

17 November 2022

Dear Parents, extended whanau and children,

As another school year draws to a close we look back on our journey together during the second half of 2022 ...



We have come together as a community of faith and celebrated the following Masses.

- In Term 3: St Dominic's Day, the Feast of the Assumption, the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion, as well as every class planning and celebrating a Mass with their buddy classes.
- This term we will celebrate the following Masses/Liturgies – please feel free to join us!

Monday 21 November – Senior Syndicate Mass 9.15am in the Church

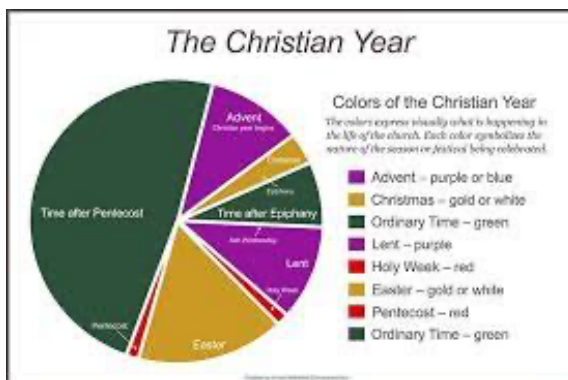
Monday 5 December – Middle Syndicate Mass 9.15am in the Church

Tuesday 6 December – Junior Syndicate Mass 9.15am in the Church

Monday 12 December – End of Year Mass 9.15am in the Church

Tuesday 13 December – Year 6 Leavers' Liturgy 6.00pm in the Church

*The Liturgical Year – we are very nearly finishing the season of **Ordinary Time...** and will start the season of **Advent on Sunday 27 November.***



You may recall that just like any other season in the liturgical calendar, this season celebrated a very specific time in the life of Jesus – his period of ministry on earth. During this season we were called to be active participants in **Ordinary Time** which simply means participating in the everyday life of Jesus. In **Ordinary time** we have been taken through the life of Christ.

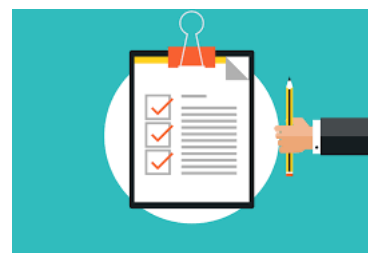
Advent is the season when we wait and prepare for Christmas. We take this 4 week period to reflect on the past year and to look ahead to the promise of Christmas.

Advent is a time to remember the call of Jesus to make our school, community, and our world a more loving and peaceful place



Reporting back on our Self – Review of Encounter with Christ

As a Catholic School, we regularly review how well we encourage and facilitate, in our akonga, kaiako and whanau, the development of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who reveals the transforming love and truth of the living God. We appreciated you taking the time in Term 3 to fill in the survey about how we can best help our akonga and whanau come to encounter Jesus. The survey showed us the following:



Question 1: What can we provide/do that would help you become more actively involved in the faith journey of your children?

The data shows us that for parents to be more actively involved in the faith journey of their children that the most helpful things would be:

1. Information in the newsletter and on dojo - 67%
2. Ideas on how to pray at home - 54%
3. Invitations to attend class and Sunday masses - 32%

Question 2: What opportunities/resources can we offer you that would help you deepen your own knowledge and understanding of Scripture and Catholic Church teachings?

The data shows the most helpful things we could offer to help deepen Parent/Caregiver knowledge of Scripture and the Catholic Church would be to:

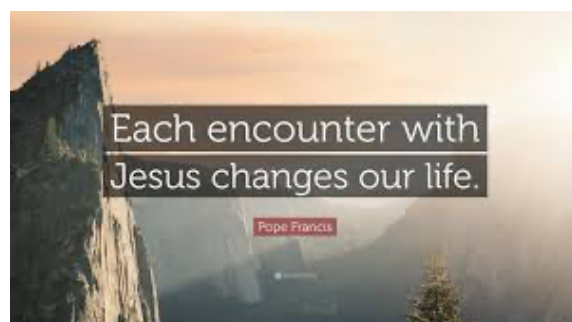
1. Provide Family whanau packs - 75%
2. Provide a Children's Bible to share at home - 62%
3. Links to relevant information in newsletter and dojo - 45%

Question 3: The Gospel stories of Jesus have great messages of hope, love, joy and forgiveness. As a home/school partnership, how can we make sure the children know these stories?

The data shows the best way we can work together with whanau to ensure children know the Gospel stories is by:

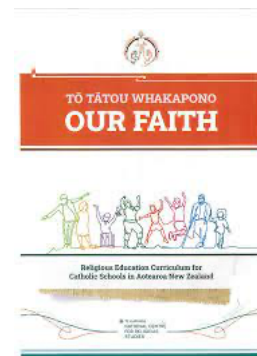
1. Teachers letting whanau know which Gospel stories are the focus ones - 32%
2. Provide links to videos of the relevant Gospel stories - 27%
3. Home learning tasks provided that relate to the Gospel stories being focussed on in class - 22%

We look forward to actioning these ideas in 2023. I would like to acknowledge the support of our BOT who have generously funded the purchase of a children's bible for all families.



Our New RE Curriculum – To Tatou Whakapono: Our Faith

This is an exciting time for Religious Education with the upcoming roll out of our new RE curriculum document To Tatou Whakapono: Our Faith. This will be implemented into all Catholic Schools over the next 2 – 3 years in year levels. I look forward to sharing more about this with you next year but here is an overview of where RE learning is going.



There are four themes that provide the structure to our new RE curriculum. These themes provide a theological, scriptural, historical and pastoral context for knowledge, teaching and learning within RE.

Theme 1: Te Atua – God. This theme focuses on the nature of God as revealed in the scriptures and Tradition of the Church. It addresses such questions as who, where, what is God and what does God do? Each person of the Trinity is considered, as well as God’s relationship with us and our relationship with God.

Theme 2: Te Rongopai – Good News. This theme focuses on Sacred Scripture. It addresses such questions as what does the Bible contain, where did it come from and what do the stories mean for me?

Theme 3: A Tatou Whakapapa – Our Story. This theme focuses on the Church’s story so far, but also on the young people’s own story, the story of their school, people and land. It addresses such questions as where did the Church come from, what are the stories of the Church, and where do they intersect with my own life?

Theme 4: Kia Noho Hahi – Being Church. This theme focuses on our individual and collective actions, responses and participation in the world in terms of understanding and living what it means to be in God’s Catholic Church family.

I thank you for your continued support and interest in our Catholic Special Character. Together we are Christ’s hands, feet and body on earth today as we carry on his mission.

Sue Maynard
DRS

Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)
Christ Has No Body

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours,