



St Joseph's School
50 Kelvin Street
Timaru

25 October 2019

TERM 4, 2019

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Spring Blessing

The blessing of the signs of spring be yours today:

The new life visible in the trees be a sign of new life
in you,

The birds building nests be a sign of belief in the future
for you,

The daffodils on grassy banks be a sign of the small but
significant things in your life.

May the blessing of God,
Sower of the seed,
Nurturer of hope and
Gardener of harmony,
Stay with you today and always.



CLASS PROGRAMMES

Rm	Strand	Title	Liturgical Year	Prayer Module
1	Communion of Saints	Mary	All Saints All Souls	Imaginative Prayer
2		Sacrament Holiness Communion of Saints Mary		
3		Sacrament Welcome		
4		Life, Death and Christian Hope	Advent and Christmas	
5		Choices		
6		Saints and Inspiring People		
7		Mary		
9		Choices		
8		Life, Death and Christian Hope		

CLASS MASSES IN THE SCHOOL HALL

(Rooms 1 - 9)

WEDNESDAYS Term 4, 2019

WEEK	DATE	CLASS
1	16 October	
2	23 October	Rooms 1, 2 & 3
3	30 October	
4	6 November	Rooms 5 & 6
5	13 November	Friendly Afternoon
6	20 November	Priests on retreat
7	27 November	Rooms 4 & 8
8	4 December	Rooms 7 & 9
9	11 December	Friendly Afternoon

Please note that the above class masses will be celebrated in St Joseph's School hall.

Mass, as indicated on the above roster, will not be celebrated if a Requiem Mass is scheduled for that day, or if there is no priest available.

There is no mass in the school hall on days a Friendly Afternoon is scheduled.

All Saints Day (Friday 1 November) Rooms 5 - 9 attend the 9.00am Parish Mass.

St Joseph's School End of Year Mass 12.15pm on Friday 13 December.

HAPPENINGS	
October	Extraordinary Mission Month
October	Recitation of the Rosary
1 November	All Saints Day
14 November	Roncalli College Mass
16 November	Confirmation
27 November	Advent Reconciliation
Weeks 8 & 9	Food Drive
12 December	Mufti Day
13 December	End of Year School Mass
Invitations	

Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019:

One hundred years after Pope Benedict XV (15th) wrote the missionary encyclical "Maximum Illud", Pope Francis has announced an "Extraordinary Mission Month". This is being celebrated during the month of October.



As Christians we live in a time when the world order is shaken and value systems are questioned, when our faith is challenged by a secular culture and in many places Christians face persecution. Pope Francis is inviting us to reflect on the meaning and practice of mission today and to renew our missionary commitment.

There are four dimensions, outlined by the Pope, to live more intensely...the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019:

1. **A personal encounter with Jesus Christ** living in his Church: in the Eucharist, in the Word of God, and in personal and communal prayer.
2. **Testimony:** the witness of missionary saints, martyrs, and confessors of the faith as an expression of the Church throughout the world.
3. **Missionary formation:** biblical, catechetical, spiritual, and theological.
4. **Missionary charity:** the witness of selfless love and of lived solidarity with the poor and the suffering to make God's love for all people visible.

CONFIRMATION

On Saturday 16 November at the vigil mass at St Thomas' Church the following students will be confirmed: *Zachary Davis, Isla Divan, Joshua Fitzgerald, Molly Gallagher, Oliver George, Amber Goszka, Brya Honniwell, Thomas Lysaght, Pippa Nevin, Eliza Noone, George Pham, Nicholas Scully, Madison Sugrue and Jemma Weeks.*

We congratulate and pray for these young people as they are strengthened, and renew their commitment to follow Jesus.

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY

Throughout October (traditionally the month of the Rosary) students from Rooms, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 are rostered to organise and lead the praying of, and reflection on, a decade of the rosary.

An announcement will be made at 8.40am inviting members of the school community to gather in the library and participate in this Gospel prayer. You are very welcome to join us for this.



ALL SAINTS DAY

To celebrate the Feast of All Saints on Friday 1 November, the students of Rooms 5 - 9 will attend the 9.00 am Mass at St Thomas' Church.

[Notice to parents re All Saints Day Mass.](#)

Students in Rooms 1 - 4 will participate in a paraliturgy in the school hall, starting at 9.10am. Please join us for this.

RONCALLI COLLEGE YEAR NINE and TEN MASS

Our Year Eight students have been invited to attend the above Mass at St Thomas' Church on Thursday 14 November.

RECONCILIATION 27 NOVEMBER

As part of our Advent preparation, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at school, to all students who have made their First Holy Communion, on Wednesday 27 November after Room 4 & 8 Mass at 10.00am.

FOOD DRIVE

The annual ADVENT FOOD DRIVE will run from Monday 2 December to Friday 13 December. During this time, students are invited to bring non-perishable food items to donate to the St Vincent de Paul food bank. Donated food is taken to the altar as part of the Offertory Procession at the End of Year Mass.



Traditionally, the Food Drive generates an impressive quantity and array of food which enables the St Vincent de Paul Society to make a difference for many members of the community who might otherwise have a cheerless Christmas. Festive food items are particularly appreciated.

This is also an opportunity to involve your children in the true spirit of Christmas giving.

MUFTI DAY

On Thursday 12 December, students will donate a gold coin for the opportunity to wear mufti clothing to school.

The money raised will be donated to [MissionNZ](#).

The website linked provides an outline of the expressions and work of MissionNZ.



Mufti Day is part of our response to Pope Francis' *"Extraordinary Mission Month"* described above.

SCHOOL MASS

The End of Year Mass for 2019 is at 12.15 pm on Friday 13 December at St Thomas' Church.

This Eucharist is a special celebration at which we gather as a community to give thanks for the year, anticipate and prepare for the birth of Jesus, and acknowledge, thank, farewell, and pray for our Year 8 students.

Please join us for the End of Year Mass.

CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

Two opportunities for children to participate in liturgical presentations of the Christmas event are provided at St Thomas' Church -

The Vigil Pageant at 7.00 pm on Christmas Eve. Contact person: [Fr Brian](#)

The Christmas Play at 10.30 am on Christmas Day. The contact person for this will be published in the Parish bulletin which is uploaded to the school website each week.

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN - ST THOMAS' CHURCH

At the 10.30 am Mass at St Thomas', children are invited to go to '*Children's Liturgy*'.

The children are guided through the Liturgy of the Word at their own level. The Gospel story is read, the children discuss the message and this is followed by a short activity. Children rejoin the congregation to celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The programme is suitable for children between the ages of three and nine. It is wonderful to see the children at Mass.

If any parents or older high school students would like to help teach Children's Liturgy, Sarah Stuart would love to hear from you.

The programme is set out clearly and is very easy to teach. New helpers will be rostered in pairs and teach once a term. Any students considering a career in teaching are encouraged to volunteer.

If you have any questions regarding either the programme or helping, please contact [Sarah Stuart](#), either at school or via email.

INVITATIONS

We request that in the interests of inclusivity and pastoral care, party and other invitations are not issued at school. Thank you for your support around this.

Please find attached for your information and reflection -

- ❖ [Communion of Saints Year Level Focus](#)
- ❖ [Liturgical Year - Year Level Summaries for Advent, Christmas, All Saints and All Souls](#)
- ❖ [St John Henry Newman - A patron saint for everyone](#)
- ❖ [All About ... Advent](#)
- ❖ [Prayers for the Dead](#)

- A Christmas Blessing -

May there be harmony in all your relationships. May sharp words, envious thoughts and hostile feelings be dissolved.

May you give and receive love generously. May this love echo in your heart like the joy of church bells on a clear December day.

May each person who comes into your life be greeted as another Christ. May the honour given the Babe of Bethlehem be that which you extend to every guest who enters your presence.

May the hope of this sacred season settle in your soul. May it be a foundation of courage for you when times of distress occupy your inner land.

May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children be awakened within you. May it lead you to renewed awareness and appreciation of whatever you too easily take for granted.

May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened as you gather with your family and friends around the table of festivity and nourishment.

May you daily open the gift of your life and be grateful for the hidden treasures it contains.

May the coming year be one of good health for you. May you have energy and vitality. May you care well for your body, mind and spirit.

May you keep your eye on the star within you and trust this Luminescent Presence to guide and direct you each day.

May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart and visit the One who offers you peace. May you bring this peace into our world.

Joyce Rupp

God Bless,

Trish McCambridge
Director of Religious Studies

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Office:	12 Mountainview Road, Timaru
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