the sense that we are also trying to work from home. You will have received emails from your teams and hopefully your children's whānau teacher. This is so we can continue to communicate and connect as we are all stuck in the same isolation bubble.

We have no certainty around what is going to happen in the next month or so only to make you aware that your child's learning will be going online from Wednesday 15th April. As stated previously this will not be mistake free and we will endeavour to solve all the challenges along the way together. We also must be aware of our children's needs and their engagement levels and allowing them to share in the decision making is going to be a key component of the learning.

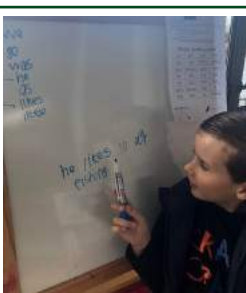
We will continue to post good news stories on our facebook page to share the joy of our community regularly. This is so we stay thankful and positive throughout this period.

James Murray

Principal



Some great home learning here



Riki shared his writing and drawing with us.



Abigail has been having a very relaxed time at home. She enjoys listening to Amazon Audible stories, learning to draw with the help of art videos and helping around the house.



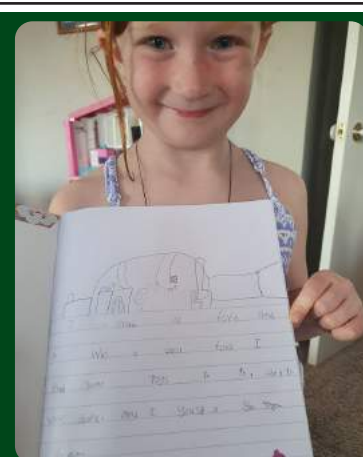
Flynn and Isaac have been doing some Easter art with their sisters. What a great idea!



Koby has been helping Dad lay bricks at home. We can't wait to see the finished wall!



Helping dad



Isabella has been busy building forts and writing wonderful stories

Special Character

E te whanau, tena koutou katoa.

We unite in prayer and find our strength in the Lord.

A very strange time for us all indeed, I hope your families are adjusting to this phase in all our lives. My own children are learning each day the restrictions on the freedom we are privileged to have living in New Zealand. The slowing down and family focus has been so far very positive, praying more together, learning together, exercising, family game time and a massive amount of talking. The kids are aware that they are living future history and making the most of the quieter time.

This is a time when we can explore our personal spirituality and faith further. It has been interesting and challenging to adjust to Masses online - keeping the distractions limited during Mass time is definitely a challenge in our house!

Our Pope, Bishop and Priests have been leading us with love and care, we are fortunate to have these strong leaders of faith guiding us at this time. May God keep them all well and safe. Thankyou to Fr Philip and Fr Arnold for the daily Masses - 7pm live stream on Facebook and the additional information on the Parish website.

Take care and God Bless to you and your families.
Kia Kaha.

Please connect with our Facebook page where we will be placing Weekly Liturgies and Holy Week Liturgies that your family can pray together.

Please also check out the Parish and Diocese Facebook pages and websites to keep connected:

Websites:

Parish of St Thomas Aquinas:

<http://taurangamoanacatholic.nz/index.php>

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton:

<https://www.cdh.org.nz/>

Some great websites that can assist with faith based activities are:

Catholic Kids Loyola Press:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/family/catholic-kids>

Look to Him and be Radiant:

<https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/>

Teaching Catholic Kids:

<https://teachingcatholickids.com/>

Strong Catholic Family Faith:

<http://www.catholicfamilyfaith.org/learning-the-faith.html>

Catholic Culture:

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities/index.cfm>

Prayer: (from NCRS)

Our 'Weird Times' prayer

Jesus, these are weird times, but I know you are with me and my friends,

You care about my school and all the people in Aotearoa and this world.

Thank you for being with me especially if I'm scared.

Thank you for listening to me when I pray.

Please, help all people who are sick, or scared about getting sick,

Help me to remember to wash my hands,

Help me to not get too grumpy when I can't do the things I want, or go where I want,

Thank you for the people who love me and care for me.

I know that with them, and you, I am never alone.

Amen.

Teresa Rush

DRS

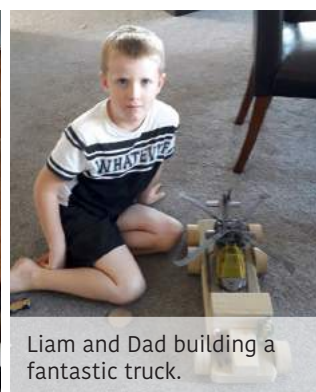


Jono and Oliver's prayer table they set up ready for 9am live streaming Sunday Mass.

Happy Birthday Jimin who has just had her 9th birthday.



Lucy and Lola are busy during the lockdown



Liam and Dad building a fantastic truck.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COVID-19 PLEASE GO TO
www.Covid19.govt.nz

Winter Sports Registrations

This year St Mary's is offering Hockey, Netball and Mini-ball / Basketball, as our winter sports.

Due to Covid-19 we are unsure when winter sports will be starting, because of this the sports registration process has changed. If you could please fill out the Google Form, this will allow registration of the appropriate number of teams with each league before the close off date. Because winter sport may or may not take place this year, there will be no charge until we are 100% sure these sports will be taking place. As soon as more information is available in regards to exactly when each sport will start, we will forward that to you.

Registrations will close on Monday 6th April. So that we are able to get the correct number of teams and the balance of players per team right, late registrations will not be accepted.

Go to our school website www.stmarystga.school.nz to register for this year's winter sports.



Mackenzie and Rylee
yummy cooking
treats.



Spark - Skinny Jump

Prior to the onset of the pandemic, Spark was in the process of relaunching a subsidised and not-for-profit broadband product Skinny Jump – which aims to bridge the digital divide for New Zealanders who don't have access to broadband at home. Since we first launched the service in 2016 we have connected close to 5,000 families with school-aged children to broadband.

The Skinny Jump service is available through a community partner network, which is overseen by Digital Inclusion Alliance Aotearoa (DIAA) and includes 130 contact points nationwide spanning community libraries and budgeting services, amongst others.

Skinny Jump will now be available to a wider range of people who find that cost is a barrier to having a broadband connection at home – including families with school aged children, job seekers, senior citizens, refugees, new migrants, people with disabilities and people living in social housing.

The service is provided for \$5 for 30GB of data (with the option to renew up to five times a month) and comes with a free Wireless Broadband modem. It is entirely prepaid, so there are no long-term contracts or credit checks needed.

<https://www.spark.co.nz/help/covid-19.html#skinny-jump>



Ellie, Kaitlin and Mikaela designing
and creating their home learning-
well-done girls. A good desk to do
your online learning.



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Our People Our Place

be.
thankful

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