



In Faith, Hope and Love
Together

Religious Education Newsletter

Term 1 - 2019



This is what God asks of you:
only this,
to act justly, to love tenderly
and to walk humbly with your God.
(Micah 6:8)



This Term's virtue is *Social Justice*.

What is Social justice?

Practising justice is being fair in everything you do.
Being just is standing up for your rights and the rights of other people.
It is taking responsibility if you make a mistake and making amends.

Why Practise it?

When justice is practised, everyone has a fair chance to be seen for who they are, With justice, everyone gets a fair share. Living in a socially just way means that people have a vision which drives them to seek the well-being of each and every person. We call this "the common good".

How do you practise it?

Be fair in everything you do.
Take responsibility for your mistakes and make amends.
Act honestly and always be truthful.
Think about the needs of other people.
What could you do for others?

Dear Parents/Caregivers

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



On Friday 15 March we are looking forward to a visit from the Caritas Education team who will talk to the children about the work of Caritas and this year's Schools' Lenten Unit *Peace, Love and Life: Hope and Challenges in South Sudan*. This unit features stories from South Sudan that highlight the challenges faced by millions of South Sudanese that have encountered ongoing conflict and food insecurity.

The Caritas theme for Lent 2019 is inspired by a quote from Pope Francis: 'Living our lives with love.' We are called to live our lives with genuine love - for others and for God.



During Lent children are encouraged to donate to the Caritas Lenten appeal by giving "a little, often". Every class has a donation box. We will also be asking the children to fast at morning tea time on March 15th and to donate the approximate cost of their morning tea to

Caritas. There will be more information about this in the school newsletter next week.

Your family may like to use the "Keep It Simple For Lent Action Plan". This plan challenges us this Lent to make a difference in others' lives by making small changes to our daily actions. Grow in compassion and empathy for the poor and vulnerable in other countries around the world. A copy of the plan is attached to this email.



Caritas Aotearoa NZ is the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' agency for justice, peace and development.

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

6 March (Wednesday) 9am Ash Wednesday School Mass
 Year 5 and 6 students will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent.

Classes will be attending 9am Mass on Fridays:

Week 5 - Rm 1 & 2 Week 6 - Rm 5 Week 7 - Rm 4 Week 8 - Rm 3
 Week 9 - Rm 1 & 2 Week 10 - Rm 5 Week 11 - Rm 4

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



The Family/Whanau Book can be viewed or downloaded as a PDF on Faith Alive website (<http://www.faithalive.org.nz/>) under the Families tab.

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.

