



2 December 2019

Dear Families of St Therese School,

Kia Ora, Kia Orana, Talofa, Mālō e lelei, Namaste, Malo ni, Makadini, Annyoung, Bonjour, Bula, Hola, Selami, Kamusta.

The end of the year is rapidly approaching, and we are all preparing for the last few busy weeks at school and in our parishes and homes. It is time to stop and reflect on the meaning of Advent.

Sunday 1 December was the First Sunday of Advent. In all our churches we will light the first candle on the Advent Wreath.

The Advent Wreath originated several hundred years ago in Germany. The people at this time celebrated the month of December, and Christmas, with the burning of lights and fires in their homes. For a short time, each day during Advent, the family would gather for prayer. Every Sunday in Advent, one more candle was lit, until all four candles announce the coming of Christ, 'the Light of the world', into the darkness of our world were burning.

In our churches, in our homes and in our schools, we have Advent wreaths.

The circular Base -represents God, who is from all eternity, always loving us; it signifies love without end, like a circle or ring.

The Evergreens – represent Life; the new life offered us in the coming of Jesus.

The Lighted Candles – represent Jesus, the light of the world, who dispels darkness, letting us 'see' by the help He gives us.

The Purple Colours – represent the preparation demanded of us; the changes we need to make in our lives.

The White or Pink Candle – represents Jesus coming to us, bringing us love and joy, and the light to see each one, like Him, as a loved child of God, our Father.

The 4 candles represent the 4 weeks of Advent. The **3 purple candles** are symbols of **penance**. The **pink candle**, which is lit on the third Sunday, is a symbol of **joy** that Jesus' coming is approaching.

Each of the candles has a name.

The first symbolises **Hope** and is called **The Prophet's Candle** and reminds us of the stories in the Old Testament which prophesied the coming of the Messiah.

The second symbolises **Faith** and is called **The Bethlehem Candle** which reminds us that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem which was the Town of the House of David, from which the Messiah would come.

The third symbolises **Joy** and is called **The Shepherd's Candle** which reminds us that the shepherds were the first to hear the message of the birth of Christ and that they were given the message to show that Jesus came for all people not just the rich or those in positions of power.

The fourth represents **Peace** and is called **The Angel's Candle** which reminds us of God's kingdom which Jesus came to tell us about. It also is to remind us that the angel appeared to Mary and asked her to be the mother of God.

The lights of the candles will remind us of the coming of Christ, who is the light of the world. By following the light of Christ, He will guide us to do what we have to do to become the people God wants us to be.

May we all be prepared to welcome Christ into our homes and our lives by recognising Him in the people we meet every day.

Susan McDonald

Principal



IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 4 2019

6 December – R3–6 Ballet outing

11 December - Graduation Mass @ 5pm

11 December – R1 Library visit

13 December – Prizegiving @ 11am

17 December – Christmas Production @ 3pm

20 December – End of Term. School closes @12.00pm.

TERM DATES 2020

TERM 1	Students start on Tuesday 4 Feb @ 10.30am (Teacher Only Day Mon 3 Feb) TOD – Mon 9 March	to	Thursday 9 April
TERM 2	Tuesday 28 April – TOD Fri 29 May	to	Friday 3 July
TERM 3	Monday 21 July – TOD Mon 24 August	to	Friday 25 September
TERM 4	Monday 12 October – TOD – Mon 9 November	to	Wednesday 16 December 2020



St Therese School

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





2020 TEACHER ONLY DAYS

As part of the Teachers' new Contract of Employment, 8 days have been allocated for Teacher Only Days in 2020 and 2021. These have been decided for 2020 and are listed below. Please put these dates in your diary

Term 1: Monday 9 March

Term 2: Friday 29 May

Term 3: Monday 24 August

Term 4: Monday 9 November



SPECIAL CHARACTER

The Graduation Mass is on **Wednesday 11 November @ 5pm**. This is a very special Mass for all our children, but especially the Year 8 students. **All children are expected to attend.** Please put this time & date in your diary and come along with your child and celebrate all that the Year 8 students have done for the school during their time at St Therese. Yr 8 students will be in their cultural dress but all other students should wear their school uniform. Many of the students have specific tasks they have to carry out during the Mass.



UNIFORMS

With Prizegiving coming up, we have been looking at the students' uniform and it looks as if many need to have a few repairs. We are trying to teach the children to have pride in their appearance and we need your help too. Please consider replacing any piece of uniform which is past its best.

As you know, we have a "No hat, No play" policy in place. All students must bring a hat to school as the weather is improving and the rays of the sun are becoming much stronger. We have noticed that the caps the children are wearing do not protect their ears or the back of the necks, so next year we would like all children to buy a school hat to wear. These have much greater coverage and will keep the children safer. From 2020, a **school hat** will be compulsory. These can currently be bought from the school office. Thanks to all the parents who have already bought these. Please also put sunblock on the children in the morning.



Library Trip

Room 1 will be going to the Library for their Christmas Storytime on **Wednesday 11 December**. A letter will be sent out and if you do not wish your child to participate, you need to let the school know as soon as possible. **If you give permission, you do not need to do anything.**



SCHOOL BOOKS

Please check at home and return any reading or library books that you find as soon as possible. Invoices will be sent out if books have not been returned.



HEALTH & SAFETY

Thank you for helping us to keep our children safe by always coming to the office if you are delivering lunch for your child.



NOTICES

Parent Help is a non-profit organisation that operates a free parenting helpline, providing personalised, practical support and strategies to parents and caregivers on a diverse range of parenting issues and challenges.

