



St Joseph's Catholic School, Fairfield

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Principal's Piece

Kia Ora Koutou,

Meri Kirihimete
Merry Christmas

As the year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday. It is important to take time out this Advent and remember the reason for the season. Pope Francis reminds us to *"prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus like we joyfully prepare our homes for a visit from a family member or friend during Advent"*.

I also invite you to participate in the Christmas Celebrations at the Church.

The times are as follows: 24th December

- Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 6.00pm (Carols from 5.30pm) 24th December
- Christmas Day Mass 9.00am

For other Mass times around the Diocese please go to: www.proudtobecatholic.org.nz

This year we have heard the word "unprecedented" a number of times as a country we have gone through national and regional lockdowns. So it will be nice to enjoy Christmas and a summer holiday as normally as possible under Alert Level 1.

The students here at St Joseph's have done very well academically. The results reflect the students' resilience and the top quality teaching that continues to be delivered throughout our school. The ongoing success of all our students is something as a community we can all be proud of.

I'd like to thank and acknowledge these people who have played an important part in our students' learning achievements throughout this year:

- To all of the St Joseph's staff – thank you ALL, for your dedication, drive, fortitude and desire to achieve the very best for our learners. I hope that you have a well deserved and wonderful holiday.
- Thank you to the Board of Trustees for the commitment they invest in our school and for all their support throughout the year working alongside us to achieve the many learning opportunities for our learners like Kapa Haka, Swimming Lessons and Camps.
- A special thanks to our hard working parents on the PTFA for their many contributions which we value immensely – their support helps create wonderful learning facilities, opportunities and possibilities – their work enables us to create rich learning experiences for your children.

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• We farewell our 2020 Year 8 leavers – this group is a confident group of young people who will go on to do great things. They will be leaving St Joseph's well equipped to achieve success as learners. We wish them great accomplishments in all their endeavours. I would like to wish all our St Joseph's Catholic School students, parents and friends a safe happy and Holy Christmas holiday break.

Kia manaaki te Atua koutou katoa
Grant Stuart
Principal

School Value Focus

Self Control - Mana

Patience!



We behave with dignity and respect.

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

Week 9 - Term 4 2018

Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle B

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist preached repentance and baptized the people, in preparation for the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

Staffing 2021

We congratulate Aleise White on winning a position at St Columba's as a Learning Coach! This is a great opportunity for Aleise and we thank her for her contributions with us over the last six years.

The BOT have granted Caitlin Hollis a year's leave. We look forward to seeing Caitlin back with us for the 2022 school year.

We are currently looking to employ two teacher aides for 2021. The two positions advertised at the moment on Seek and the links can be found on our Facebook page.

With Ms White and Ms Hollis not being with us next year we are currently in the process of finalising the staffing lineup for the 2021 school year.

On Monday the students will have the opportunity to spend some time with their new class for 2021. Most students will get to meet their new teacher and spend some time with their new classmates. This process worked really well last year and meant that it was a smooth start to the year.

Prizegiving

The annual school Prizegiving is on Monday 14 December at 1.30pm in the Church. All are welcome to attend.

Final School Mass

The final school Mass is on Tuesday 15 December at 11am. All are welcome to attend.

Last day of Term

The last day of school for the year is on Tuesday 15 December. Please note the finish time is at 12pm.

2021 Term Dates

Term dates for 2020 are as below:

- ★ **Term 1: Tue 2nd February - Fri 16th April**
- ★ **Term 2: Tue 3rd May - Fri 9th July**
- ★ **Term 3: Mon 26th July - Fri 1st October**
- ★ **Term 4: Mon 18th October - Thu 16th December**

*Please note that School is closed Friday 4 February

The 2021 Teacher Only Days are:

- ★ · Term 1: Monday 8 March (Week 6)
- ★ · Term 2: Tuesday 8 June (Week 5)
- ★ · Term 3: Tuesday 31 August (Week 6)
- ★ · Term 4: Tuesday 26 October (Week 2)

Term 1 Sports

Term 1 Extra Curricular Sports sign up is now open. Please click on the link below to view the available options. Sign up will close at 9am on MONDAY 18TH JANUARY. Payments are due once the teams are confirmed. Please do not make payment before this as cancellations are possible due to Covid-19. All start dates are dependent on the alert levels.

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

Reporting to Parents - Term 4 2020

Later this week, parents will be notified via email when Digital Reports go live on HERO.

There will be a **Parent Information Session** about HERO on **Thursday 10 December at 3pm** in Matatipu (the Year 1 classroom).

This session is for:

- Parents who are new to our school, to understand our HERO reporting system. We will go over the curriculum levels and how progress information is shown on HERO.
- Those who want a refresher on how to understand the progress information in the report.

Drop in session for HERO technical issues: Ms Svendsen will be available on **Friday 11 December in the school Library from 2.00-3.00** for anyone having any technical issues accessing their parent HERO account; bring your device and we will try to get it sorted for you!

If you want to discuss the progress of your individual child, please make contact with their classroom teacher.

Back to school stationery – Order now!

We've teamed up with OfficeMax to make getting school ready faster! Your child's class list is available now on the OfficeMax MySchool website – myschool.co.nz.

We encourage you to order early to ensure your child has all their stationery requirements ready to go for the start of Term 1. Don't wait until mid-January when the 'team of 5 million' get home from holiday - order now and avoid the back to school rush.

This year OfficeMax have introduced Laybuy*, so you can pay in 6 weekly, interest-free instalments - and still get your order right away. Or you can pay by internet banking, credit card or debit card.

When you shop on myschool.co.nz you'll receive free delivery on orders over \$46*. You will also help our school earn school rewards* that we use to purchase much needed extra resources for our school.

* Terms & Conditions apply, see myschool.co.nz for details.



The advertisement features a teal background with a circular inset image of a woman smiling and looking at her smartphone. The OfficeMax MySchool logo is in the top left corner. The main headline 'Got five minutes?' is in large white text. Below it, the text 'Your child's back to school class list is ready to shop now at myschool.co.nz or call us Mon to Fri, 8.30am – 5pm.' is displayed. At the bottom, the website 'myschool.co.nz' and phone number '0800 724 440' are listed, along with a 'Get school ready faster' badge.

OfficeMax
MySchool

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myschool.co.nz 0800 724 440

Get school ready faster

Celebrating Success

Cheerleading

Bella Kovacs (Year 8) has been accepted into the NZ development squad for Cheerleading. She will train in Auckland each week for this. All Star Cheerleading have the NZ teams and from 2028 it will be an Olympic sport.

Water Polo

Ashley Lander (Year 7) and Dylan Low (Year 7) came 4th in the 1st division of the intermediate water polo competition while playing for Maeroa Intermediate.

Athletics

Congratulations to the following students that achieved success at the Year 4-6 Fairfield Cluster Athletics Competition:

Year 4

- Clare Williams - 3rd Cricket Ball Throw
- Olivia Moore - 3rd High Jump

Year 5

- Aoife Whaley - 2nd Long Jump
- Gabe O'Halloran - 1st Long Jump, 2nd 100m

Year 6

- Ollie Penfold - 3rd Cricket Ball Throw
- Ashleigh Van Eyk - 3rd High Jump, 3rd 100m
- Liam Coombes - 2nd Long Jump, 1st High Jump, 1st 50m, 2nd 100m
- Tessa Scott - 1st 800m

Flippaball

St Joseph's Makos Flippaball team winning the Waikato Waterpolo Flippaball on Sunday.



Summer Reading Programme

The Great New Zealand Tiki Tour



Kia ora and welcome to the 2020/21 Summer Reading Programme!

This is a free programme run by the Hamilton City Libraries to keep children reading over the summer holidays. The programme is open to children aged 5-12 and registrations open from Monday 14 December. To register, simply visit any of [our branches](#). Once registered, you will receive a Summer Reading Programme booklet with fun activities and a reading log to keep track of your progress.

GETTING STARTED - HEI TIMATANGA

Once you are registered you can start reading.

Reading can be:

- On your own
- With someone else (for those not yet reading on their own)
- With family

Every one hour of reading earns you an entry into the weekly prize draws. Attend events or complete activities for extra entries. All entries go into the major prize draw at our [finale event](#) at Hamilton Gardens on Thursday 28 January.

