

Religious Education Newsletter Term 4 - 2022



*Each one of you has received a special gift;
put yourselves at the service of others.*

1 Peter 4:7b-11



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Although this is a shorter term we have a lot going on!

The main strand to be taught in Religious Education this term is the **Communion of Saints ~ Te Kotahitanga o te Hunga Tapu** Strand. At the end of the Term, we will be learning about the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

The Rosary: The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. The rosary is devotion in honour of Mary. It helps us remember important events in the life of Jesus, with the help of Mary, his mother. We have been gathering each morning at 9am to pray the Rosary and will continue until the end of October.



Parish Family Mass at Christ the King Church

On Sunday 30th October St Albans Catholic School is leading the combined Parish Family Mass at 9am, Christ the King Church (90 Greers Road, Burnside).

We would love to see as many of our school families as possible at this Mass and we will be asking students to participate as readers, greeters etc. The children do not need to wear school uniform and they sit with their family.

After Mass the Parish is having a "Family Amazing Race" (also known as a car rally)! The information about this event is included in the school newsletter.



"Forming Faith" Evening: 9th November, 6.45 - 8pm St Joseph's School

We are currently planning this Christchurch North Parish evening in conjunction with St Joseph's and St Patrick's schools. Further information to come.

End of Year School Mass: Our end of year Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 13th December at 6pm at Christ the King Church.

"20c Tuesdays": All children are encouraged to bring coins as a contribution to our fundraising efforts for Missionz. Ideally, they will be generous with their own money or undertake extra chores at home to earn money to share.





St Vincent de Paul - Christmas Grotto Appeal for Schools

21 November - 2 December

We will be collecting donations of **new, unwrapped** gifts (toys, books etc) for children aged between 0-20. Items are gratefully received for adults, too.

If any families need support by way of gifts for their children due to financial difficulties and other challenges, please speak to Mr Atherton, to receive an invitation to choose gifts from the Christmas Grotto.

God bless, Catherine Quinn, DRS

School Masses and Liturgical Celebrations etc

- ❖ Sunday 30th October School & Parish Family Mass Christ the King Church, Greens Rd
- ❖ Tuesday 1st November All Saints Day Prayer Service 9am
- ❖ Wednesday 9th November, 6.45 - 8pm St Joseph's School "Forming Faith" Evening
- ❖ 21 November - 2 December St Vincent de Paul - Christmas Grotto Appeal
- ❖ Friday 2nd December Reconciliation Rooms 4 & 5
- ❖ Tuesday 13th December 6pm: End of Year School Mass (all students) Christ the King Church

Classes will be attending 9am Mass on Fridays:

Week 2: Rooms 1 & 2 **Week 3:** Room 5 **Week 5:** Room 4 **Week 6:** Room 3

Week 7: Rooms 4 & 5 **Week 8:** Rooms 1, 2 & 3

We warmly encourage and welcome everyone who can, to come to Mass especially when their child's class attends.

Two important days in the Church's year are celebrated at the beginning of November.

November 1st: All Saints Day

- ❖ God has given us many special gifts, which are to be used. Some people use God's gifts all the time. They live their lives as God wants them to, and they are there to help us live our lives that way, too. We give these people a special name ~ we call them Saints. When we hear stories of saints, we are listening to stories about members of God's family. The stories teach us more about the way God wants us to live.

November 2nd: All Souls Day

This is a time to pray for all the dead, including our own special friends and family.

This Term's virtue is Service ~ Tuku Ratonga

Our school statement:

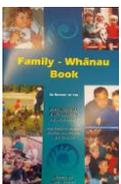
I give service when I give to others and want to make a difference in their lives. I see that the needs of others are as important as my own. When I work with the spirit of service, I give any job my best effort.

How do you practise it?

- ❖ Look for opportunities to be of service to others.
- ❖ Find little ways to make life easier and happier for them.
- ❖ Think of thoughtful things to do to help your family and friends.
- ❖ Work with enthusiasm.
- ❖ Don't wait to be asked when something needs doing

Communion of Saints ~ Te Kotahitanga O Te Hunga Tapu Strand

| Room | Theme | Communion of Saints Strand Summary |
|------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Mary | As a Church one of the ways we honour Mary, the greatest of the Saints, is as the Mother of Jesus. 'We reflect on how Mary's holiness was magnified by her encounter with the holiness and power. Family/Whanau Book Pg. 19 |
| 2 | Saints and Inspiring People | Those officially declared by the Church to be Saints because of their virtues, are now with God. They act as models for the members of the Church on earth, and are linked to them through prayer. The saintliness of ordinary people can inspire others and lead them to God. Family/Whanau Book Pg. 22 |
| 3 | Life, Death and Christian Hope | Suffering and death are part of life. Catholic beliefs about the resurrection of the body and life after death provide meaning and a reason for hope. The rituals of Catholic funerals and tangi provide consolation for the bereaved. The Church encourages people to remember those who have died and to pray for them. Family/Whanau Book Pg. 25 |
| 4 | Choice | Our life journey - Te Wa, is a journey towards God; The choices we make on that journey have significance in terms of our final destination, our life after death. Traditionally the Church has spoken of life after death in terms of heaven, hell and purgatory. Family/Whanau Book Pg. 28 |
| 5 | Saints and Inspiring People | Catholics believe in the <i>Communion of Saints</i> - the unity of community of all members of the Church: those now living, those who are with God in <i>heaven</i> , and those undergoing purification before entering into the fullness of life with God. The living may pray to the saints for their intercession, and for those in <i>Purgatory</i> . The living and the dead are all joined in praise of God. Family/Whanau Book Pg. 31 |



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.

Saints

When we see people doing good things, e.g. when people are being kind and helpful, we know that this is a sign that the Holy Spirit is helping those people share in God's holiness. The people who let the Holy Spirit help them all the time we call Saints.



- ❖ Saints are ordinary people who spend every day sharing in the holiness of God in all their words and actions. They do not ever forget God - they let God's Holy Spirit guide them and help them all the time.
- ❖ Saints often do very ordinary things - nothing spectacular. But it is how they do the ordinary things that makes them Saints.
- ❖ Saints are saints because they love. Saints are people in love with God and they love others because they love God.
- ❖ Saints can see ways of doing good everywhere.
- ❖ Saints live holy lives because, by God's grace, they love God so much and God is so important to them. And, as they love God, so they love all other people.

The Church has many Saints that we can read about who show us ways to live as Jesus lived. Like Jesus, Saints are people who lead others to God.

Advent

Advent begins the liturgical year of the Church. It is a season of 4 weeks when Christians wait and prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus among us at Christmas. During Advent we are especially challenged to reflect upon how Jesus, the Messiah, really affects our lives. It is a time to focus on Jesus' love at work in our own actions and in the world. This year Advent begins on 27 November.



Advent is a time for us to prepare, wait and share in faith, hope and love.

Prepare: We prepare for Christmas by celebrating the Sacrament of Penance and setting aside some extra time to pray. This shows that we are people of faith.

Wait: In Advent we hear about Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Mary waited patiently in hope, looking forward to the birth of her son. We wait for Christmas, to celebrate the birthday of Jesus. This shows that we are people of hope.



Share: We should try to share all the good things God gives us with those who are in need. This shows that we are people of love.