



10 September 2019

Dear Families of St Therese School,
Kia Ora, Kia Orana, Talofa, Malo e lelei, Namaste, Malo ni, Makadini, Annyoung, Bonjour.

St Therese is a wonderful role model for us because throughout her short life, she continually demonstrated faith in God and dedicated her life to doing ordinary, little things well, with love. St Therese is very special to us because she shows us the love that we need to have for each other and the patience and tolerance that goes with that love. She teaches us that it is important to love and respect all people, even if they are unkind or hurt us. Without these qualities in the world we cannot bring about the Reign of God that Jesus came to tell us about.

As members of the St Therese School community, we must remember what was important to her, try to follow in her footsteps and continually ask her to help us show love to those around us, in all that we do and say, every day of our lives. St Therese was a shy, retiring young woman who didn't want to draw attention to herself, yet today she is known all over the world.

Quotes from her autobiography 'Story of a Soul' give us an idea of the love she had for her God. Her words reinforce that if all we do is done with love then we can never do wrong. Love is the greatest of all Commandments.

- 'For me prayer is a lifting up of the heart to God, a simple glance towards heaven.'
- 'I need a God with a human heart to love me and support me.'
- 'Just as the sun shines on the cedars and on the tiniest flower, so God's love shines on each person as if there were no one else in the world.'
- 'If the heart is filled with love it cannot be silent.'
- 'Love can do all, even the most impossible things do not seem difficult to it.'
- 'Often just a word or a friendly smile is enough to take away the sadness in someone else's heart.'
- 'By myself I cannot do all things I want to do, yet everything in my heart tells me I must not give up.'

A MORNING PRAYER WRITTEN BY ST THERESE

O my God! I offer Thee all my actions of this day for the intentions and for the glory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

I desire to sanctify every beat of my heart, my every thought, my simplest works, by uniting them to Its infinite merits; and I wish to make reparation for my sins by casting them into the furnace of Its Merciful Love.

O my God! I ask of Thee for myself and for those whom I hold dear, the grace to fulfil perfectly Thy Holy Will, to accept for love of Thee the joys and sorrows of this passing life, so that we may one day be united together in heaven for all Eternity. Amen.



The students will be discussing the lives of the Saints who are especially important to us: Mary, the Mother of Jesus, St Therese, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and St Francis who all have simple messages for us which should be easy for us to follow:

Mary, the Mother of Jesus - Do whatever He tells you.

St Therese - Do little things well and with love.

St Mary MacKillop - Never see a need without doing something about it.

St Francis - Make me an instrument of your peace.

Susan McDonald
Principal



TERM DATES 2019

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|--------|------------|----|--------------------|
| TERM 3 | 22 July | to | 27 September |
| TERM 4 | 15 October | to | Friday 20 December |



St Therese School

463 Mt Albert Road, Auckland 1061
Phone (09) 620 9441 -- Fax (09) 629 3850
www.sainttherese.school.nz



IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 3 2019

17 September – Teacher Only Day – school closed

23 September – Assembly

27 September – St Therese Mass @ 10.30 & Talent Show

19 September – School Cross Country

26 September – Board meeting @ 6pm

27 September – School closes at 3pm



SPECIAL CHARACTER

Sacramental Programme



We congratulate those students from St Therese School who made their First Holy Communion and Confirmation: Aylen & Zavaan Pua-Valenzuela, Aalisha Leumuava, Charisma & Mercy Jefferson, Jezebel, Cristina & Benjamin Leyva & Fatima Vaioaga. We look forward to their deep commitment to the Christian life in the future. Our thanks to teachers, the parents, the leaders and co-ordinators of the Sacramental Programme and all others who helped them prepare for the sacraments on this very special day.

The Feast of St Therese

The school will celebrate this special day with a **Mass on Friday 27 September @ 10.30am**. This will be followed by a shared lunch and then the St Therese Talent Show at 1pm. Please come along and support the children.

Cans for Christmas

Thank you for your generosity and concern for those less fortunate than ourselves. We collected a total of 143 cans and these have been collected and will be given out to families in need.

Daffodil Day

On Friday 30 August we had Daffodil Day and we raised \$187.30 for this very special charity. The students looked amazing in their yellow outfits. Thank you to all those who participated by dressing up and contributed to this worthy cause.



TEACHER ONLY DAY

The school will be closed on **Tuesday 17 September** as the staff will be on a Maths course. There will be no staff on site so please put this date in your diary so that you can arrange alternative arrangements for your children.



MEASLES OUTBREAK

As you will know, there is an outbreak of Measles in Auckland. It is very important that the school knows if your child has been immunised. We have checked our records and if we did not have the necessary information, we contacted the families of those children. We are still waiting for some replies. If we do have an outbreak of Measles at school, any child who has not given us details of immunisation will be required to stay home. **This is an urgent request.**



EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The children responded very well when we practiced an emergency Lockdown. We identified a few areas for improvement. Please assure your child that in an emergency the teachers will keep them safe and that they need to follow our instructions. If we do need to go into lockdown, please do not come to the school as this puts yourself and the children at risk. You will be advised when it is safe to come and collect the children. For all our safety, no adult should go to a class at any time. Everyone must report to the office so that we know they are on site. I am sure you will understand that this is for the safety of everyone.



LOST PROPERTY

Some of our children have lost their red polar fleece Jumpers. Could you please check your child's jumper as we are looking for a size 8 belonging to **Noah Jenneker** and **Benjamin Finau**. Please make sure all items of clothing are labelled clearly.



HEALTH & SAFETY

One of the areas of concern that we identified was that adults are going to classrooms and cloakroom areas without going to the office first. Outside doors will now be locked. It is vital for the safety of all the children that adults report to the office so that we know they are on site. I am sure you will understand that this is for the safety of everyone. If it is to drop of lunch for your child, please leave the food at the office and we will ensure it is delivered to them. We need your cooperation to keep our children safe. Please do not go directly to classrooms as the doors will be locked.



HEALTHY EATING

We have had a Healthy Eating policy over the past few years. However, recently, more children have been bringing what we consider to be unhealthy items of food like chips and pies for lunch. We would also ask you to include only water as part of their lunch as energy / fizzy drinks have too much sugar added to them. If the children bring unsuitable food items to school, they will be replaced with a sandwich or fruit.



SPORT

The Intermediate & Primary Netball Teams had their prize giving on Saturday 7 September. The teams have worked well together throughout the season and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship throughout the competition. Thanks to all the coaches and parents who have helped the girls to actively participate this year. The afternoon tea & netball game on Wednesday 4 September was a lovely way to end the season.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

We are all very excited when our children celebrate their birthdays. We understand that this is a very special occasion for them and that they want to share it with their friends. However, it has become very difficult for the teachers when parents bring large quantities of food in and have a party in the class. We would ask you to consider the effect this has, not only on the class involved but on the other children in the school. Please do not bring any take away food into the classes. This is a Health & Safety issue too as many children have allergies and also their parents may not wish them to have this type of food. If you wish to mark your child's special day, you could consider donating a book to the class or the library for them to read or by giving the children a special pencil or a book which they could take home. Please do not bring in food, lollies or fizzy drinks as it would be very embarrassing for the teacher to ask you to take them away. Adults must always sign in at the office.



BREAKFAST CLUB

As the Parish hall is being renovated, we are no longer able to use it for our Breakfast Club. No other venue has been found which would be suitable so, unfortunately, we have had to make the decision to cancel it for the rest of the term. When the renovations are completed, hopefully we will be able to start again. Please do not drop children at school before 8am as there will be no supervision until the library opens at 8am. We are sure you will understand why we have had to make this decision.



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DUES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support with the payment of attendance dues for preference students attending Catholic schools in Auckland Diocese, both primary and secondary. Families facing financial difficulties can contact their school office, their Parish Priest or the Revenue Manager at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland for further information. Application forms for the Hardship Scheme are available from school and parish offices, or can be downloaded from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Website : www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools/ (go to Catholic Schools in Auckland / Attendance Dues and Special Character Contributions).