



Religious Education Newsletter

Term 1 - 2017



"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you."

Ephesians 4:32



This Term's virtue is *Forgiveness*.

Our school Statement about Forgiveness

"I show forgiveness when I give someone another chance after they have done something wrong, knowing that everyone makes mistakes. I own up when I am at fault and make amends."

What is Forgiveness?

Being forgiving is giving someone another chance after they have something wrong, knowing that everyone makes mistakes. It is important to forgive yourself, too. so you stop feeling hopeless because of a mistake. Forgiveness is moving ahead, ready to act differently with compassion for yourself and faith that you can change.

How do you practise it?

- ❖ Remember that everyone makes mistakes.
- ❖ Take responsibility for your own mistakes.
- ❖ Make amends if you have hurt someone.
- ❖ Be forgiving when others make mistakes.
- ❖ Be a friend when someone needs a friend.



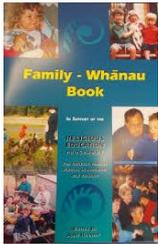
Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to the new school year.

The first topic in Religious Education for each class is Prayer. The children develop their understanding of what prayer is, the importance of prayer and the various prayer forms.

The main strand to be taught is "Jesus ~ Hehu Karaiti" (outlined on the next page). Lessons on the Liturgical season of Lent, Holy Week and Easter will also be covered.

Family/Whanau Book



The Family/Whanau Book is an excellent source of information about the learning strand the children are currently working on. These are now able to be viewed or downloaded as a PDF on **Faith Alive** website (<http://www.faithalive.org.nz/>) under the **Families** tab.

Parent Meeting

On Wednesday 29 March at 7pm we are having a Parent Meeting with the theme " Building Catholic Community". Keep this date free. There will be more information soon in the school newsletter.

School Masses

Ash Wednesday: 1st March, 9am. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent. We hope that you are able to join us. We will also be having "Bread and Water" day on Ash Wednesday. Families will be asked to donate the cost of a take-away meal and the children have only bread and water during the day. During Lent we are called to pray more, fast and give alms and this is an opportunity for our school family to practise this.

St Patrick's Day: We are looking forward to being able to gather with St Patrick's school in our parish church, St Matthew's, to celebrate St Patrick's Day with a Mass on 17th March at 11am, followed by some fun and games.



Palm Sunday: Sunday, 19th April at 9am. This is a school Sunday Mass in our parish church, St Matthew's.

Missionz



Every class has a "Marty the Missionary" jar. The children are encouraged to give a little, often, to support the work of Missionz. This is the New Zealand national office of the worldwide Pontifical Mission Societies, the international mission aid agency of the Catholic Church.

God bless, Catherine Quinn, DRS

The key concepts of the *Jesus ~ Hehu Karaiti* Strand to be covered by each class:

Room	Theme	Jesus Strand Summary
1	Jesus My Friend	Catholics believe that Jesus is both human and divine. As a human, Jesus was born into a particular culture, lived in a certain location in a precise time in history. To appreciate Jesus' messages we need to know the realities of his life. In learning about his friendship with his disciples, we can become friends with him today. Family/Whanau Book Pg.17
2	Jesus Showed His Love in Different Ways	Jesus showed his respect and love for people in many ways - talking, listening, sharing, touching, healing and dying, <i>for</i> them. We are called to follow Jesus' example. We can learn about how Jesus lived by reading stories in the Bible. Family/Whanau Book Pg.20
3	Jesus Gives Himself in the Eucharist	We can give thanks to God for Jesus by joining in the Eucharist. Eucharist helps us to grow in grace and recognise Jesus' presence in the gathering of his people, ministers and Word. Above all, people recognise him in the transformed bread and wine. Family/Whanau Book Pg. 23
4	The Life of Jesus	Catholic belief is that Jesus called Christ is both human and divine. We need to understand Jesus' reality. To appreciate his message we can study and reflect on the Scriptures. Family/Whanau Book Pg.29
5	The Fullness of God's Revelation	Jesus Christ, the Son of God, revealed to the world that God is Abba - loving Father. In his mission on earth Jesus called on people to repent, through the grace of the Holy Spirit and to live lives of faith, hope and love. Jesus' whole life was a response of love for God and <i>for</i> people. Family/Whanau Book Pg.32

School Masses and Liturgical Celebrations

1 March (Wednesday)	9am	Ash Wednesday	School Mass
17 March (Friday)	11am	St Patrick's Day	Combined Mass (St Pats)
15 March (Tuesday)	1:30pm	Reconciliation	Year 5 & 6 students
9 April (Palm Sunday)	9am	School/Parish Mass	Holy Trinity Parish
24 March (Thursday)	2pm	Stations of the Cross	

Classes will be attending 9am Mass on Fridays:

Week 3 - Rm 4	Week 4 - Rm 3	Week 5 - Rm 1 & 2	Week 6 - Rm 5
Week 7 - St Pat's	Week 8 - Rm 4	Week 9 - Rm 3	Week 10 - Rm 1 & 2
Week 11 - Good Friday			

(These may change - check your child's homework sheet etc.)

Lent

Lent is a season of the Church's year that helps us to pray, reflect and do good things like fasting and making sacrifices so that we can come closer to Jesus.

We pray

- Talking and listening to God
- Speaking to God in our own words
- Praying the prayers of the Church community
- Going to Mass on Sundays or other days.

We fast

- Giving up foods we do not need
- Going without things we like but do not need

We give to those in need We make sacrifices

- Being kind to someone
- Doing what your parents say without arguing
- Being happy with things you have
- Not complaining
- Thinking of others before yourself.

On Ash Wednesday we are marked with ashes.

It is a reminder that the "fire" can go out in our lives too. As we are marked with ashes, we think of how we can keep the "fire" of goodness alive in our world. We promise to change for the better.

