

17 February 2020

**TERM 1, 2020
CATHOLIC SPECIAL CHARACTER
NEWSLETTER**



Creed for Children

We want our children to be strong - to do what they believe is right and be able to recover when they make mistakes.

We want our children to have empathy - to know what it means to be lonely, scared and vulnerable; to seek help and to give help.

We want our children to love warmly - their families, their lives, other children, peoples of different cultures and abilities. We want them to love the environment and the plant and animal life of this country; the beaches and waterways, the mountains and forests. We want them to inhabit the earth carefully.

We want our children to judge critically - to recognise the good and hopeful and to reach for a full life. To recognise untruth, cruelty, violence, disrespect and danger, and to deal with them resourcefully.

We want our children to be free from harm - bullying, disparagement, lack of care and protection, the preying of adults, war and displacement.

We want our children to love God - to know the love of God through the adults surrounding them. To know God as a friend and faithful companion.

We want our children to go to bed each night and to wake in the morning with hope - to have education, family life, homes and security, healthcare, enough food, and a hopeful future

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
9	Jesus	Saviour and Liberator
8	Jesus	Jesus: His Values and the Role of Disciples Today

HAPPENINGS

Mercy Charism

First Communion Programme

26 February	Ash Wednesday
Caritas Lent Programme Keep it Simple for Lent Calendar	
27 February	Commissioning Mass
15 March	Presentation of Starting School Booklets
19 March	School Liturgy of the Word with Communion - St Joseph's Day & Tabloid Sports
Reconciliation - date to be finalised	
30 March - 3 April	Home Sharing
2 April	Mufti Day
8 April	Holy Week Paraliturgy
1 May	Easter Assembly (Term Two)

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.

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME

The FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME begins with a Parent Meeting on **Tuesday 25 February**, 7.30pm, at St Thomas' Lounge. Children who have been baptised, are eight years old and in Year 4 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 19 February 2020** please.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

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

Lent 2020 begins on **Ash Wednesday 26 February**, and lasts until **Holy Thursday, 9 April**.

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



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 9.00am.

We invite you to join us for these Ash Wednesday liturgies.

Rooms 6 & 9 students will be on camp, and will also participate in a paraliturgy with Distribution of the Ashes.

CARITAS LENT PROGRAMME



The theme for Lent 2020 is *Renewed by the Spirit*. Pope Francis challenges us all to be transformed and renewed by the Spirit so that we can follow the path of love. When we do this we become God's ambassadors on Earth.

The 2020 resources are entitled *Caritas in Action: Restoring Hope and Spreading Love*. They feature inspiring stories from all around the world of how Caritas is working alongside communities in need, to restore hope and overcome challenges.

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 **Te Arahia - A Pathway to Life** and reminds us of the responsibility we have to support individuals and communities who journey with us.

[2020 KEEP IT SIMPLE FOR LENT ACTION PLAN](#)

Please use the above link to access the 2020 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.

COMMISSIONING MASS

On **Thursday 27 February** at St Thomas' Church 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.

PRESENTATION OF STARTING SCHOOL BOOKLETS

On **Sunday 15 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 - *Mehar Battu, Briah Bowman, Koby Patterson, Poppie Gordon, Isla Walden, Gracie Bell, Evie Peneamene, Lyncoln Hansen, and Milla Anderson.*

ST JOSEPH'S DAY

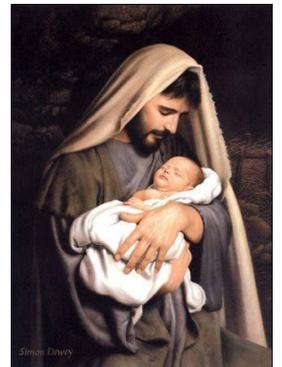
St Joseph's Day is on **Thursday 19 March**.

We will celebrate our school's patron saint's feast day by attending the 9.00am mass with the parish at St Thomas' Church, **or** by participating in a paraliturgy at 9:00 am in the school hall. This depends on the availability of a priest. You will be advised of the final outcome.

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.



THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE/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 paraliturgy focusing on God's loving forgiveness. The date for this will be published when finalised.

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.faithalive.org.nz. The password is 'primaryre'. Click on Families tab.

MUFTI DAY

This term's mufti day is on **Thursday 2 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.



HOLY WEEK PARALITURGY

A paraliturgy based on the events of Holy Week will take place on **Wednesday 8 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.

EASTER ASSEMBLY

This year Easter is during the school holidays. Because of this, the Easter Assembly, at which we celebrate Jesus' resurrection - the most important event of the Church's year, will be on the first Friday of Term Two - **Friday 1 May**. Classes will share religious and secular presentations. You are invited to be part of the reflections and entertainment around this joyous, hope-filled event.

A Prayer for our Earth

He Īnoi mō tō tātou Ao

All-powerful God, Te Auta kawa rawa,

you are present in the whole universe

and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,

that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace,

that we may live as brothers and sisters,

harming no one.

O God of the poor,

help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,

so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,

that we may protect the world and not prey on it,

that we may sow beauty,

not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain

at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,

to be filled with awe and contemplation,

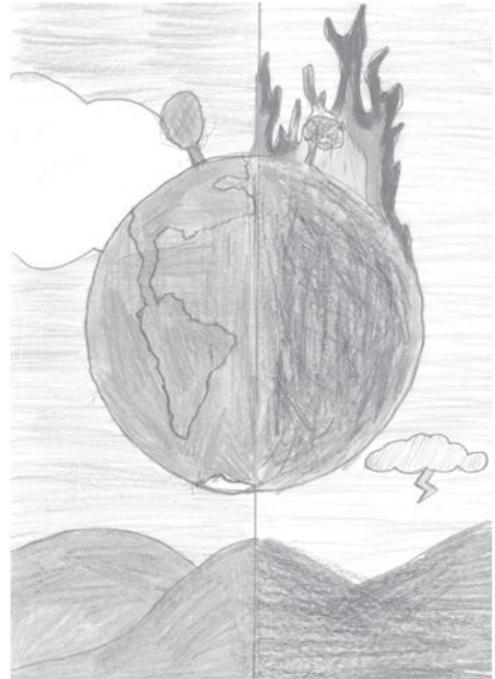
to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature

as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray,

in our struggle for justice, love and peace.



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY SOPHIE HUNTER - YEAR 8 STUDENT

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 Summary of Theological Focus](#)
- [Jesus Christ - Hehu Karaiti Strand Summary of Theological Focus](#)

Ma to tātou Atua e manaaki,

Trish McCambridge

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

PARISH CONTACTS

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