



St Joseph's Catholic School, Fairfield

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - Wednesday 20 May 2020

Week 6 of Term 2 - Covid 19 Alert Level 2

Gospel Reflection: Sunday, May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle

A

Gospel Reading: *John 14:15-21*

Jesus promises his disciples that he will send them another advocate, the Spirit of truth.

Background on the Gospel Reading:

Today's Gospel is a continuation of last week's Gospel: Jesus is speaking to his disciples at the Last Supper. In today's reading Jesus offers encouragement to his disciples, who will soon see him crucified. He reassures them that even though he will leave them, he will not abandon them. Instead he will send them the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, through whom the disciples will continue to live in union with Jesus.

Jesus uses the term *Advocate* to describe the Holy Spirit, whom the disciples will receive. Another word used to describe the Holy Spirit is *Paraclete*, a legal term meaning "one who offers defense for another." Note that Jesus says that he will send "another Advocate." Jesus himself is the first advocate, interceding for his disciples with the Father.

In today's reading Jesus contrasts his impending departure with the permanence of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus will leave to return to the Father, but the Holy Spirit will remain with the disciples.

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the disciples will come to know and appreciate the unity of the Son and the Father. They will also understand that they too participate in the communion between the Father and the Son: "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you" (John 14:20).

Today's reading is one example of the contrast that John's Gospel presents between the community of disciples, to whom God will reveal himself, and the unbelieving world, which will remain in darkness. The unbelieving world cannot accept the "Spirit of truth," whom the disciples will receive. Only through the Spirit will God's revelation and love be known.

Principal's Piece:

Finally hearing our playground full of laughter and playing again is an absolute joy. We are so pleased to be "open for business", even if it is not quite business as usual! Your children have settled back into school beautifully. Eight weeks has been a long time - we notice how they have grown!

Parents, we have a lot to thank you for:

- **Thank you** for your co-operation and patience around the Alert Level 2 arrangements for the start and end of the school day. It has been lovely to see the confidence of even our young students waving goodbye with a smile at the gates, because you prepared them so well (and the balloons at the entrances courtesy of Sweet Pea Parties may have helped a bit too!). We are managing to safely move 300 students on and off the premises whilst adhering to the Alert Level 2 distancing and contact tracing requirements, which is no small feat!

- **Thank you** for sending your children in school uniform, even if it is a little small or a little worn! We understand that it may take a while for some to get new items, especially shoes. Thanks for keeping any alternatives plain.
- **Thank you** for the great feedback we have received on our Distance Learning programme. On reflection, we are proud of the way we managed to move our entire mode of delivery to online platforms, without having significant time to plan this together as a staff except via Zoom sessions. We realise what a huge undertaking Distance Learning was for parents, students and staff. We now are re-establishing our onsite school routines and relationships, ready to move your child on in their learning from whatever their starting point.
- **Thank you** for your ongoing support and patience as we work through the next phase of our covid-19 journey. Alert Level 2 still holds many challenges for us as a school. Our classroom programmes have been adapted to allow for the time that it takes to address the hygiene, distancing and hand washing guidelines, and our school calendar for the rest of the term (and year) still has lots of question marks as we are still unsure what events and activities will be able to go ahead. We will let you know when we do!

The Teacher Only Day planned for Friday 29 May has been postponed: As part of the Teacher Collective Contract negotiations last year, schools are able to take 8 Teacher Only Days over the course of the next 3 years. We had planned to take one of these days next Friday 29 May, but will now reschedule it for some time in 2021. Our intention here is to support our community by enabling you to keep working that day, rather than needing to take the day off to have your children at home. The following Monday is Queen's Birthday Holiday (1 June). If you had already planned a long weekend away with your family, we understand that, and in fact we encourage you to still go away as it helps the NZ economy! Basically, we will remain open on Friday 29 May, no Teacher Only Day, but if your children won't be here, please just advise us via our normal absentee processes (email or school app). We hope that option helps you out!

Turf Remediation Works: The planned works to repair the parts of the new turf outside Rooms 7,8 & Kohuri is now underway. The contractors have clear plans in place for working under Alert Level 2, and we are pleased that the work can be done while the weather is on our side, and the fences will soon be down again!

PTFA Updates: Some lucky people will be getting some belated Easter treats when the PTFA Easter Raffle is drawn! The donated goodies have been safely stored away during lockdown, and we are organising for the prize baskets to be made up. When this is done, if you still have any raffle tickets or money sitting at home, please send it in with your child asap. We will advise you of the cut-off for having tickets returned before the raffle is drawn next week.

PTFA meetings cannot resume at the moment until the limit for gatherings allows more than 10 people. A date will be set for the next meeting when the Alert Level guidelines allow.

Foot traffic through school grounds: Under normal circumstances, pre-Covid, our school is regularly used as a thoroughfare for both our school community and members of the public. Due to contact tracing requirements, people can no longer cut through our school grounds. This is the same for other schools as well, so if your child usually bikes or walks through another local school, such as Dio or Woodstock, please remind them to go around the school grounds instead.

Diocese Attendance Dues: If any family is in hardship due to loss of income from Covid-19, please read this statement from the Bishops and contact the Diocese office.

[**Statement for Families of Catholic Schools - NZ Catholic Bishops Conference**](#)

Lunch orders and SKIDS Afterschool Care are operating at St Joseph's under Alert Level 2: Both these companies have worked with us to ensure there are clear plans for meeting the Alert Level 2 guidelines.

Lunch orders website: www.lunchorders.co.nz

Skids Email: stjosephsfairfield@skids.co.nz

Important messages from St Joseph's Fairfield will continue to be communicated via Hero, Seesaw, the school app and Facebook page. Newsletters will be fortnightly on Wednesday's as usual, and our usual newsletter format will resume next time.

Once again, it is great to have our children back with us - and to see our parents from afar as you are keeping your distance as we have asked!

Thanks and God bless,

Tracy Svendsen

Acting Principal

Curriculum Updates:

Usually at the start of each term, Team Leaders put out a newsletter with information about events and activities coming up for each syndicate. At the moment, our events calendar is very empty! Moving forward we will be deciding on events on a case by case basis according to the public health guidelines at the time.

Here is a quick update from each team about the learning planned for the remainder of Term 2:

Year 0-3 Curriculum Focus Term 2: from Team Leader Erin Clayton:

Written Language: The place of re-reading and re-crafting in the writing process. Simple recounts that capture personal voice. Factual descriptions that share information and understanding

Oral Language: Question to hear and respond to what others have shared and discover new information.

Mathematics: Numeracy- Mult/Div strategies and Patterns

Te Reo Maori: Matariki

Science: Living world; recognise that living things are suited to their particular habitat. Recognise that there are lots of different living things in the world and that they can be grouped in different ways. Explain how we know that some living things from the past are now extinct.

Physical Education: Big ball skills and team winter sports

Year 4-6 Curriculum Focus Term 2: from Team Leader Heather Keep:

Written Language: Information reports. Information gathering, organising, proofreading, editing, presenting, evaluating.

Reading: select and use sources of information. Reporting/presenting information.

Spelling: skill focus. Stepsweb

Maths: Measurement - time, length, weight. Number - multiplication and division

Te Reo: Matariki

Topic - Science: Living world strand. Mini- beasts, insects. Classifying, ordering, research.

P.E: winter games- ball skills.

Year 7-8 Curriculum Focus Term 2: from Team Leader Rhonda McFarlane:

Written Language: The writing focus is on Structure and how to organise texts appropriately by applying the correct structure. Included in this unit of work will be various types of writing such as narratives, reports, explanation texts and poetry.

Reading: Learning how to integrate sources of information to identify, form, and express ideas is the main focus. Children will do this by selecting and using appropriate processing and comprehension strategies.

Mathematics: Specific and targeted needs of each maths class will be addressed. These include key learnings from the Number and Algebra Strands such as fractions, decimals and multiplication strategies.

Physical Education: Building positive attitudes by demonstrating a willingness to accept challenges, learn new skills and strategies, and extend their abilities in movement-related activities. A variety of circuits, team games and 'winter sports' will be the main focus.

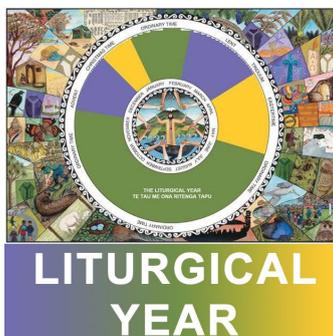
Health: "My self confidence kit" is a resource we will be using in Term two to help children develop their communication skills to support appropriate interactions with others. Children's feelings, beliefs and actions contribute significantly to their personal sense of self worth.

Science: We are waiting on information from the Waikato Science Fair as to whether this event is going ahead this term or if it has been postponed. There will be a science focus in some form and we will keep you posted once we can confirm what form this will take.

Techni: We are looking forward to continuing our weekly sessions at Fairfield Intermediate starting this Friday.

Whole School Religious Education Focus Term Two

Across the school, learning will centre around the Prayer, Liturgical Year and Holy Spirit Strands.



Liturgical Year

The Liturgical Year is the way the Church retells and celebrates the life, death and resurrection of Jesus through prayer and liturgy. This learning is accompanied by school liturgies which children participate in and this helps to make their learning visible.



Prayer Strand

The three sections of the Prayer Te Karakia Module - *Introducing Young People to Prayer Karakia*, *Traditional and Devotional Prayer Karakia*, *Imaginative Prayer and Meditation*, continues to build on what they have learned and experienced of prayer and their awareness of God's presence in and around them.



Holy Spirit Strand

In their study of the Holy Spirit, Te Wairua Tapu, young people will learn that the Holy Spirit is God, third person of the Trinity. It is the Holy Spirit that enables them to grow in tapu and mana, through the gifts of grace, understanding and

wisdom, so they can follow their call to holiness and nurture their personal spirituality.