



# St Joseph's Catholic School, Fairfield

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Issue 4

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and more....

### Principals Piece

E ngā mātua, tēnā koutou katoa, talofa  
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

How quickly the world can change. The evolving situation with COVID-19 is on everyone's minds, and I want to assure our school community that we are taking all practical precautions and responding to the latest advice. The Ministry of Education is communicating daily with Principals and our decision making is guided by them, as this is the most accurate and carefully considered information that is in step with the Government's pandemic response.

At St Joseph's we have implemented extra hygiene measures for students and ensured that our cleaning protocols are thorough and responsive to the situation.

I'm sure that you can appreciate the challenges that schools face at the moment in prioritising the health and wellbeing of all students and staff. We need your support please. **We have students at school who are immunocompromised. This means that they have medical conditions which significantly weaken their immune systems, so if they get sick it can be very serious. Please, now more than ever before, keep your own children home if they are unwell, so that we can keep our school a healthy environment.** Please make sure your contact details are up to date at the school office, and respond quickly to calls from the school, as students will need to go home if they are unwell.

There are many events being postponed or cancelled at the moment in the interest of public health. We appreciate your understanding around this, and we are all doing our best to help students deal with their disappointment. We are aware that some students, and indeed ourselves as adults, may feel additional anxiety at this time, which can be compounded by misinformation, media hype and fear of the unknown. It's important for students and whānau to know that information coming from school is accurate and up to date. We respond with new information as soon as we can. In classrooms, students are obviously talking about coronavirus, and we do our best to lessen their fear and give them accurate, age appropriate information.

There is good information available about how to talk to your children about coronavirus on:

- [Education.govt- talking to children about coronavirus](https://www.education.govt.nz/news-and-resources/news/2020/03/talking-to-children-about-coronavirus/)
- [School TV - Special Report - Coronavirus](https://www.schooltv.co.nz/special-report-coronavirus/)

and the Ministry of Health has the following advice for taking care of children:

### Taking care of children

There may be children or young people in your life who experience distress. As a trusted adult, you can help reassure and educate them about COVID-19 – it can be good to talk to them now, so they can understand the illness and be reassured. If you feel the child or young person is getting distressed through this conversation, reassure them and end it.

Children react to stress differently than adults – they may withdraw or behave in a more 'babyish' way, seem anxious or clingy, be preoccupied with illness in their play or drawing, have problems sleeping or nightmares, or may get physical symptoms such as stomach aches or headaches. Here are some tips for supporting children and young people:

1. Reassure them they are safe.
2. Encourage them to talk about how they feel.
3. Tell them they can ask questions and answer these in plain language appropriate to their age – be honest, but avoid details which may distress or cause anxiety.
4. Tell them that feeling upset or afraid is normal, that it's good to talk about it and that they'll feel better soon.
5. Be understanding – they may have problems sleeping, throw tantrums or wet the bed – be patient and reassuring if this happens. With support and care, it will pass.
6. Give your children extra love and attention.
7. Remember that children look to their parents to feel safe and to know how to respond – reassure them, share that you are upset too but that you know you will all be fine together.
8. Try to keep to normal routines – mealtimes, bed-times etc. – allow them to get out and play, to go to the park etc.

While the pandemic is ongoing, St Joseph's will continue to give regular updates. The main communication channels will be emails to parents via LINC-ED (so make sure we have your current email address), via facebook and links on our school app, and there is also a section on the frontpage of our website for school related COVID-19 links and updates.

Please be aware that we will continue to use our facebook page as many parents find this easy to access, but we ask that you don't use this social media platform to direct questions back to the school - please come and talk to us if you have concerns or questions.

## Principals Piece Cont...

We are also following the advice from the Government on mass gatherings. Therefore, we have decided not to hold School Assemblies for the rest of this term, as a sensible precaution.

We will not gather as a whole school for Gospel Reflection on Monday mornings, but instead we will reflect on the Gospel in our classrooms. We will attend Mass for St Joseph's Day on Thursday, with seating arrangements changed due to the safe physical distances now advised.

The Diocese has put in place changes to Mass such as removing Holy water, avoiding shaking hands at the Sign of Peace, Holy Communion not being distributed from the chalice and only being received in the hand, not on the tongue.

As the situation evolves over the upcoming days and weeks, we will keep you informed of changes to school events as decisions are made.

**Cancelled: St Joseph's Fairfield 70th Anniversary Celebration - Wed 8th April:** As this would have involved more than 500 people, we cannot run a community celebration in Week 10 to celebrate our school's birthday. We will still acknowledge this important event but in a more low-key way than planned with just our staff and students.

**Postponed: PTFA Quiz Night:** We are extremely grateful to the PTFA for the fundraising they do, and the effort they put in to creating a great community spirit. The decision has been made to postpone the Quiz fundraiser that was planned for Saturday 4th April. We look forward to this being rescheduled as soon as possible!

The Easter Raffle is underway and we have some **very** motivated sellers - thanks for supporting this fundraiser for the benefit of our students.

Please bring your Easter treats to donate to the prize baskets into school tomorrow or on Friday.

Schools are busy places, and as much as possible within the current restrictions, we will be trying to be 'business as usual' for our students. It was great to welcome back Year 9 students who joined us for Mass last week; it was lovely to see them happy and enjoying secondary school. Some of our senior students have been busy representing the school at events such as a Leadership Day run by Project Energize and a Year 7&8 Triathlon. The junior school has been enjoying tennis sessions on Fridays.

The Sacramental Programme run by the Parish is now into its third week. There are over 50 children from the Parish of the Holy Cross who will be making their reconciliation over the coming weeks; please keep them in your prayers.

**Head Lice:** Unfortunately head lice are an ongoing problem in schools, and ours is no exception. Anyone can get head lice – it doesn't matter how clean or dirty a person's hair is.

Head lice spread by crawling from one person's hair to another's – usually between people who are in close contact, such as family or school classmates.

Please check your children's hair regularly, and if you find head lice or eggs – you need to treat them.

**We have had some head lice treatments donated to the school, so just come and collect one from the school office if you want to treat your family for head lice.**

### Updates from the Board of Trustees:

**Principal Appointment:** The BOT have formed an Appointments Subcommittee responsible for the appointment of our next Principal.

A recruitment consultant has been engaged to guide the process and the position will be advertised shortly with a desired start date of Term 3 2020. Until that time, Tracy Svendsen will remain as Acting Principal and Rhonda McFarlane as Acting Deputy Principal.

**Policy Reviews:** We have a schedule for reviewing our key policies over a three year timeframe. This term, we invite the community to give feedback on our "Recognition of Cultural Diversity" policy. You can either collect a hard copy from the office with a review form, or feedback can be given directly onto School Docs where our policies are hosted:

1. Visit the website  
<https://stjosephs.schooldocs.co.nz/1893.htm> (this link is also on our St Joseph's Fairfield website under the Parents tab then Policies).
2. Enter the username (stjosephs) and password (joseph).
3. Follow the link to the relevant policy as listed.
4. Read the policy.
5. Click the Policy Review button at the top right-hand corner of the page.
6. Select the reviewer type "Parent".
7. Enter your name (optional).
8. Submit your ratings and comments.
9. If you don't have internet access, school office staff can provide you with printed copies of the policy and a review form.

**Enrolments:** As stated in previous newsletters, St Joseph's Fairfield has spaces for new enrolments for students with preference cards at all year levels across the school. We are rebuilding our roll numbers after an extra-large group of Year 8 students moved on to secondary school in 2018.

Please contact the school office for any enrolment queries. Please also ensure that we have enrolment forms completed for any siblings joining us in the upcoming years, so that we can anticipate our numbers accurately.

Thanks for reading this long update. Look after each other in these strange times - a little kindness goes a long way.

God Bless,  
Tracy Svendsen  
Acting Principal

## 3rd Sunday of Lent, Cycle A, 15th March 2020 (John 4:5-42)

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation as well. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." With no running water, the daily trip to the well by the women of the community was of paramount importance. The women of the town would have traveled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands."

Behind the conversation lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included worship of Yahweh, but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. When the Jews refused Samaritan help in the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, the Samaritans eventually built a temple for themselves at Mt. Gerizim (the same mountain mentioned by the woman at the well). Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshiping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship.

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people.

The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

### School Focus

Kindness - Manaakitanga

Be kind online.

STOP  
cyberbullying

Google

Seesaw



*We show compassion, friendship and are good stewards of God's creation.  
Live in purity, understanding and kindness.*

Week 7 - Term 1 2020

## PTFA 2020 AGM

Thanks to everyone who attended our AGM last week. These people were elected to positions for the coming year: Kirsty Parker (president); Debbie Breen (treasurer) and Monica Holt (secretary). Rochelle Wood is our staff representative. The meeting thanked Grainne Whaley and Nadene Agnew, who stood down as co-presidents, for their huge contribution to the PTFA over many years. At this time of year, we do a yearly refresh of the PTFA mailing list, for agendas, minutes and notices. If you would like to be on this list, please email [ptfa@stjosephs.school.nz](mailto:ptfa@stjosephs.school.nz).

### Easter Raffle 2020

This has been another hit this year! Thanks to all the families who have returned their sold raffle tickets and those who have taken multiple sheets to sell. We have prizes for our top sellers.

We ask that pink sheets be returned to the office by Wednesday 25 March please. Now is time to drop off Easter treats to the office to make up the hamper prizes. Easter chocolate eggs, or any treats suitable for a hamper. We are always amazed with what people come up with.

### Library Scholastic Subscription

For the last few years, the PTFA has supported our school library by paying for a subscription of new release primary level books from Scholastic. At our last meeting we voted to support this again in 2020 and have extended the support to include intermediate level books.

### Second Hand Uniform Sales

We will not be doing a second hand uniform sale this term. If you have urgent requirements, please contact the office stating what you require and they will put you in contact with Geraldine Low from the PTFA who co-ordinates our second hand uniform sales.

## House Happenings

### Current Shield Holders: Pompallier

The basketball competition has begun. It was great to see some Year 4's and Year 5's turn up to have a go. Points were awarded for participation and the four most successful. It's an exciting competition with lots of great support for each House, especially in the Year 5's last week. Spirit was very high and lots of cheering for any participant despite their House. Ka Pai Year 5!! We are hoping to get through Year 6-8 by the end of the week and the Yr 0-3 group will be held next week.

Today is the start of our celebration of St Joseph's Day. Everyone is dressed in mufti - wearing their House colours where possible. We held a parade just before morning tea to celebrate our patrons and come together for the first time this year as a whole House. This afternoon we spent time with our House, getting to know each other, sharing what we have learned so far about our patron and learning a new school prayer.

Will the shield move to a new House next week? Watch this space!

## Cultural Corner - Week 7

It has been very pleasing to see the amount of Year 5-8's that have turned up to give Kapa haka a go over the last couple of weeks. A group of 45 students has now committed to being involved for the year. Kapa haka runs from 10.15-11.00 every Tuesday. Our new tutors from Hakahiva teach with enthusiasm and energy, and the boys are particularly enjoying working alongside Matua Tim as they learn the haka.

Junior Kapa haka is now underway. It was lovely to see the excitement of the students in the first couple of sessions. The Year 0-4's will be reminded every Thursday by their classroom teacher. This is run in Room 7 on Thursday lunchtimes. If you have any questions around this please feel free ask via email or visit me in Room 4.

This term the key focus for Te Reo within the classrooms is focused around developing a personal Pepeha or Mihimihi. A Mihimihi is a basic introduction to let people know a little bit about yourself. We have also developed a Mihimihi which represents us as a school. This is being presented by the students at assemblies and on special occasions.

Nga mihi  
Anna Crawford

## Winter Sports Sign Up -

This closes tomorrow **THURSDAY 19th MARCH 10am**. No late entries will be taken. If you have put in an expression of interest form in for football you STILL need to enter online at:

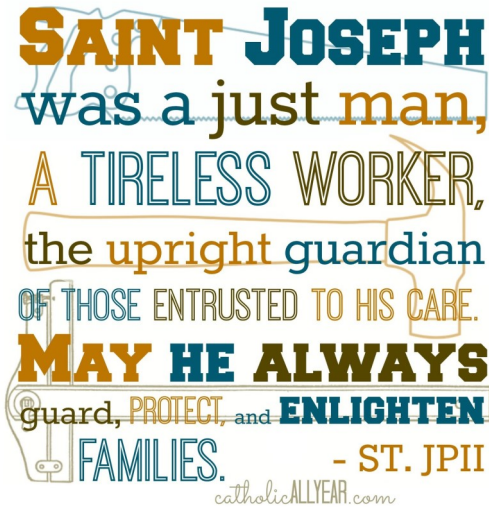
<https://enrolmy.com/st-joseph-catholic-school-fairfield>



# FOCUS ON FAITH

*"Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary; of her was born Jesus who is called Christ. This is how Jesus Christ came to be born." Matthew 1:16*

## ***Week Seven Term One***



*19th March marks the solemnity of St Joseph, husband of the blessed virgin Mary*

Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture.

We know he was a carpenter, a working man, for the skeptical Nazarenes ask about Jesus, "Is this not the carpenter's son?" (Matthew 13:55).

He wasn't rich, for when he took Jesus to the Temple he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb (Luke 2:24).

Despite his humble work and means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. He is descended from David, the greatest king of Israel (Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-38). Indeed the angel who first tells Joseph about Jesus greets him as "son of David," a royal title used also for Jesus.

We know Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. When an angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins," he did as the angel told him and took Mary as his wife. (Matthew 1:19-25).

We know Joseph loved Jesus. His one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him. Not only did he leave his home to protect Jesus, but upon his return settled in the obscure town of Nazareth out of fear for his life. When Jesus stayed in the Temple we are told Joseph (along with Mary) searched with great anxiety for three days for him (Luke 2:48). We also know that Joseph treated Jesus as his own son for over and over the people of Nazareth say of Jesus, "Is this not the son of Joseph?" (Luke 4:22)

We know Joseph respected God. He followed God's commands. He took his family to Jerusalem every year for Passover, something that could not have been easy for a working man.

# FOCUS ON FAITH Cont...

Since Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at his death, or resurrection, many historians believe Joseph probably had died before Jesus entered public ministry.

We celebrate two feast days for Joseph: March 19 for Joseph the Husband of Mary and May 1 for Joseph the Worker.

March 19 has been the most commonly celebrated feast day for Joseph, and it wasn't until 1955 that Pope Pius XII established the Feast of "St. Joseph the Worker" to be celebrated on May 1. This is also May Day (International Workers' Day) and believed to reflect Joseph's status as the patron of workers.

Many places and churches all over the world are named after St. Joseph, including the Spanish form, San Jose, which is the most commonly named place in the world.

Joseph is considered by many to also be the patron saint of the New World; of the countries China, Canada, Korea, Mexico, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Peru, Vietnam; of the regions Carinthia, Styria, Tyrol, Sicily; and of several main cities and dioceses.

Some statues of Joseph show his staff topped with flowers. St. Joseph is shown with the attributes of a carpenter's square or tools, the infant Jesus, his lily blossomed staff, two turtle doves, or a spikenard.

[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=4](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=4)

## Prayer to St Joseph:

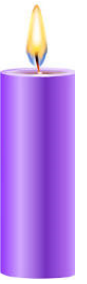
**Saint Joseph, patron of the universal Church. Watch over the Church as carefully as you watched over Jesus. Help protect it and guide it as you did with your adopted son.**

**Amen**





# LENTEN APPEAL



Lent is a time for giving, praying and fasting so this lenten season our school is giving to the food bank. Each class has a class flexi bin. Please help us by donating any non- perishable food: Tins, packets of rice or pasta, biscuits or crackers. These can be gifted throughout the 40 days of Lent.

Lent 2020 began on  
Wednesday 26th February

Our food collection will end in Week 10 so  
please donate as many times as you can



**Please get donating!!!!**