



**21 February 2018**

Dear Families of St Therese School,

Kia Ora, Kia Orana, Talofa, Malo e lelei, Namaste, Malo ni, Makadini, Annyoung, Bonjour.

Thank you to Ms Geaney for the Opening Mass on Friday 9 February as a huge amount of preparation goes in to our special Liturgies and this mainly falls on the shoulders of the DRS. Ms Geaney encouraged the students to challenge themselves and take on leadership roles. All those who participated can be very proud of the way they assisted in making the Opening Mass very special. Thank you also to all the parents, families and friends who came along to the Mass and then spent the afternoon with us. The children had lots of fun, thanks to the activities organised and led by our senior students.

On Wednesday 14 February, the school gathered in the church at 9.30am to acknowledge the start of Lent. Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent. It is a time of Preparation. Lent is one of the penitential seasons of the Church when people think about how they interact with others and try to change something in their lives that is not right, so that they may live more closely with Jesus. It is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Ash Wednesday is one of only 2 days in which we are asked by the Church not to eat meat and to fast. The other day is Good Friday which marks the end of Lent. For the 40 days of Lent, we will be on a journey that helps us to recall the final few days of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. We have symbols to remind us of the meaning of this journey:

- The **purple cloth** on the altar reminds us that Lent is a penitential time of change and growth and preparation for Easter.
- The **candle** reminds us that we share in the journey of the cross with Jesus who is the light of the world.
- The **Cross** reminds us that Jesus loved us enough to lay down his life for us on a cross.

Lent is a time to share what we have with those in need. We are reminded of the cycle of life – that all things must die so that they can rise to new life. The ashes, made from the palms used in the previous Palm Sunday service, which are blessed and placed on our foreheads, remind us that how we live matters and that we too will return to ashes one day.

We need to think about times when we have let our families and friends down and not helped them when they needed us, when we have neglected to pray and to think about the things we have done and the things we failed to do. What do we need to change? To think about what we need to change and how we can work on this during Lent, is why the Church has this special season.

**Jesus, as we begin this journey to the cross with you,  
help us to recognize what we need to change in our lives  
so that we may live more closely with you.  
Remind us when we forget and give us the strength we need to change  
so that we can follow you more closely every day.  
Amen.**

Susan McDonald  
Principal

**TERM DATES 2018**

<b>TERM 1</b>	<b>Thursday 1 Feb @ 10.30am</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>13 April</b>
<b>TERM 2</b>	<b>30 April</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>6 July</b>
<b>TERM 3</b>	<b>23 July</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>28 September</b>
<b>TERM 4</b>	<b>15 October</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>Mon 17 December</b>



**IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1 2018**

**5 March** - HPV & Boostrix Consent talk

**21 March** – COL Meeting - **School closes @ 12pm**

**30 March - 4 April**– School closed for Easter

**10 April** - Caritas Challenge

**6 March** – Parent / Teacher discussions 1-5 pm.

**29 March** – Holy Thursday Liturgy

**4 April** - School reopens

**13 April** – Last day of term – school finishes @ 3pm



**St Therese School**

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www.sainttherese.school.nz





## SPECIAL CHARACTER

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins on Wednesday 14 February and it is a day of fast and abstinence. In preparation for Lent, all classes will be looking at the meaning of Lent and how they can make positive changes in their lives. The school had a Liturgy in the Church and all students received the ashes which are a sign of penance. Stations of the Cross have been put up around the church and we ask you to come and spend some time reading them and then discuss with your children.

### BAPTISMAL PROGRAMME

As you know there is a Preference system at all Catholic Schools and Colleges. If you would like your child to go through the Baptismal Course to become a Catholic, the school will be holding lessons, during school time, and this would mean that they would become 5.1 under the system. It is very difficult to get into a Catholic College if a child is not baptised. Please contact the school if you are interested.



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHILDREN:

Room 1: William Afu, William Fineanganofu.



## REPORTING

Assessment Week is well underway, and teachers will be working on Interim Reports for Term 1. We intend to have these ready to send home on **Friday 2 March**. On **Tuesday 6 March from 1 – 5pm**, we will be holding Teacher / Parent appointments and we would like to invite you to come along and discuss your child's progress so far. This year we have decided to make these appointments optional. However, it is a good time to spend 10 minutes with the classroom teacher to discuss any concerns or issues you may have regarding your child's progress or just general settling in to school routines. Formal school lessons will finish at 12.30pm on the day but children will be supervised until 3pm, while the teachers talk to parents. School will finish at 3pm as usual, so children will need to be picked up at their usual time. There will be Navigators for Years 4 – 8 until 4.15pm. An appointment sheet will be sent home next week, so please select a preferred time slot and we will allocate you a time. If the teacher has a concern, and you do not make an appointment, they will contact you to come in for a meeting.



## STATIONERY COSTS FOR 2018

Thanks to all those who have already purchased the stationery items. We have had a very good start to the school year as students have had all the equipment they need to begin their work.

**These costs include: computer access for Rooms 4, 5 and 6, RE resources, stationery and Technology fees for Year 7 and 8 students.**

**Year 1: \$40 (Stationery and RE resources)**

**Year 2: \$40 (Stationery and RE resources)**

**Year 3: \$65 (\$40 Stationery and RE resources + \$25 Swimming.)**

**Year 4: \$65: (\$40 Stationery and RE resources + \$25 Swimming.)**

**Year 5 & Year 6 students \$125 (\$40 Stationery and RE resources + \$60 contribution for lease of computers + \$25 Swimming.)**

**Year 7 & 8 \$160 (\$40 Stationery and RE resources + \$60 contribution for lease of computer + \$60 Technology fees.)**



## COLLECTING CHILDREN

Thank you to all the parents for using the One-Way system when leaving the school. **For the safety of all the children, it is vital that parents leave their cars and go to the shade area to collect their child.** We have concerns that children are running onto the carpark and not thinking about moving vehicles. It will only take you a few moments to do this and will keep your child safe. Please keep your child close to you at all times and do not let them run ahead, as it is dangerous in the car park with cars constantly moving in and out.



## VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

A reminder that our catholic schools can only exist if parents help contribute to their upkeep. The Diocese asks that you pay a small contribution per year to enable them to carry on the wonderful work they do to the upkeep of our schools. You will have receive notification of this. It is **\$12.50 per child, per term** and is separate from the Attendance Dues, which are compulsory.





## STUDENT INFORMATION

Please complete the forms your child brought home and return them as soon as possible, even if your details are still the same. For the safety of your child it is vital that we have up-to-date contact details and that you are able to be contacted quickly should an emergency occur. We must have a current, working phone number and an email address.



## BREAKFAST CLUB

Students who arrive before 8.30 are expected to go down and have something to eat and then go directly to the library. Please make sure your children are aware of this. If possible, children should not arrive at school before 8.15 unless they are going to the breakfast club or Library.



## SPORT

This term we have had Swimming, Water Safety and Rooms 4 - 6 now have Soccer and Rooms 1 and 2 have Get, Set, Go on a Friday. Please remember to wear the St Therese School Sports Uniform on Fridays.



## NAVIGATORS

Navigators is for Year 4 – 8 students. Younger siblings of children attending this class will need to be collected at 3pm as normal. Classes are from 3.15pm – 4.15pm. It is important that children commit to the full hour. Leaving early disrupts the other students so please collect your child at 4.15pm. Children should wait for their parents outside the main entrance to the school. Please notify the school if, for any reason, you cannot be there on time as some children become very anxious when no-one arrives to collect them at 4.15pm.



## SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### READING

On Tuesday 13 February, some of our students participated in a Reading Programme run by Toitoti and Price Waterhouse Cooper. The tutors were really delighted with the attitudes and work ethic of our students and here is some feedback from them.

**'Thank you so much for being so welcoming and supportive this morning. Your students were amazing - great readers and absolutely delightful. All of the PWC coaches had a lovely time and are already asking when they can come back!'**

There will be a session once a term and we look forward to seeing the tutors again. We are grateful for the time they gave to help our students.





## UNIFORM

Please help us to keep up the standard of uniform. If your child's uniform is damaged or worn, please replace or repair it as soon as possible. Footwear is important too. Jandals should **NOT** be worn as part of the uniform as they are a safety issue. Children must wear black school sandals or shoes. Students can wear sports uniform and trainers on Fridays as they will be having PE. **Please make sure that all clothing and footwear is clearly named. If it is labelled it can be returned to the owner.** There are a few 'lost' polar fleece jumpers in the office. Please come and claim them if your child has misplaced theirs.



## HATS

We have a 'No Hat – No Play' policy. Children will need to remain in a shaded area unless they are wearing a hat. Please remind your child about this. New hats can be purchased from the office for \$15. Please also encourage them to be Sun-Smart and always wear a hat and sunscreen when outside. An appropriate hat from home is allowed.



## LUNCHES

A reminder that **we will no longer be able to sell lunches at school.** Please make sure your child has a healthy lunch and that they bring enough to eat for morning tea and lunch. If a child comes to school with no lunch, we will call home and arrange for it to be brought in. Children will be given free milk and a piece of fruit to have at morning tea.



## VOLUNTEER HELP

Do you have an hour to spare at any time during the day to help tidy up the school? If so we desperately need your help. We want to make sure that the grounds are kept as clean as possible, so we would appreciate some help with sweeping and tidying up. Please contact us as soon as possible or even better, just come along with a brush or blower or just your enthusiasm and we will direct you to areas that need your help.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

**BARADENE COLLEGE - OPEN EVENING - Thursday 8 March 2018 at 6.30 p.m.** All prospective parents and students are invited to visit the College. Entry at Gate 2 to the Auditorium. A limited number of places in Year 9 will be available and applications will close on **Thursday 22 March 2018.**

**MARIST COLLEGE - 13 -31 Alberton Ave, Mt Albert, Ph: 846 8311. OPEN DAY - Wednesday 7th March 2018 - 3.00pm – 6.00pm.** Prospective students and parents are warmly invited to view the school facilities and meet the teaching staff. Students will be available to give guided tours.

**ST MARY'S COLLEGE - OPEN DAY – Wednesday 8 March 2018 at 2.30pm & 6.30pm.** A limited number of places in Year 9 will be available and applications will close on **Wednesday 21 March 2018.**

**ST PAUL'S COLLEGE – 183 Richmond Road, Ponsonby. OPEN DAY - Thursday 8 March 2018 at 9.30am & 1.45pm.** Assembly in the College Chapel, followed by a tour of the school

**ST PETER'S COLLEGE - OPEN DAY - Tuesday 27 February at 9.30am & 1.00pm.** A limited number of places in Year 9 will be available and applications will close at 4pm on Friday 6 April 2018.

**MARCELLIN COLLEGE – OPEN DAY - Saturday 10th March, tours at 9am, 10am, 11am and midday.**

**Parenting Helpline**  
get support, advice and practical strategies  
we can help with any of your parenting concerns  
**Call 0800 568 856**  
9am - 9pm Monday to Sunday  
www.parenthelp.org.nz

Marcellin College  
**60th Jubilee**  
1958 - 2018  
23-25 March 2018  
A celebration of 60 years  
Registrations now open at  
www.marcellin.school.nz