



St Mary's School

Te Kura o Hato Mere

Newsletter: Term 1 Week 7
Thursday 12 March 2020

Principal's View

Tena Koutou, Kumusta, Talofa lava

You will have certainly been keeping up with the news about Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) and how it has been spreading throughout the world and has now been declared a pandemic. The Ministry of Health in NZ has been keeping all schools updated with the latest advice for how to prevent the spread of this virus and maintain healthy schools.

The best advice that we can all follow is that of washing our hands properly. This is not something new but has taken on increased importance during the current situation. At assembly on Monday I showed our students a cartoon video of how to wash our hands properly and why it is important. It had a catchy song to reinforce the message which many of our students enjoyed. Our teachers have been showing similar clips and have been having similar discussions around handwashing. Each of our classrooms has hand sanitiser and students are reminded to wash or sanitise their hands before eating. If we all follow this basic hygiene step we can minimise our chances of catching any virus.

For more information about Covid-19 from the Ministry of Education please see this link: <http://education.govt.nz/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-3/>

Manaaki te Atua (God Bless)

David O'Neill
Principal

Congratulations to the following students who received Principal's Awards:

Principal's Awards 2 March



Maddie, Harry,
Kristoffer,
Jhens & Ethan



Upcoming Events

Sun 15 March School Mass 9am
 Wed 18 March Christchurch Symphony Orchestra Ensemble
 Tues 24 March Breakers Basketball Coaching
 Mon 30 March Yr 8 HPV Vaccinations

Thurs 9 April Last Day of Term 1
 Fri 10 April Good Friday
 Sun 12 April Easter Sunday

Tues 28 April First Day of Term 2

School Mass this Sunday 15 March at 9am

All students are expected to attend our school Mass on Sunday at 9am. School uniform does not need to be worn unless you are in the Special Choir. Students will sit at the front with their teachers. Please plan to have your child at Mass by 8.50am.

Birthdays

17/03 Tuesday
SHANE Rm2

* 24/03 Tuesday
KRISTOFFER Rm3

20/03 Friday
JOANNA Rm3



Welcome to St Mary's

We welcome the following student to St Marys:

Ivana - R1
Sachin - R3

Altar Servers

St Mary's Pro Cathedral is looking for children who have made their First Holy Communion to become altar servers to serve at the 5.30pm Mass and the 9am Mass on the 4th Sunday of every month. If this is something your child can assist with please contact Sam on 027 746-3875. Full training will be given.

Faith Fact - Swiss Papal Guard

The Pope is protected by the Swiss Papal Guard. Wearing uniforms designed by Michelangelo and commonly armed with halberds, they are capable of using heavier weapons if needed. Each member is Catholic, male, and Swiss, and must complete military training in Switzerland. Those who are chosen are granted a private audience with the pope along with their families. In extreme circumstances, they are expected to guard the Holy Father with their lives. The Swiss Papal Guard is the oldest active military unit in continual existence since 1506.



Ministry of Education- Covid-19 -What we know so far...

- At this time the vast majority of people in New Zealand have no risk of exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19
- Children and young people under 18 account for only 2.4% of all reported cases of COVID-19 – this means we are unlikely to see widespread cases in schools and early learning services
- New Zealand currently has very few cases of COVID-19 and no evidence of sustained person-to-person transmission in our communities
- Although asymptomatic infection (people with no symptoms) has been reported, there is emerging evidence that this is rare and not a major driver in spreading the infection
- Spread happens through coughing and sneezing by someone confirmed with COVID-19 – similar to the way that influenza spreads
- “COVID-19 does not transmit as efficiently as influenza, from the data we have so far. With influenza, people who are infected but not yet sick are major drivers of transmission which does not appear to be the case for COVID-19” - Director General of World Health Organisation (WHO)

Important Dates for First Holy Communion Programme

- Tuesday 10 March 7pm: Preliminary Parents meeting in Church/Narthex.
- Sunday 22 March Mass 9am/5.30pm: Present Big Word
- Tuesday 24 March 7pm: Parent Meeting: Meeting Chapel side door foyer.
- Sunday 29 March Mass 9am/5.30pm: Present Creed.
- Tuesday 7 April 7pm: Parent Meeting - Meeting Chapel side door foyer
- Sunday 3 May Mass 9am/5.30pm: Present Ten Commandments.
- Tuesday 5 May 7pm: First Reconciliation.
- Tuesday 12 May 7pm: Parent Meeting - Meeting Chapel side door foyer
- Sunday 7 June 9am/5.30pm: Presentation of The Lord's Prayer.
- Tuesday 9 June 3.30pm: Rehearsal for First Communion.
- Sunday 14 June 9am Mass: **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

Our Mission is:

To provide a Catholic Education which encourages all students to realise their full potential in the family, community and society.

