

11 February 2021



TERM 1, 2021

CATHOLIC SPECIAL CHARACTER NEWSLETTER

WE PRAY:

Titiro ki te kanohi o atawhai, ko tātou te kanohi o atawhai
See the face of mercy, be the face of mercy

Vessels of Mercy

God of Mercy,

**As you have forgiven us
So you send us forth
To bear your message of mercy to all.**

**Give us willing feet and gentle hands.
Bless us with listening ears and searching eyes.
Endow us with understanding minds.
Ordain us with compassionate hearts.**

**In our acts and in our words
Make us vessels of your mercy
To reach out to the broken
On behalf of the father who wipes away our debts
As lovingly as he wipes away our tears
And calls his children home.**

**Help us to lift your people in body and
spirit.
And so make every year a year of mercy.**

Amen



CLASS PROGRAMMES

Prayer Module: Introducing Children to Prayer

Mercy Charism

Liturgical Year: Ash Wednesday, Lent, CARITAS Lent Resources.

Room	Strand	Title
1	Jesus	Jesus - My Friend
2	Jesus	Jesus - My Friend
3	Jesus	Jesus Showed His Love in Different Ways
4	God	God is Present in the World
5	Jesus	Jesus Came to Show People How to Live and Lead them to God
6	Jesus	The Life of Jesus
7	Jesus	The Fullness of God's Revelation
8	Jesus	Jesus: His Values and the Role of Disciples Today
9	Jesus	Saviour and Liberator

HAPPENINGS

Mercy Charism

17 February	Ash Wednesday
18 February	Commissioning Mass
Caritas Lent Programme Keep it Simple for Lent Calendar	
Lent Reconciliation - date to be confirmed	
First Communion Programme	
14 March	Presentation of Starting School Booklets
19 March	St Joseph's Day Celebrations Mass and Tabloid Sports
29 March - 1 April	Home Sharing
1 April	Holy Week Paraliturgy
8 April	Mufti Day
15 April	Easter Assembly (Thursday)

MERCY CHARISM

As part of Religious Education and Integrated Curriculum learning in Term One, and as an ongoing focus throughout the year, students will explore the history, identity, traditions and practices of St Joseph's School as a Catholic Mercy school.

An integral part of this learning is a focus on the life and work of Blessed Catherine McAuley, the Charism of Mercy and the Gospel/Mercy values.



This learning unpacks and reinforces St Joseph's School's Mission, Charism, Vision and Core Beliefs.

For your information and to help you support this learning please visit the Mercy Schools' website <http://www.mercyschools.org.nz/>. This is a wonderful resource that students and teachers enjoy, and use to access information.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in preparation for Easter.

Lent 2021 begins on **Ash Wednesday 17 February**, and lasts until **Holy Thursday, 1 April**.



On Ash Wednesday the students in Room 5 (Year 4 students) and Rooms 6, 7 and the Year 6 students from Room 8 will attend the 9.00am Mass, at St Thomas' Church, Mountainview Road.

The Year Seven students from Room 8 have Technology in the morning and will take part in a liturgy with Distribution of the Ashes in the afternoon.

Students from Rooms 1 – 4 (and Year 3 students from Room 5) will participate in a paraliturgy, with Distribution of the Ashes, in the school hall at 9.05am.

You are welcome and encouraged to join us for these Ash Wednesday liturgies.

Room 9 students, who will be on camp, will participate in a liturgy with Distribution of the Ashes.

COMMISSIONING MASS

On **Thursday 18 February** at Holy Name Church (Ashburton) at 4.30pm, Bishop Paul will celebrate Mass, at which teachers and support staff from Catholic Schools in South Canterbury will be commissioned for the new teaching year. This is a very beautiful liturgy organised by the staff of the Catholic Education Office, Christchurch, at which we will be reminded of, challenged by, and re-dedicated to our work in catholic education. Please continue to pray for everyone involved in all catholic schools.

LENT IN SCHOOLS



The theme for Lent 2021 is *A New Way Forward*. In our changing world we all need to work together to find a new way forward to transform our world into one that promotes love, hope and justice for all. A range of engaging resources, prepared by the Caritas Education Team, will be used as the context for the learning and Social Action around Lent. This links to our Integrated Curriculum theme **Whanaungatanga**, our interconnectedness, and reminds us we are all on a life journey of developing relationships with God, self and others.

[2021 KEEP IT SIMPLE FOR LENT ACTION PLAN](#)

Please use the above link to access the 2021 Lent Action Plan, which increases our awareness of the challenges some communities face, and encourages us to improve other people's lives by living simply and making small changes to our daily actions.

LENT RECONCILIATION

Fr Chris and Father Do will offer Reconciliation to students in Years 5 - 8, at school. Students will prepare for this sacrament in a liturgy focusing on God's loving forgiveness. The date for this will be published when finalised.

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME

The FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2021 begins with a parent meeting Tuesday 2 March, at 7.30pm in the St Thomas' Lounge. Children who have been baptised, are eight years old and in Year Four or above, are eligible to make their First Holy Communion.

Enrolment forms, available from the parish and school offices, need to be into the parish office by Wednesday, **17 February 2021** please.

PRESENTATION OF STARTING SCHOOL BOOKLETS

On **Sunday 14 March** at the 10.30am Mass at St Thomas' Church Mountainview Road, the following students will be presented with a Starting School Booklet, which records the students' first days at St Joseph's School. Congratulations to Cushla Crossman, Lexi Dennison, Pranil Hari, Libby Hinton, Fergus Laming, Abby Townshend and Beauden Tubb.



ST JOSEPH'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

St Joseph's Day is on **Friday 19 March**.

We will celebrate our school's patron saint's feast day by attending the 9.00am mass with the parish at St Thomas' Church.

Parents and parishioners are warmly welcome to celebrate with us.

Students will participate in tabloid sports during the afternoon of St Joseph's Day.

More information will be communicated through the school newsletter.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HOME SHARING

During Week 9 (**30 March - 3 April**), your child/children will share their Religious Education learning with you. The purpose of Home Sharing is to inform parents about, and involve families in, students' learning in an authentic way. Home Sharing reflects the current learning focus for students.

Your feedback is encouraged and valuable as it affirms students and advises teachers.

Ideas for parents to use when commenting on Religious Education work are suggested on pages 41-44 of the *Family - Whanau Book*. You can access this very useful text through this link - www.faihtalive.org.nz . The password is 'primaryre'. Click on Families tab.

HOLY WEEK LITURGY

A liturgy based on the events of Holy Week will take place on **Thursday 1 April** at 1:45pm in the school hall. Please join us for this very special, solemn time of prayer and reflection around the passion and death of Jesus.

MUFTI DAY

This term's mufti day is on **Thursday 8 April**.

Students bring a gold coin to school for the privilege of wearing mufti clothing.

The money raised will be donated to the Caritas Lenten Appeal - relief throughout the world.



EASTER ASSEMBLY

On **Thursday 15 April**, Rooms One and Two will lead assembly prayers focusing on EASTER. Following this, classes will share religious and secular presentations celebrating Easter.

You are warmly invited to be part of the reflections and entertainment around this joyous, hope-filled event.

We are Called to Faith *God Counts on Us*

Only God creates

but we are called to enhance that creation.

Only God gives life

but we are called to cherish life

Only God makes to grow

but we are called to nourish that growth.

Only God gives faith

but we are called to be signs of God for each other.

Only God gives love

but we are called to care for each other.

Only God gives hope

but we are called to give each other reason to hope.

Only God gives power

but we are called to get things going.

Only God can bring peace

but we are called to build bridges.

Only God brings happiness

but we are invited to be joyful.

Only God is the way

but we are called to show the way to others.

Only God is light

but we are called to make that light shine in the world.

Only God makes miracles happen

but we must offer our loaves and fishes.

Only God can do the impossible

but it's up to us to do what is possible.

**How can God count on me
in this community, this year?**

Attached/linked for your information and reflection:

- Overview of class programmes for [LENT, HOLY WEEK and EASTER](#)
- [Prayer and Celebrations Overview](#)
- [Myself and Others Overview](#)
- [God - Te Atua Strand Year Level Focus Statements](#)
- [Jesus Christ - Hehu Karaiti Strand Year Level Focus Statements](#)

Mā te Atua koutou katoa e tiaki, e manaaki.

Trish McCambridge

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

PARISH CONTACTS

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