



Focus for the Week: Second Sunday of Advent 'Making a fresh start' Mark 1:
 This week's gospel tells the story about John the Baptist. John was God's messenger. He was sent to people to change their ways and to turn back to God.
 We still need to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus, even today. Jesus can return at any time. We need to prepare ourselves just as people did in the time of John the Baptist, by putting right what is wrong in our lives and living as Jesus taught us.
 Through the sacrament of Reconciliation we can meet with Jesus to tell him we are sorry and receive forgiveness. God is always ready to forgive us and to help us make a fresh start because he loves us.



Maori Language Phrase: *Meri Kirihimete!*

Merry Christmas!

Dear Parents and Friends of the School

Principal's Reflection:

Message of Crib, Christmas tree



The Pope said that each year the Christmas Crib and the Christmas tree become a symbol of the **compassion of the heavenly**

Father, and his participation and closeness with humanity that feels it is not abandoned in the night of the times but is visited and accompanied amidst its difficulties.

The tree pointing up, he said, urges us to stretch out "towards the highest gifts", and rise above the mist that clouds, to feel how beautiful and joyous it is to be **immersed in the light of Christ**. In the simplicity of the crib we meet and contemplate the **tenderness of God**, manifested in that of the Child Jesus.

Where has this year gone. I knew when I started my first year as Principal at Marian Catholic School the weeks would be full of new learning, meeting lots of new people, new students and their families, new activities and new ways of working as I experienced my first year in this wonderful school. The year has been full of highlights and the caring genuine warmth of the students and staff have permeated all activities through the year.

Particular highlights for me have been: our beautiful prayer assemblies each Monday and our whole school masses, Gold Card assemblies - I feel privileged to read such outstanding testimonials for our students, Cultural Assemblies - seeing the students share their culture with such pride and the support and encouragement from their peers, and the Sports Days - we certainly punch above our weight and prove ourselves to be talented in all sporting codes and our students display an impressive sense of Fair Play.

I've really enjoyed getting to know the students and my new school community, and being a part of your child's learning.

This year has been a big year. Drawing on the Community Survey November 2016, Catholic Character Review October 2016 and the Education Review Office (ERO) 2017, the Board of Trustees, the leadership team and staff have developed a strategic plan that will guide our development over the next three years. Our focus is that as your child/ren move through our school they experience a consistent approach to teaching and learning, with an inquiry futures focussed curriculum that is relevant and meaningful. Students will be supported to navigate their learning pathways with increased student agency through each year group, and be fully nurtured within our Catholic Character. We look forward to working with each other next year.

I would like to wish all our Marian Catholic School students, parents and friends a safe happy and Holy Christmas holiday break. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the staff, parents and students to the 2017 school year. I would like to acknowledge the Board of Trustees and the PTFA who work so hard to provide a safe learning environment equipped with many extras our students enjoy. Merry Christmas and God's Blessing on you all.



CHILDREN'S REHEARSAL FOR CHRISTMAS VIGIL:

Calling all children who are going to be at the Christmas Vigil Mass at the Cathedral. (6pm Sunday 24th December) We need angels, Shepherds, Readers and mime artists for the Gospel, and children to do the prayers of the faithful. There will be a rehearsal this coming Thursday 21 December at 1.30pm in the Cathedral. Contact Andrea for more information 8566486 andrea@cathedral.cdh.nz
 Christmas Eve Children's Choir will practice in the Cathedral on Monday 18th Dec at 3pm and on Thursday 21st Dec at 3pm (after the nativity play rehearsal).



Full School Mass: Our Full School

Mass will be held on Thursday at **9:45am** followed by a Community Morning Tea in the Gerry Sullivan Event Centre.

A reminder to bring an item of grocery for the Offertory. Every classroom has a bag to put these grocery items into. All the groceries will be given to the Hamilton Foodbank. Many thanks.

School Carol Service: A reminder that the service will be held at 5:30pm on Thursday evening. All students from Teams 3 and 4 are expected to wear their full school uniform. Team 4 are expected to be seated by 5:15pm



Cups and Trophy: All Team 3 and 4 students who were awarded a trophy or cup at the Prize Giving, please make sure that it is returned to the school office **no later than Friday this week**. We will display your photograph next to it in the library cabinets. Thank you

Extra to the Sports Notice:

Cricket Semi-Finals - Saints United 1st XI vs Hamilton Old Boys @ Uni 1 this Saturday – 10am with a possible final on Sunday.

Good luck team!

School Finishes this Friday 12:30pm – There will be **no After School Care on this day**. There will be **no school lunches or on-line orders on Friday 15 December**.

Marian School After School Care Holiday Programme:

End of Term Holiday Programme will run as follows;

Mon 18 Dec to **Thurs** 21 Dec, 2017

Cost: \$32.00 per day per child.

Bring your own wheels and lunch daily.

January Holiday Programme

Mon 15 Jan to Fri 19 Jan

Mon 22 Jan to Fri 26 Jan

Cost: \$32.00 per day per child

Please bring wheels and lunch daily.

Bookings are essential. Contact Maree Coman

mcoman@marian.school.nz, 027 3081 84007 or see Maree at the Hall after school.

Lost: A tunic named Sienna Casson – return to Rm 6 please.

Weetbix Triathlon ...EVENT DETAILS:

Event: Hamilton TRYathlon

Location: University Fields, Hamilton East

Date: Sunday 11th February, 2018

Earlybird Cut Off Date: Midnight, Sunday 14th of January, 2018

School Group Cut Off Date: Midnight, Monday 15th January, 2018

Team has now been created for Marian Catholic School. Congratulations to our two winners of the free triathlon entries; Justin Dimaano (Rm16) and Hannah Parsons (Rm 19).

Please enter your child online at home, and register with our school. Team entries are eligible for spot prizes! Entries before Dec 20th will be cheaper.

SchoolTex is excited to partner with you in providing your parents with an exclusive back to school offer **from 8 Jan 2018 to 6 Feb 2018**. To really make things easier, we are excited to let you know this offer is **available online** with our **new website** using the promo code **STEXJAN17** <https://www.thewarehouse.co.nz/c/schools/marian-catholic-school-%28hamilton%29>

See flyer with this newsletter to be presented during the specials weeks

Second Hand Uniform Shop: The shop will be **closed** this Friday.

It will be open on **Tuesday 30 January** between 11am and 1pm – all articles are \$2.00.

Our thanks go to Maree Iremonger, Morag McKenzie and Bridget Sonntag who volunteer in the running of this shop. A big thank you for your continued support.

Team 2 Sprint Results: Congratulations to the following

7 yr old girls; 1st Jaya Johnston, 2nd Ava Wade, 3rd Heidi Maarhuis

7 yr old boys; 1st Nathan Mina, 2nd Oscar Kepa, 3rd Noah Billman

8 yr old girls; 1st Antonia Cuthers, 2nd Saffron Coley, 3rd, Andrea Fajardo

8 yr old boys; 1st Jackson Botherway, 2nd Josua Pratheesh, 3rd, Christiano Crean

9 yr old girls; 1st Tamzyn McNamara, 2nd Maddie Strongman, 3rd Zara Terry

9 yr old boys; 1st Daniel Fassler, 2nd William Macfie, 3rd Lazare Kawaya

NO SAUSAGE SIZZLE THIS FRIDAY.

Have a lovely Christmas and a safe New Year.

Term 1 starts Wed 31 January, 2018

Many Blessings

Debra White
Principal

Flyers:

- The Warehouse uniform specials (to be presented at time of purchase)
- Sport

