



# St Joseph's Catholic School, Fairfield

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## Principal's Piece

Kia Ora Koutou,

E nga tamariki tena koutou katoa

E nga whanau tena koutou katoa

To the new students - welcome

To your whanau - welcome

On Tuesday morning we welcomed all the new students from Term 3 and 4 to our school community. It was great to see so many new students and their families. St Joseph's is a great school and I'm sure that the new students will be very happy here. We look forward to helping them on their learning journey with us. A special mention to the Room 3 students, who did a beautiful job in leading our Liturgy. My thanks to the Kapa Haka group and the Year 0-6's who performed at the Liturgy. You can see the performance on the school Facebook page.

On Wednesday morning the students of the middle school (Year 4-6) left for their annual camp. This year the team will go to Finlay Park just south of Karapiro. The students were very excited about the range of activities they will take part in over the next few days. A big thank you to the staff for organising the camp. I look forward to hearing the stories from the students on Friday afternoon.

2021 is fast approaching and we have started to plan for the New Year with Term 1 starting on **Tuesday 2nd February**. Over the next few weeks we will be organizing classrooms for 2020. If your child is not returning to St Joseph's could you please inform us. If you have learning considerations for your child's placement for 2021 please email me by Friday 22nd November; [g.stuart@stjosephs.school.nz](mailto:g.stuart@stjosephs.school.nz). Any request is not guaranteed but it is taken into consideration when placing children. We thank you for your support as we endeavour to make sure every child has the best environment to thrive in.

Please note that **Friday 5th February 2021** is a Teachers Only Day if you need to organise annual leave for that day. Keep an eye out for more updates on our [school website calendar](#).

Kia manaaki te Atua koutou katoa

Grant Stuart

## PRINCIPAL

### Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A (Sunday Nov 8, 2020)

#### Gospel Reading Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, teaching his disciples the importance of being prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven.

#### Background on the Gospel Reading

In this week's Gospel, Jesus talks about what it means to be prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. This week's reading follows a series of warnings and predictions by Jesus about the coming of the Son of Man. Jesus wants his disciples to understand that the exact day and time cannot be predicted. He teaches the disciples that they must remain vigilant so that they will not be caught unprepared.

When thinking about the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, it is important to consider the first-century wedding traditions of Palestine. Scholars tell us that it was the custom of the day for young maidens—friends and family members of the bride—to meet the bridegroom when he came to bring his bride to her new home.

As with many of Jesus' parables, several levels of interpretation are possible. In last week's Gospel, we heard Jesus warn against following the example of the Pharisees and scribes. If read in the context of early Christianity's struggle to define itself against Pharisaic Judaism, this parable is a continuing critique of Judaism. It suggests that the Jewish leaders were like the foolish virgins, unprepared to meet Jesus, the bridegroom of Israel.

In the chapter preceding this parable, however, Jesus warns about the destruction of Jerusalem, the tribulation of the end times, and the coming of the Son of Man. When read in this context, today's parable is a warning to the Christian community to remain vigilant and prepared to receive Jesus, the Son of Man who will return at the end of time. This interpretation is supported by the reference to the delay of the bridegroom. The Christian community for whom Matthew wrote this Gospel was coming to terms with the realization that the promise of Jesus' return would not be fulfilled within their lifetimes. The question remains for us to ask ourselves, Are we ready to receive Jesus? Will we be prepared to receive him?

### School Value Focus

#### **Mana - Self Control**

*We behave with dignity and respect.*

*God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power, love and self control.*



**Do the right thing...  
even when no one is looking.**



## PTFA News

### Next PTFA meeting:

Our next PTFA meeting and final one for the year is happening on Tuesday 24 November at 7pm in the school staffroom. All welcome.

### Family Christmas Picnic:

It has been a tradition for the last few years at St Joseph's to hold a family Christmas picnic before school finishes for the year. This year it will be happening on Thursday 10 December at 5-8pm. Save the date!

Bring your own takeaway dinner and catch up with other families. All families are warmly welcome to attend. It is always an enjoyable occasion and we will have a few surprises in store for the children.

### Pots of honey:

If you would like to purchase a delicious pot of locally produced honey, order forms are available at the office. We are accepting CASH ONLY payments and forms into the PTFA box. Thanks to everyone who has made an order so far. When the honey arrives, it will be sent home with children.

### Payment to school for activities:

As agreed earlier this year, the PTFA last week paid \$10,000 to our school to go towards some of the amazing activities the students are doing at the Y4-6 camp at Finlay Park this week, the Term 4 swimming programme for the whole school; and for activities at the Year 7-8 camp in 2021. Thanks to everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts to make this possible.

### Entertainment Book:

Please support St Joseph's PTFA. 20% of your Entertainment Fundraiser membership purchase comes directly to us. The Entertainment Fundraiser is only available as a digital subscription. [St Josephs Catholic School Fairfield PTFA](#)



The poster features a man carrying a child on his shoulders against a blue sky background. The text 'Support our fundraising' is prominently displayed in a large, blue, sans-serif font. Below it, 'St Joseph's Catholic School' is written in a smaller, black, serif font. Further down, 'St Josephs Catholic School Fairfield' is written in a blue, sans-serif font, followed by 'PTFA' in a blue, underlined, sans-serif font. A red circular badge on the right side of the poster contains the text '12 Months of Memberships can start anytime!'. At the bottom right, the 'FUNDRAISING WITH entertainment' logo is shown, with 'entertainment' in a stylized, cursive font. A smartphone on the right side of the poster displays the Entertainment Fundraiser app interface, which includes various images of food, travel, and entertainment options.

Support our fundraising

St Joseph's Catholic School

[St Josephs Catholic School Fairfield](#)  
[PTFA](#)

20% of every purchase comes to our school PTFA.

12 Months of Memberships can start anytime!

FUNDRAISING WITH *entertainment*

St Joseph's Fairfield PTFA Fundraiser 2020



Thank you to all those who collected sponsors and learnt their spelling words! This is the major PTFA fundraiser this year (except for the Pizza Friday's) and we really appreciate your generous support. The money raised will go towards camps and swimming lessons. **Remember to get your sponsorship forms and money in by Wednesday 18 November to go in the spot prize draw!**

## PRIZES:

### Class Prize!

Pizza lunch for the class which raises the most money!

### Prize Draw:

If you get 5 sponsors minimum, you go into the draw for amazing spot prizes!

**(Your money must be in by Wednesday 18 November to be eligible for spot prizes.)**

## Collecting Sponsorship Money

All money collected and returned by **Wednesday 18 November**. Prizes will be given out at assembly on Friday 20 November.

**Thanks for your support!**





## Information Session for Parents of Current Year 6 Students about Year 7&8 in 2021

**Tuesday 17 November: 5.30 - 6.15pm in Room 1**

We are extremely proud of the programme we offer for Year 7&8 students. The opportunities we offer our senior students in academic, sporting, leadership and cultural areas are excellent. We know that Intermediate Schools hold open days to advertise their programmes to prospective parents, so we would like to do the same! We invite parents of Year 6 students to join us on Tuesday 17 November, for a presentation about the Year 7&8 syndicate, and the many opportunities it provides our students. We look forward to working with you and your current Year 6 child as a senior in our school in 2021.



## Cultural Committee Meeting

**Wednesday 18 November 7.00 - 8.00pm in the Staffroom**

The work of this committee is to support the schools Cultural Responsiveness plan. They assist in developing and promoting our learning relating to Maori and Pasifika cultures, as well as other cultures within our school. If you are interested in joining this committee, please come along to the meeting.

## Ukulele Returns

Can any students who have borrowed a ukulele from the school and are not planning to do lessons this term, please return it as soon as possible to Mrs Felix.



The Year 7&8 Student Councillors are excited to announce our school disco!

Venue: Church Hall    Entry: \$2  
Snacks and drinks will be available to purchase so bring a few dollars to spend! Proceeds to Year 7&8 events.

**Wednesday 25th November 2020**  
Yr 0-3: 5.00-6.00pm  
Theme: Superheroes

Yr 4-6: 6.30-7.30pm  
Theme: Movie Characters

**Thursday 26th November 2020**  
Yr 7&8: 6.00-7.30pm  
Theme: 'We like Tutu Party'

Parents, you are welcome to stay and dance!

## Sports Focus



*Our awesome little year 0-2 "Dashers" touch team.*



*Futsal (indoor soccer) is underway for the season with the Under 9 St Joseph's side having all of their games at The Peak next to Rotorua Junior High on Friday nights. The team has had some tough games so far, with lots of goals scored by both sides. All players have had a turn at goalie which is a new challenge for some.*