

**June 2021**

**Dear Parents, extended whanau and children,**

We are now nearly halfway through the 2021 school year and there is much to celebrate as we journey together as the Hato Patariki whanau, following in the footsteps of Jesus. As we pray, work, learn and grow together, we strive to be children of the light in which our school values of mana, aroha and pono are evident in our thoughts, words and actions.



***Our integrated theme for this year is “What the World Needs Now”:***

The purpose of this focus is to raise awareness of the innate human need to feel valued, accepted and loved. Our aim is to inspire individuals, classrooms and schools into action, thereby making a difference in the lives of others within local and global communities.

These are the key understandings based on the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching that children will become aware of:

- every person needs to feel cared for, that they are valued for who they are and that they have a part to play in society
- every person has an innate human dignity – te mana i te tangata – no one can take away
- being in solidarity is recognising others as our brothers and sisters and actively working for their good. In our connected humanity, we are invited to build relationships – whakawhānaunatanga – to understand what life is like for others who are different from us
- protecting those in need compels us to think first of the needs of those who are most vulnerable
- commitment to the common good means working for the good of all – he painga mā te katoa. This means respecting the rights and responsibilities of all people
- we each have something unique and important to contribute to society. We are called to be active members of our local and global communities

***Let’s reflect on our journey together so far this year...***

We have celebrated the following Masses together this year. We are blessed to have Fr Jaewoo lead us in these special occasions, where we encounter Christ in the celebration of the Eucharist.

- In Term 1 we celebrated the following Masses as a school: Our Opening Mass, St Patrick’s Day
- In Term 2 we have come together with our Buddy class to celebrate Mass.

16 people have been baptised this year and welcomed into St Patrick’s Parish. 25 people also received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation in May. These same 25 will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in August, to be celebrated by our Bishop, Michael Dooley.

This year we participated in the Caritas Challenge. Children enjoyed the challenge of living it, moving it, sweating it and stopping it, with a focus on Pacific nations to help raise money for those countries in the Pacific who are still facing ongoing hardships from the Covid Pandemic.

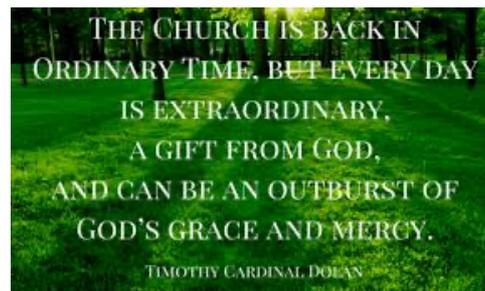
The Young Vinnies have been very busy helping out with weekly gardening and cleaning duties in and around our Church. They have also taken responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the school prayer garden.

This term we were very excited to launch our School Houses. These Houses are named after important Saints to our school – Patrick, Dominic, Mary and Venerable Suzanne Aubert. Please pray this prayer for the beatification of Suzanne Aubert – so that she will be declared New Zealand’s first saint and recognized for the outstanding difference she made to the lives of so many people in Aotearoa.

*Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us that as often as we show compassion to the least of your brothers and sisters, we show it to you. Hear our prayers that the intercession of Venerable Suzanne Aubert, who supported the Māori people and devoted her life to the poor, the sick and the underprivileged, and whom the Church has declared to be one of your true and humble followers, will be recognized in a miraculous healing by the Church and will lead to her beatification. Amen.*

***The Liturgical Year – we are currently in the season of Ordinary Time***

**GREEN** is the liturgical colour of Ordinary Time that we find on priestly vestments and in our church decor. It is the colour of life and hope. **Ordinary Time is anything but ordinary .** This is a time of conversion, maturation, and quiet growth. It is the longest time on the liturgical calendar when we consider the fullness of Jesus’ teachings and miracles while on this earth.



We also celebrate Matariki during this liturgical season of Ordinary Time.

## Matariki

*During Matariki we celebrate our unique place in the world.*

*We give respect to the whenua on which we live, and admiration to our mother earth Papatūānuku.*

*Throughout Matariki we learn about those who came before us.*

*Our history. Our family. Our bones.*

*Matariki signals growth. It's a time of change.*

*It's a time to prepare, and a time of action.*

*During Matariki we acknowledge what we have and what we have to give.*

*Matariki celebrates the diversity of life.*

*It's a celebration of culture, language, spirit and people.*

*Matariki is our Aotearoa Pacific New Year.*



Stars (Nga Whetu) remind us how amazing God (Atua) is.

How enormous and powerful and forever God is.

And yet that same God loves us and wants to be our friend.

He loves each one of us so much - more than we can ever imagine!

**Upcoming events – Please feel free to join us.**

22 June: Rooms 8 and 12 Class Mass (2pm in the Church)

1 July: Matariki Mass and Celebration night (6.30pm in the Church)

6 July: Rooms 10 and 3 Class Mass (2pm in the Church)

7 July: Rooms 2 and 7 Class Mass (2pm in the Church)

**Sue Maynard, Director of Religious Studies**