



"To live, learn and love with Jesus, being the best we can be"

Principal's Last Note!

Tena koutou katoa. A kia noho te ariki ki a koutou.

As we head into this third week of Advent, we are challenged to be wheat in the world rather than the chaff. Pope Francis has just welcomed in the Year of Mercy. He exhorts us to "Wake up the world!" We can only do this through love. When we are confronted in our world today with so much hatred and fear, we can only make a positive difference by being people of compassion and mercy instead of being vengeful and fearful. Jesus tells us that perfect love drives out fear.

Well! This is my last newsletter to the school community of St Theresa's Catholic School - can you believe it! In case you cannot make the Assembly tomorrow, I want you to know how grateful I am to have served as principal here for 12 years. It has been an honour and a privilege. I can honestly say that we have worked to make this a place of compassion and mercy, as well of course as a place that inspires lifelong learning. I also know that the journey continues!

I have full confidence that with Jesus at the heart of all you do, St Theresa's will continue to be a place where children's hearts are opened to the gift that is life in all its fullness, both the struggle and the success.

Because I leave part of myself here, you can be sure that this community will continue to be in my prayers as I go (and probably for the rest of my life!).

May God bless you all with a wonderful break, lots of sun, good times with friends and family and in all of these things, a growing awareness and appreciation of the mercy of God in your life.

God bless, *Lita Smith* - Principal



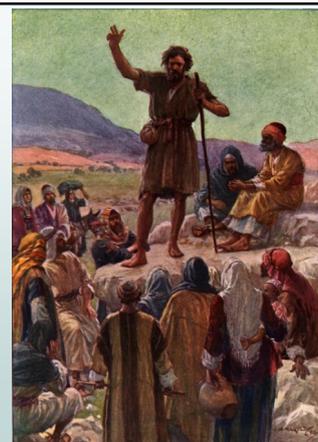
THIRD WEEK IN ADVENT

Luke 3: 10-18

John answered them all, saying,
"I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.

I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor
and to gather the wheat into his barn,
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."



Catholic Character



A hand up



At Christmas time

**You can make a
difference...**

**by helping a local family
from a Catholic school.**

**See Flyer.
Closing date 14th Dec.**

CHRISTMAS DRAMA on Christmas Eve at 7p.m.

"A traditional (and modern) Nativity play"

St. Theresa's Church Christmas Eve Nativity Play - the Nativity story, always with a twist - is a well-loved tradition. If you would like your child to be a part of this year's play, please email Eleanor Cater - eleanor.cater@xtra.co.nz with your child's name and age. They will need to be available for several morning practices of around 2 hours in the week leading up to Christmas.



**Christmas Mass Timetable at St. Theresa's,
Plimmerton:**

Christmas Eve: 7p.m. with children's Drama.

Christmas Eve: 11p.m. With Christmas
Carols starting at 10.30p.m.

Christmas Day: 9.30a.m.

Sacramental Programme (First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist) for 2016 is now open for enrolment. Children aged 8 years and older by February 2016 are welcome to enrol. Please contact Fiona Robertson fiona.robertson@xtra.co.nz or 0273208511 NO LATER than Friday, 18th December.

Housekeeping

Swimming lessons with Kieley in OUR school pool. Contact her on kieleymb@xtra.co.nz

ASB School banking: This is the last week for depositing here at school, for this year.

ASB Home Loan voucher: Please remember to nominate our school if you take out a home loan with the ASB. We will get \$500! Offer valid until the end of December.

Charlotte Harrison's named jersey is missing. PLEASE check to see if your child mistakenly has it.

Lost Property: The bin outside Room 1 is overflowing. Please check if anything belongs to your child. After next Thursday, it will all be GONE!

Library books: All borrowed books need to be returned to the Library by TOMORROW. If they are not, you may be getting a bill.

Carnival Helpers registration: This will stay open on our website so please go and put your name down if you haven't already done so.

Jars: Keep collecting for us please!

Pool keys for sale: You have until next Wednesday to buy your key.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

FAREWELL ASSEMBLY FOR ZITA, FR. BILL & YR 6 STUDENTS

Venue: St. Theresa's Parish Church Time: 11am on Friday, 11th December

OUR CELEBRATION OF THE 2015 SCHOOL YEAR

Venue: St Theresa's Parish Church Time: 6pm on Tuesday, 15th December

FAREWELL SUPPER FOR YEAR 6 STUDENTS & THEIR PARENTS

Venue: St. Theresa's Parish Hall

Time: Directly following our Celebration of the Year which started at 6p.m.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING (Last day of school)

Venue: St. Theresa's Parish Church Time: 11am on 17th December

SCHOOL TERMS FOR 2016

Term 1: Tuesday, 2nd February - Friday, 15th April

Term 2: Monday, 2nd May - Friday, 8th July

Term 3: Monday, 25th July - Friday, 25th September

Term 4: Monday, 10th October - Thursday, 15th December



Thank you to everyone who has helped in so many ways this year - on trips, in the classrooms, at morning teas and Pizza Fridays. Thank you also for the gifts we are given and most of all for your support and love of the staff of our School.

Traveller's Prayer

Each time I drive Lord, may I feel
Your hands on mine, upon the wheel.
Give me a careful, watchful eye for
young and old, as I pass by.

I want to use the car for You, to drive
my family (friends) in safety too but
all these things can never be, unless
O Lord, You drive with me.

Amen.



Embracing the true Christmas spirit in Rms 1 & 2



CLASS OF THE WEEK - ROOM 4

Malo e Lelei. Room 4 and Room 7 enjoyed learning about Samoa and Tonga last Friday. Noah's Mum brought lots of things that come from those countries to show us. In this photo the girls look like Pacific Princesses. We have been making Christmas cards and decorations which look lovely. We hope you all have a Happy Christmas. Love from Room 4.

