



17 March

Focus for the Week: God's Love and Compassion - Fourth Sunday in Lent

We are at the halfway mark in the Lenten season – a time for recalling God's continuing care.

It is this message of God's continuing care and forgiveness that is highlighted in the memorable and beautiful parable of the Gospel reading of the Prodigal Son. It is the story of a loving and compassionate father, a clear image of God. Each son represents a segment of the people of God. One son is like those who are self-sufficient and proud, but who eventually realise their predicament and return to the father to be forgiven and welcomed. Then there are those of us who stay at home, loyal and perhaps self-righteous.

Further we witness the most wondrous love of this father, who has waited for, longed for, the return of his lost son. We also see the father reaching out to his loyal older son even though the son is angry and resentful of his younger brother.

This is a truly powerful story. Do we understand the measure of God's deep and constant love for each of us, no matter who we are or what we have done with our lives up to this point? Regardless of our past, we all need assurance of God's mercy, love and continuing presence within us.

Value Focus: Respect – Week 7

Our increasing global community brought about by reduced travel time and escalating communication options allows us growing interaction with other cultures. With this phenomenon we come into contact with people who hold different world views and opinions from our own. What does this mean for relationships? To sustain contact across cultures never has respect been more important. Seeking to understand why various cultures hold certain viewpoints and beliefs allows us to determine common ground, and to appreciate that there is no one way to approach anything even if ultimately we select our way. The experiences gained through maintaining respectful relationships with people who have largely different perspectives from our own, allows us to develop a deeper acceptance of other cultures and viewpoints. Such understanding sets the ball in motion for ultimately a more tolerant, inclusive and understanding world.

"People of different religions and cultures live side by side in almost every part of the world, and most of us have overlapping identities which unite us with very different groups. We can love what we are, without hating what – and who – we are not. We can thrive in our own tradition, even as we learn from others, and come to respect their teachings." –Kofi Annan

Dear Parents and Friends of the School

Principal's Platform

Nominations are now open for the **Board of Trustees elections**. The Board are the Governors of the school, approving policy and setting direction based on the strategic plan. They have overall responsibility for the staff as employer, for curriculum development, the maintenance of the school, school finances and for health and safety in the work place. Our Board is made of 6 parent elected members, 4 Proprietor Appointees, a staff representative and the Principal as the Chief Executive officer.

I find the Board to be of immense value as they not only help temper my enthusiasm ensuring that enough consideration has gone into following policy and decision making but they are also an excellent support for me. The Board generally meet on ten evenings a year for about 1.5 hours. The sub committees of the board, Property, Finance, Pupil Welfare, and Policy meet on one evening a month, normally a week out from the Board meeting.

To obtain a nomination form, see Returning Officer, Marian Panettiere in the school office. Consider standing or nominating another as an election is healthy for the school. At least three of the current Board are not standing again. The new Board will take office in May and remain in place for three years.

Thank you to the many people who supported the **Family Fun Day** held at school last Sunday. It was a fun filled two and a half hours with sack races, egg and spoon races, three legged races and pass the water bomb relays. Children and adults were having great fun and there was lots of laughter.

Marist Soccer registrations with payment close this Friday, registrations after this date will only be accepted if gaps are available for a team in the grade applied for.

Welcome: We warmly welcome Louisa Tan (Rm4) into our school community.

Solidarity Day -Mass: Full School Mass will be celebrated tomorrow as part of **Solidarity Day**. *Team One*, and Rooms 8, 9 and 11 will have a Liturgy in the School Hall at 10:15am

Solidarity Day: Thank you everyone for the generous donations of rice. A big thank you in advance to all who will help out tomorrow with the cooking and serving. Let's pray for fine weather!

PE Tops: We apologise for the inconvenience but we are currently out of stock. The manufacturers cannot supply until the first week of Term 2. If you have any spare at home that your children have outgrown, please consider donating to our Second Hand Shop.

National Standards Final Part: New Zealand Principals' Federation Viewpoint on National Standards

The New Zealand Principals' Federation:

- Is concerned with the haste at which National Standards is being forced through without a trial period
- Believes National Standards will not improve what NZ Schools are already doing to raise achievement standards of students
- Believes the total emphasis on literacy and numeracy will be at the expense of other areas of the curriculum e.g. science, music, physical education, the arts. This runs counter to the New Zealand Curriculum which emphasises a balanced education according to a school's self-determined priorities
- Believe that the implementation of National Standards may lead to the advent of National Testing – which in many countries set out to "name and shame" poor performing schools in these tests.
- Support well known New Zealand educational researchers in their belief National Standards will not raise student achievement and that further development and trialling in a sample group of schools is required. This includes:
 - a) Shifting the focus to measuring and reporting children's progress against standards;
 - b) Developing ways to moderate the judgements of teachers to achieve high consistency in the interpretation and application of standards;
 - c) Developing agreed protocols with teacher organisations for the use of data so as to prevent the adverse effects of reporting such data on teaching and learning.

Teachers in Charge - Kay Petchell and Mike Sommerville

Marian School Paddy Day Ceilidh Night:

TONIGHT in the school hall. Rock your Shamrocks from 7pm – 9:30pm. Dancing, Singing, Jokes and Prizes. Bring your own drink and food.
FREE ENTRY - come prepared to dance and sing. - Martha



Muster day 28th March 2010 at the Marist Clubrooms – 10am start
Phone Pete on 021 822145 or Chris on 027 4487815 for more details
www.hamiltonmarist.co.nz

Picture frames wanted - for the Art Auction. Sizes A4 to A3 best. Please give any unwanted picture/mirror frames to Room 17. Many thanks - Art Auction Committee



Thank You: a VERY VERY BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Paddy's Market on Sunday. We made \$800 which will go into the our welfare fund. Thank you to all who supported this fundraiser and made it such a fun day. - Martha
(Watch out for next term's Market Day!)

PTFA Chocolate Fundraising: An urgent reminder that the chocolates are due back at the latest by Monday 22 March. If you took a box, it is your responsibility to sell it. Thank you to all the families for their amazing support

Anointing of the Sick-Thank You

A big thank you to the parents who came to the **Team 2 Anointing of the Sick** and helped set up and distribute afternoon tea for the people who came to be blessed. We couldn't have managed without you. Thanks also to the generous amounts of food provided by the Team 2 parents. There was so much given, that the Salvation Army benefited.
- Team 2 Teachers

For a Donation: Wooden tables and old shelving from the old Library. Please see Greg Jordan (Caretaker).

MARIAN SCHOOL SPORTS NOTICES FOR 17 MARCH 2010

CRICKET

FRIDAY 19 MARCH – 5.30 START

Marian Blockers vs St Joseph's Sparks @ University 3
Marian Stumpers vs Morrinsville Primary @ Morrinsville Primary

SATURDAY 20 MARCH – 9.00AM START

Marian Strikers vs Southwell Hunters @ Marian School
Marian Forces vs Southwell Jaguars @ Marian School
Marian Thunderbolts vs Hukanui Lasers @Discovery Park 2
Marian All Stars vs Morrinsville @Steele Park 1

FLIPPA BALL SUNDAY 21 MARCH

Marian Dolphins vs SPC 2 @ 2.50pm
Marian Sharks vs SPC 1 @ 3.10pm
Marian Seals vs St Joes @ 3.30pm
Marian Dolphins vs Te Rapa @ 4.30pm
Marian Sharks vs SPC 2 @ 4.50pm

WATERPOLO DRAW SUNDAY 21 MARCH

Marian White vs Berkley Black @ 5.30pm

NETBALL

Reminder: Marian Netball Pre-Season Training Camp 14th & 15th April, 10am -3pm

Close off day for player registration is Friday 19th March. Forms available from the school office or by emailing Kate (see below). Return your completed form with payment in a sealed envelope to the **green box** in the school office.

Enquiries to: Kate van der Hulst 021 311962 or pete.hulst@tra.co.nz

All girls who collected netball enrolment forms this week **PLEASE** remember to return these to the school office no later than this **Friday 19 March**.

Netball Muster winner is Megan Cullingworth.

Thank you – Lisa Burgess

Hamilton Marist Junior Rugby -2010 Weigh-in days

Wednesdays 17, 21 or 31 March

At Hamilton Old Boys Club Rooms, Willoughby St - From 6.00pm

Soccer boots for sale - 2 pairs: Adidas black & gold (2009 season) Size US 4/UK 3.5/EUR 36 **\$15.00**; Adidas silver, black & white F10 US 3/UK 2.5/ EUR 35 **\$10.00**. Please phone 858 3655

Electric Keyboard For Sale: In excellent condition. Please phone Fay for details on 843 3848

St. John's College PTFA is holding a Quiz Night in the library on Friday 26 March from 7pm. Tickets \$10 each from the college office. Make up a team of 6 or be placed in a team on the night. BYO liquid refreshments; snacks and supper provided. Prizes, raffles and a fun evening with the opportunity to come dressed in theme (School Days) if you wish! All welcome. Contact Ian Maxwell (Ph. 8558444) or Christine Versluys (Ph. 8394662) for any further information.

A Parents Inc. Toolbox course for parents of 6 to 12 year olds is starting on Monday 26 April at 7.15pm. This is a six week course full of helpful strategies to make parenting easier. To book a place phone Fiona on 855-1241 or email hamiltontbx@parentsinc.org.nz

Public Trust is offering a free appointment to discuss our "Family Promise" which combines a Will, Enduring Powers of Attorney and Life Insurance to protect NZ families from unseen circumstances. As part of this campaign we offer a chance to win a \$5,000 education trust by attending an appointment to discuss "Family Promise". Contact Ali Turner -Senior Relationship Adviser Public Trust, Hamilton, Ph. 07 9587006

Family Fun Day: Hamilton lake Picnic Lawn. Held Sunday 21 March from 10am – 2pm. All Welcome. Free Admission. Fun for all the family including storytellers, treasure hunt, art wall, sausage sizzle, sack races and more!

Holiday Programmes

Bubble Dome – Learn how to make computer games and 3D movies like Shrek? Learn the latest in 3D Animation and Games Design on a Bubble Dome School Holiday workshop this April. Other courses in Architecture, Inventions and Technology on offer at selected venues. For students aged 6 – 17 years. Tel: 8088 438 282 or email info@bubbledome.co.nz or visit www.bubbledome.co.nz

Sausage Sizzle: This Friday \$1.00 per sausage

Have a Happy St Patrick's Day
God Bless

John Coulam
Principal

