



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

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

Welcome back everyone - I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break. It was lovely to start the term with prayers under the pohutakawa tree on Tuesday. The children were looking bright, cheerful and ready to start a new year. Thank you for supporting your children to be well prepared and ready to begin a new year of learning. It was wonderful to meet some of you before and after school and I look forward to getting to know the community over the coming weeks.

Good communication between home and school is vital. This is well managed through weekly emails, newsletters and the school website. Teachers are open and responsive to communicating in a positive and timely manner and we endeavour to operate an open door policy. If you would like to talk to me about anything, please feel free to make an appointment through Gina.

We are pleased to welcome Logan Simmons (Rm 2) and his parents, Aaron and Kerry; Ella Jones (Rm 7) and her parents, Geraint and Sarah; Ethan Ho (Rm 3) and his parents Michael and Mei; Harlan Baker (Rm 4) who is the brother of William and Lachlan and their parents Hamish and Libby and last but not least, Andre Hesp (Rm 4) and his mum, Stacey.

Holy Year of Mercy: In 2015, Pope Francis announced the Church will celebrate an Extraordinary Jubilee, a Holy Year of Mercy, to emphasise the Church's mission of being a witness of God's mercy. He said, "It's a journey that starts with a spiritual conversion". As Jesus tells his disciples, "Be merciful as your Father is merciful" Luke 6:36. The Holy Year opened on 8th December, 2015 and will conclude on Sunday, 20th November, 2016.



God bless, *Donna McDonald* - Principal

Gospel for Sunday, 7th Feb. Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus teaches from Simon's boat. He turns to Simon and instructs him about where to lower the fishing nets. Simon and others have been fishing throughout the night and have not caught anything. Simon protests, claiming that such an effort would be futile. He ultimately obeys Jesus and lowers his nets into the deeper water as directed. They catch so many fish that the nets begin to tear; Jesus' presence has created abundance out of scarcity, just as it did at the wedding feast at Cana. Simon Peter becomes a follower of Jesus immediately. No longer will Peter catch fish; instead he will catch people. We participate in the mission of the Church when we bring people to Christ through the example and positive influence of our lives.



Works of Mercy - their meaning and purpose:

- 'Mercy' is simply love's response to suffering, and 'a work' is simply a good action. For something to be truly a work of mercy it must be done out of love for our neighbour because of our love for God.
- All works of mercy are works of love (charity) and are a particular response to the sufferings and misfortunes of others.
- The Year of Mercy is a call to each one of us to rediscover and to live the works of mercy every day.



Pope Francis wants us to stop and think, especially during this year, as to how rewarding the works of mercy are and how important they are, for a happy and meaningful life as intended for us by God our Father.



'A Hand Up' Initiative for 2015

The generosity of our Parish and School community is amazing! We were able to donate petrol vouchers, supermarket vouchers and stationery stock to schools and families in need. There are still some funds being held for the supply of school uniforms when required. Many, many thanks for the generous support of this annual initiative. It would have made a huge difference to the lives of many.

From the Parish: On Saturday, 6th February we will be celebrating Mass with Fr. Maurice at 9.00 am. Join with our new Parish Priest and members of your Parish family and honour not only the birth of our country and our faith within it but also to remember all those who have made this country what it is. It is also an opportunity to thank God that we are privileged to live in our beautiful corner of His almighty creation. We'll gather afterwards for a spot of morning tea.

Fr. Maurice Carmody, our new Parish Priest, will be officially welcomed at Mass this Sunday, 7th Feb at the 9.30a.m. Eucharist. Please come along and bring a plate to share for morning tea. See you all there!

Uniform fittings for Term 1

Friday, 19th February

Friday, 11th March

Friday, 1st April

Appointments are available from 2p.m. onwards so please call the Office if you want to book a time. Fittings will be in Room 5 (the old library). If you already know what you want and don't need a fitting, you can call Bernadette directly on 972-0682 or email her b.chapman@paradise.net.nz.

Bits and bobs.....

After School Care (who wouldn't want to go?!!) is available every day. Contact Nadine on 021-1871648 for more details or to book.

Swimming lessons with Kieley Dunlop. If you would like to take up this opportunity, contact Kieley on 021-02426219.

School pool available to all keyholders until approx. the end of March. Hours of use during term time are on your Agreement form.

Summer Reading library books need to be returned or you may be getting a bill!

Updated contact detail forms: Thanks to all those who have already returned the amended and/or signed forms. Could the rest be in the Office by THIS FRIDAY please?

Secondhand uniform items: If you want to buy any items secondhand, contact Gina and she will let you know if anyone has uniform for sale.

WeetBix Kids TRYathlon: Children 7 and over - **20th Mar.** - Go to www.try.weetbix.co.nz and make sure you link yourself to OUR school. Questions? Jan Hannon - janandpaddy@xtra.co.nz or call her on 027-4919634.

Can you help?

* A collection of secondhand, good condition school bags, pencil cases, etc. is being made to hand to lower decile schools. Please contact Tasi on 021-499826 if you have anything to donate or leave with Gina at the Office. Thank you in anticipation!



* One of our families is looking for a house to rent - either a large 3 bedroom or a 4 bedroom in school community area. Please call Waihoroi on 021-08496655 if you have a property available or know of one.



Beach Picnic

You don't want to miss this, so mark it in your diary!

Friday, 12th February leaving school at 10.30a.m. More details to follow next week.

Ash Wednesday - the start of Lent

Ashes will be distributed at the 9.30a.m. Mass next Wednesday, 10th February. We will be going as a whole school and you are all invited to join us.



Remember **CARNIVAL** is on Saturday, 9th April Mark it in your diary if you haven't already done so!

Your Role for Carnival: If you haven't got your role sorted please, email us at carnival@st-theresas.school.nz. We have approximately 35 roles to fill and would like to have that done in the next week or so to make the planning smoother for everyone.

Carnival Stock: The P&F shed (opposite the Prayer Garden) is available to donations. If it's locked, please see Gina for the key. Please note that we are trying to keep it ordered as much as we can, so it would be a big help if you place your donations in the designated areas. Remember to tell your friends and family - they might like to have a clean out too! For your convenience, we will also organise one or two Sunday drop offs between now and the 9th April as well.

Prizes and donations: If you have any contacts who could be approached for goods or monetary donations for the Carnival, please get in touch with Kiri Croasdale (Sponsorship Co-ordinator) tecroasdales@hotmail.com



Class of the Week - Room 7

We are all very excited to be in Room 7 this year. In the first couple of days we have been very busy. We sorted our stationery and wrote a Class treaty together. We have been swimming, writing to God and designing special prayer stones. Come and check out our Assembly this Friday.