

7 November 2017

**"JOY does not simply happen to us.
We have to choose Joy and keep choosing it every day.**

Dear Parents, Pupils and Parishioners,

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S

We welcome **Samuel Green** (A4) and his family, who have joined us from Fielding. May you enjoy learning and being part of the St Patrick's whanau.

COOL AT SCHOOL

We congratulate **Georgia Allen**, one of our wonderful Year 8 students who has a fantastic and positive attitude, self-confidence and unique sense of humour that makes her a treasure.

YEAR 5/6 SWIMMING SPORTS - THIS THURSDAY

On **Thursday 9th** our Year 5/6 students will hold their swimming sports "finals" at Onekawa Pool. Races begin at 9.30am. All other students will be able to swim at the end of the "finals".



YEAR 3/4 OUTDOOR DAY ON THURSDAY

A fantastic day lined up this Thursday as our Year 3/4 students head off to "town". A Session at the Aquarium and M.T.G with lunch on the Marine Parade. Thank you to parents and teachers for your supervision and transport.

GOSPEL VALUE FOR NOVEMBER - JOY

This month, we focus on the value of **JOY**. What a great value for our pupils - Joy is evident in both the playground and classroom. Our pupils can...

"Make every day joyful for yourselves and others"

FAMILY PICNIC - LOOKING TO 2018

Our planned Family Picnic this November has been postponed to February 2018 (a welcome picnic). This term's calendar is so full that we have not been able to find a suitable date so we will all get together in February to welcome new pupils and families and catch up with existing friends.

JUNIOR MASS - THIS FRIDAY

Our Junior Syndicate (A1-A4) celebrate their special Mass **THIS FRIDAY 10th** at Thomas More Church in Wycliffe St (9.15am).

PLEASE JOIN US - IT WILL BE BEAUTIFUL.

ABACUS CALENDARS

Order forms for calendars/diaries were sent home last week and are due in by **THIS FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER**. A great Christmas present for family and home. Spare order forms available in the office.

END OF YEAR ASSEMBLY/PRIZEGIVING (F.Y.I)

The **Junior** and **Middle Syndicates** (Year 1 - 6) will have a **COMBINED** Assembly/Prizegiving on **Thursday 14 December at 11.30am** (no need to go twice). The **Senior Syndicate** (Year 7/8) will hold their prizegiving at **7pm** in St Patrick's Church.

SUNHATS - COMPULSORY

EVERY STUDENT must now have a **SCHOOL SUNHAT** to wear during break and sports times. **NO HAT - NO PLAY!**

COMING UP - CHRISTMAS RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

In late November, **every family** will receive a raffle sheet (10 tickets at \$1 each) to sell between 22 November and 7 December. We have wonderful prizes donated by generous sponsors - something for everyone to make Christmas just that little bit better. Funds raised will once again be used for **OUR FAMILIES** as we put together **CHRISTMAS HAMPERS**.

BUILDING FAMILIES

My heart is lifted every Sunday by the presence at Mass of young families, elderly, teenagers, and young adults. I know that many have made great efforts to be present.

I also know that some of us feel we do not belong or worry that we may not fit in. God's whanau, the Church, is everyone's home. There is room for everyone at Mass. No one need feel alone or different.

I want to encourage you all to step up and get to Mass. Pressures tugging us away are strong. But Sunday Mass far from reducing our freedom enhances it, as it shapes the persons and families and communities we are called to be.

Jesus wants to help build your family. So does your parish. The special children's liturgy part of Mass means you needn't worry about keeping little ones occupied. And as teenagers and adults why not take one hour a week to chill out spiritually, to be nurtured with God's Word and to receive Jesus himself in holy communion. The cafes will still be open, the sports fields never go away, friends and cussies won't shift.

Check out Mass times at <https://pndiocese.org.nz/pastoral/masstimes/>

For some of you it may be the first time you have been to Church for a long time.

Welcome. For others give yourself a challenge to change your question from "shall we go to Mass today?" to "which Mass shall we go to today?".

Thanks to you all for your sense of belonging, no matter what stage that is at. Feel encouraged. The priests and I are here simply to serve you, and we love doing that.

Bishop Charles

TODAY BIG RACE?

Last years' winner Almandin looks good again. You never know!!



**Regards and Blessings
Jurek Wypych
PRINCIPAL**

