

23 November 2021

Dear Parents, extended whanau and children,

Another year is drawing to an end! Thank you for your continued support over the 2021 school year. Once again it has been a year with its fair share of challenges due to the ongoing pandemic, however our strong home and school links ensure we carry on the journey together.



The Liturgical Year – we are currently in the season of Advent

Each year the Catholic Church invites us during Advent to take a step back and look at who we are, what we are doing, and where Jesus fits into our lives.

The Advent wreath is a visual reminder of this special season.

- The Advent wreath helps us to measure the time of waiting for Jesus to come.
- Each week we wait we light another candle on the Advent wreath to show us that the birth of Jesus is getting closer.
- The purple candles remind us that we are in a waiting time and the pink candle is the joy candle that shows us we have just one more week to wait for Jesus.
- When Advent is finished Christmas comes because on Christmas day we celebrate that Jesus is born. The Advent is wreath is not lit this day, as our waiting is over. You may have a white candle (the Christ candle) in the centre of your wreath, and this is lit on Christmas Day.



**An Advent karakia to pray together as a whanau:
Come Lord Jesus.
Come and be born in our hearts.
Come and be born in our lives.
Come Lord Jesus, Come.
Haere Mai e Hehu, Haere mai.**

Sacramental Programme

Our Sacramental programme is an important part of the spiritual life at our school as we prepare the children for their ongoing faith journey.

The Sacraments remind us that we are a worldwide church. We all believe in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and in living like Jesus Christ by putting God's Word into practice.



It was lovely to prepare 14 Children and 2 parents for their Baptism this year. Baptism welcomes us into a family of people who believe in living as Jesus did. In Baptism we acknowledge the gift of the Holy Spirit in each of us. A gift given to us from God that guides, supports, strengthens and forms us into people that are able to live joyful lives full of love.

22 children and 2 parents received the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation in November. Confirmation asks us to use the gifts we have for others. We are asked to serve those around us and are guided in our actions by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control.



Communion or Eucharist is a regular event that nourishes us to continue our personal growth and live in community. It is a time of gathering with others and acknowledging that none of us is perfect, but we are perfectly created. It is a time when we acknowledge the sacrifice that Jesus gave his life for us, while at the same time we gather around a table, like the first apostles, and commit our lives to Jesus.

Special Character celebrations – 2021

2021 ... The year in pictures. We have continued to gather to celebrate special occasions when Alert Levels have allowed this.

Opening School Mass ...



St Patrick's Day ...



Our Easter Liturgies ... Palm Sunday ...



Holy Thursday ...



Good Friday ...



Matariki Mass ...



House challenges and Caritas Challenge ...

We launched our Houses this year and have enjoyed meeting together and completing challenges when Alert Levels have allowed. Our Houses are named after Saints important to our School – Patrick, Dominic, Mary and Venerable Suzanne Aubert.



We wish you a happy, blessed and safe Christmas Season.



Sue Maynard
DRS