

13 September

Focus for the Week: I Am With You - Matthew 18: 18-20 Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.

In Sunday's Gospel reading, we hear of how Jesus gave authority to His disciples to lead the early church after He had returned to heaven. Jesus told them that whatever they accepted on earth would be accepted in heaven but whatever they forbid on earth would also be forbidden in heaven.

Jesus also told them that, whenever two or more of His followers were gathered together in His name, He would be there with them.

Whenever we come together to pray, we do so as one family, knowing that Jesus is with us in our prayer. Jesus assures us, through this Gospel reading, that God the Father will answer any prayer offered by several people when they ask for the same thing.

One of the most important messages of this Gospel reading is the need to come together as community, to gather as one with each other, and with Jesus. This is the way to communion with God.

Values Focus: Environment – Week 8

A popular Toyota television ad sees a father and daughter share different opinions on the uprooting by a storm of an apple tree from their front yard. The father sees it as a chance to finally have his harbour views unimpeded and has it removed; the daughter's view is that it bears fruit, is a living thing and provides a home for various animal species. She is clearly saddened by the loss.

As a way to ease her pain she plants an apple seed in the vacant hole. The "feel good factor" comes where the father sees his daughter's distress and overnight, plants a new apple tree, creating the illusion that one has sprung up while the family slept. The look on the girl's face is priceless.

The message? Learn not to fully control nature, but co-exist. Think how our actions will affect other species of plants and animals that keep our environment and its biodiversity in balance. What we do shouldn't threaten their existence.

There is nothing in which the birds differ more from people than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before. ~Robert Lynd, *The Blue Lion and Other Essays*

Maori Language Phrase: *Ka pai hoki koe!* Good on you!

Dear Parents and Friends of the School

Principal's Reflection:

This week we have two National Weeks to celebrate; *Kia ora te reo Māori* - celebrating our indigenous greeting, and *Social Justice Week* - celebrating the importance of belonging and connectedness, and *Grandparents Day* on Thursday - celebrating the important role grandparents and extended family members play in our lives.

Te wiki o te reo Māori- Māori Language Week 2017

Māori language week runs from the 11th-17th September and this year's theme *Kia ora te reo Māori* was chosen to celebrate New Zealand's indigenous greeting. Celebrated since 1975, *Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori* – Māori Language Week acknowledges and celebrates the Māori language as a unique cultural treasure for all New Zealanders.

We will be celebrating *te reo Māori* in a variety of ways within the school context from learning Traditional Māori Games, solving daily clues, completing quizzes and creating Māori Art. If you would like any ideas to do within the home please see the following link: <http://www.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz/events-and-promotions/maori-language-week/>

Even simple efforts to use *te reo* in terms of greetings and reading *Māori* Myths and legends is a great way to start. - Check out Youtube for online stories and games.

Social Justice Week

Social Justice Week 2017 runs from 10-16 September. We are encouraged as a Catholic school community to take up Pope Francis' challenge to 'weave bonds of belonging' within our school, our whānau, and within our community. An important aspect of the Pope's message is our care for the environment. The classes are able to integrate Pope Francis' messages into their Inquiry Learning on Caring for our Environment. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Team Three on their Inquiry this term around recycling and the work they are doing to address the use of plastic bags in Hamilton East. Real authentic learning that will make a difference for our environment.

A proud heritage

From 1841, when the first Catholic school in New Zealand was established, till now: Catholic education has always been seen as encompassing the total

formation of the individual, with Christ as the foundation. NZCEO website

Over the last two weeks I have attended three events that celebrate our Catholic Education. A fortnight ago both Mrs Nicki Whyte and I attended the annual Hamilton Diocese Conference for Catholic Leaders in Rotorua. This conference run by our local Diocesan School's Office. The focus for this conference was our Bishop Steve's theme of the Emmaus story, *With Burning Hearts*, encouraging the need for personal spiritual formation and prayer in our daily life in order to lead and teach others in our care. The genuine spirit of friendship, support and commitment to Catholic Education was tangible among the principals and DRs attending.

Last Tuesday, over 75 teachers from our local Catholic schools attended a Digital and Collaborative Learning Forum, hosted by St Joseph's Fairfield. The forum provides a number of session choices, run by both consultants and teachers. We had our own Mrs Higby and Mr McCabe present a session. The purpose of the Forum is to celebrate best teaching and learning practices and enable our teachers to network across our Catholic schools. The positive feel I felt between the Catholic Principals and DRs was just as strong amongst the teachers with their genuine will to collaborate, sharing best teaching and learning practices and resources for the good of all our children. I believe with this is at the heart will have a vibrant dynamic Catholic Community of Learning.

On Wednesday I travelled to Auckland to attend the New Zealand Catholic Primary Principals Association executive meeting. I was there as an observer as we have two active members on the exec from our Diocese. The Executive is a national body representing the six Dioceses in New Zealand. The topics and discussions centred on our Catholic Schools and how can we best support and promote Catholic Education in New Zealand. As I sat through the three days of meetings and speakers, I felt so proud to be part of Catholic Education and aware of the precious and special gift our Catholic Schools are.

The success of our Catholic Schools is due to many factors. I see the people as key. Our parents - who **choose** to send their children to a Catholic School have similar values and aspirations for their children. Our staff - the passionate caring and dedicated teachers and support staff. The Diocesan staff - the Bishops and priests and diocesan staff who provide huge infrastructure and ongoing

support schools. People united in faith having Christ at the core which celebrates each individual as a precious gift.

The Catholic School has as its aim the critical communication of human culture and the total formation of the individual. NZCEO website

This week we have two Education Outside the Classroom events.

Team Three: Tui Ridge Camp, Rotorua

Team Three travelled to Tui Ridge in Rotorua for a two day camp. A huge thank you to Mrs Toni Walters-freke, Mrs Kay Petchell and the teachers of Team Three for making this camp such a successful learning and challenging experience for our students. I would like to acknowledge the parents who were able to accompany the students on camp providing the much needed support with supervision and organisation. Well done Team Three I look forward to you sharing your learning over the next couple of weeks.

Team Four: AIMS Games, Tauranga

We had two teams and two individuals from Year 7-8 students travel to Tauranga to compete in the annual AIMS Sport event. This event is a highly competitive sporting event attracting over 10,000 competitors from Full primary and Intermediate schools across the country. Our students are competing in Hockey, Futsal, Badminton and Squash. All the very best to these students.

ONLINE Newsletters

We are exploring our options to send our newsletters to our parents via email. We would like to start a trial early next term. Can you please help us by ensuring the school has your current email? Each teacher is going to be collecting emails from their classes. If you would not like to receive your newsletter online please let your class teacher know.

Parent Information Evening- Circle your calendars on September 19th, as Marian School is hosting a meeting for parents and caregivers, not to be missed. **Tackling Technology** is a presentation about how to keep your children safe on-line and what to look out for. The world our children are growing up in is one we need to learn to navigate- so come along for a gold coin donation and learn what you need to know. Start time 5.45pm in the Gerry Sullivan Events Centre, at Marian Catholic School.

Team 4 Parents- Also on September 19th, for your convenience, we will hold a brief meeting in Room 22, prior to the Tackling Technology Talk, from 5-5.30pm, explaining the Life Education Pubertal Changes lessons that the students will attend over the last week of school. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

PTFA Spring Fling - Wow!!!! The PTFA sends a BIG thank you to everyone for a wonderful evening of fun and dance. We raised \$10,500 towards the new playground. Great effort!!

Please lock up your Wheels:

We had 2 scooters taken from the bike racks on Friday. Please be vigilant and remind your children to lock their bikes and scooters.

Celebrating Success: Congratulations to the following on their recent achievements:

Speech Finals: Well done to all the finalists in the Speech finals held Wednesday 6 September; the following gained 1st in each of these year levels;

Yr 4 Meryl Gasper (The Taj Mahal)
Yr 5 Isobel Sonntag (Poaching)
Yr 6 Raphael Ferdinands (Grades Don't Matter)
Yr 7 Girls Carina Gombocz (Palm Oil)
Yr 7 Boys Reilly Benefield (Golf)
Yr 8 Girls Tanya Zhou (Green Tea)
Yr 8 Boys Ethan Ferdinands (Superstition)

Bible Reading Competition 2017 Results In addition to speeches, the Senior School have a Bible Reading Competition for our Year 8s. We thank Deacon Peter Spillers for judging this year and congratulate all 12 finalists. Special mention needs to go to the winners and you will have the opportunity to hear them read at the Grandparents' Day Mass, should you be able to join us. First place went to Logan Maternaghan, second to Ryan Hall and in third place was Isobella Petrin.

ASC Holiday Programme: After School Care will operate in the first week of the school holidays. 2 – 6 October. Please register with Maree Coman mcoman@marian.school.nz. \$32.00 per day

'With Hearts Burning' This Sunday, 17th September, Bishop Steve Lowe is launching **"With Hearts Burning"** at the **6pm Mass** at the Cathedral. The Bishop is inviting young people to join him at the Cathedral for this special launching. 'With Hearts Burning' is a hugely exciting endeavour which will break open some important themes, and bring about a new springtime in the Hamilton diocese over coming years. Please look on our school facebook page for a link to the video from Bishop Steve.

Kaupapa Māori Kaupapa Māori provides key markers for use of Māori text, images, music and Māori perspective. The document was prepared by Deacon Danny Karatea-Goddard to ensure the distinctive identity of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand with its Māori dimension present in liturgy. Look out for a printed copy of this document in the September edition of the Liturgy magazine produced by the Auckland Liturgy Centre.

This document can also be found here
<http://www.catholic.org.nz/uploads/projects>

Team 1 Cross Country: Fri 15 September at 11:30am (weather permitting). Children to wear shoes please.

Format for Grandparents Day – Thursday 14 Sept 2017

9.45 – Mass in the Cathedral. Grandparents are welcome to sit with their grandchildren
11.00 – Morning tea for Grandparents in the GSEC
11.30 - Grandparents visiting classes
12.40 – Grandparents are welcome to join their grandchildren for a picnic lunch (bring your own picnic)
1.00 – Team 4 music group/s GSEC.
1.30 - Team 2 in the hall singing.
1.40 – Team 1 children dances and Kapahaka GSEC
1.50 - Team 3 Choir performing in the St Mary's Hall then Team 3 / 4 Performance Group Kapahaka in the hall
2.00 – Team 2 children performing folk dancing on the courts if fine, then Team 2 Kapahaka

Book Fair in the Library

DAFFODIL DAY We had less daffodils to sell this year but still made \$140 for the Cancer Society. The Student Council thanks you for your support.

PANCAKE DAY The 20 students attending AIMS Games appreciate your support of their fundraising efforts which raised \$600 in one lunchtime! We wish them all the very best as they participate in futsal, hockey, badminton and squash.

Lost:

- A hound's-tooth patterned umbrella. Please return to Georgia Twaddle Rm11.
- Two scooters taken from the bike stands: One is yellow and the other is Orange and Blue. Both are VX6 mag gear. – return to the school office if found.
- A PE Top named Christiano Crean – return to Rm 10

St Mary's Scouts: Accepting ages 5 to 18. Contact Dave 856 7243 or Doug at doug.faulner@spark.co.nz

Sausage Sizzle: This Friday - \$2.00 each

God Bless You
Debra A White
Principal