

5 April

Focus for the Week: John 11: 3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45*Fifth Sunday of Lent*

In the Gospel reading this week, Jesus is faced with the death of his friend Lazarus. Martha, Mary and Lazarus, we are told, were good friends of Jesus and tried to follow his teachings, so it is understandable that, when Lazarus became seriously ill, Martha and Mary would send an urgent message to Jesus asking for his help.

After waiting for two days to set out to see Lazarus, Jesus arrives to find him already dead and is confronted by the grief and recriminations of his friends, Martha and Mary, over the loss of their brother. He asks Martha, "Do you believe that all those who believe in me will have eternal life?" Martha replies that she does, but she still wants Jesus to 'fix the problem' and raise her brother from the dead. Jesus, of course, does this.

So what can we learn from this Gospel reading?

Sometimes bad and sad things happen in life, even to those people who do their best to follow Jesus, but we should never give up hope. God has a plan for us, even if we cannot see or understand it, we need to trust that He will always do what is best for us because He loves us so very much.

We can also see in this miracle a promise of our own eternal life, gifted by Jesus through his sacrifice on the cross.

Value Focus: Diversity – Week 10

Acknowledging our differences from others is one thing, but being able to admit them to others and in turn have them discuss theirs with you requires a trusting relationship. Trust is the first prerequisite for effective interactions with others. Unsurprisingly, when it comes to discussing our differences we want to know that what we say will not be misused or perceived entirely as a weakness. Likewise when others acknowledge their strengths and needs they want to trust us with that information. So what does this mean? Naturally, discussing our differences with others allows us to come to a greater understanding and if we are open to it, a closer relationship. Establishing trust is the first step in the process "Follow your heart, but be quiet for a while first. Ask questions, then feel the answer. Learn to trust your heart" Anon

Maori Language Phrase - *God be with you***Mā te Atua koe e tiaki**

Dear Parents and Friends of the School

Principal's Reflection

Here is an update on our Waikato Catholic Community of Learning from Catherine Gunn:

No doubt you have heard much about Communities of Learning, either through the media or through school. In 2015, the government launched 'Investing in Educational Success' (IES) Policy at a cost of \$360 million. This policy was focused on encouraging schools to form Communities of Learning (now known as Kāhui Ako), where they develop shared achievement challenges and best practice. This structure reflects the highest performing education system internationally, which have high levels of teacher collaboration, within schools and across schools and where learning and progress is developed and connected along the whole educational journey for each child.

All the Catholic schools in the Hamilton area, Te Awamutu and Te Aroha have been involved with the Waikato Catholic Community of Learning, since last year. We are also fortunate to have two Early Learning

Centres involved: Jubilee and Our Place (where many of our students started their learning journey).

The Principals and Boards have collaborated and developed learning and achievement challenges, and after feedback was received at the end of last year, they are about to be submitted for approval by the Minister for Education.

After careful examination of our collective data, it is clear that there are disparities between our learners, which present as underachievement in literacy and numeracy. The purpose of the Kāhui Ako is to raise the achievement of all learners. That in itself is a very complex matter, however, we know that what the teacher does in the classroom is what matters and therefore, the Principals have, collectively, identified strategic areas to focus our community inquiry:

- teacher efficacy
- culturally responsive pedagogy
- transition, pathways and student wellbeing.

The Kāhui Ako is intended to enhance learning outcomes for students and provide effective professional development for teachers that align with our virtues, vision and mission, as a Catholic Community of Learning. As the Lead Principal for the Kāhui Ako for the next two years, I am excited for what looks like a transformational future for education in New Zealand. Our students will benefit from the sharing of expertise and resources, as all our schools are committed to the success of the Kāhui Ako and its collective vision:

The Waikato Catholic Kāhui Ako embraces its distinctive Catholic nature; our culture of learning is supported through strong connections with staff, who are collaborative, reflective and strategic practitioners. Our confident, effective ākonga will continue to learn and thrive in an environment that is strengthened by our core values of Justice and Equity”.

Once our achievement challenge proposal and plans have been accepted, we will initiate the process of appointing the Across School Coaches, who will ensure the achievement challenges are met. In addition to this, lead teachers will be appointed (within schools), who will support our teachers in meeting the achievement challenges and realising the vision for the Kāhui Ako. We are looking forward to developing a network of collaboration across our catholic school which will strengthen the learning for all our children.

Bereavement:

- To Amelia Sharp whose, much loved Great-Grandmother passed away.

Welcome: We warmly welcome into our school, Samara Cables (Rm4)

Diversity Day: Friday April 7th is Marian School Diversity Day:

All students are invited to come to school dressed in clothes that represent your culture and heritage, this Friday, 7th April. We have 38 different cultures represented in our school and that is something we truly value. Over the week, the senior Cultural Leaders have organised fun lunchtime activities, including the sharing of cultural stories, games, dances and more. We will have a whole school parade to celebrate the diversity of our school, at 1.30pm this Friday.

EASTER LITURGY TIMES: Cathedral

Tues 11 April 6pm Chrism,
Holy Thurs 13 April 7pm Mass of the Lords Supper,
Good Friday 14 April 9am Stations of the Cross (suitable for families), 3pm Passion of the Lord,

Sat 15 April 7pm Easter Vigil,
Easter Sunday Mass times: 7.30am, 10.30am & 6pm.
St Matthews Parish Hillcrest, Good Friday 3pm and Easter Sunday 8.30am

ADVANCE NOTICE: First Communion and Confirmation date this year is Sunday 26 November 10:30am Mass. Enrolments will begin in Term Two.

Maori Reporting: The reporting to the Maori community will be today, Wednesday 5th April at 5.30 in staffroom. All are welcome

Celebrating Success: On Friday 31st March 11 wonderful Year 5/6 students represented Marian at the Interschool's Triathlon Event at Te Rapa Primary. These students all represented our school beautifully and gave it their all.

Congratulations to Jay Benefield who took out the Year 5 boys title and Caleb Lowe who placed 3rd. We came 3rd overall as a School Team which is a great effort. Well done to the other 9 students who all competed on the day. (Luka Dale, Toby Connelly, Charlie Iremonger, Megan Giles, Tanisha Reid, Jayda Johnson, Indiana Maher, Amelia Kepa and Byron Casson).
Becki Botherway

Fill-a-bag Op Shop is fast running out of articles. Check out what is left next Tuesday from 2:30pm to 3:30pm in Room 1

Lost:

- A school Polar Fleece named Barr – please return to Rm 11.

This Week's Health Nugget



Sausage Sizzle: This Friday - \$2.00 each

God Bless You

Debra A White
Principal