



7 February 2019

TERM 1, 2019

CATHOLIC SPECIAL CHARACTER NEWSLETTER

Blessed are you

**Blessed are you who think prayerfully of others ...
for you possess the mind of Christ.**

**Blessed are you who see the hurts of others ...
For you possess the eyes of Christ.**

**Blessed are you who listen to others ...
for you possess the ears of Christ.**

**Blessed are you who speak kindly to others ...
for you possess the mouth of Christ.**

**Blessed are you who help others to carry their burdens ...
for you possess the shoulders of Christ.**

**Blessed are you who show love to others ...
for you possess the heart of Christ.**

**Blessed are you who reach out to others
with compassion ...
for you possess the hands of Christ.**

**Blessed are you who walk the '*Extra Mile*' for others ...
for you possess the feet of Christ.**

**Blessed are you who persevere in your ministry, as
parents and teachers,
with compassion and love for all people ...
for you possess the healing presence of Christ, and yours
is the kingdom of Heaven.**

CLASS PROGRAMMES

Prayer Module: Introducing Children to Prayer

Mercy Charism

Liturgical Year: Ash Wednesday, Lent, CARITAS Lent Resources.

Room	Strand	Title
1	Jesus	Jesus - My Friend
2	Jesus	Jesus - My Friend
3	Jesus	Jesus Showed His Love in Different Ways
4	God	God is Present in the World
5	Jesus	Jesus Came to Show People How to Live and Lead them to God
6	Jesus	The Life of Jesus
7	Jesus	The Fullness of God's Revelation
9	Jesus	Saviour and Liberator
8	Jesus	Jesus: His Values and the Role of Disciples Today

HAPPENINGS	
11 - 15 February	Home Sharing
Mercy Charism	
First Communion Programme	
6 March	Ash Wednesday
Caritas Lent Programme Keep it Simple for Lent Calendar	
14 March	Mass with Bishop Paul
17 March	Presentation of Starting School Booklets
19 March	School Mass - St Joseph's Day & Tabloid Sports
27 March	Reconciliation
11 April	Mufti Day
12 April	Holy Week Paraliturg
3 May	Easter Assembly

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HOME SHARING

During Week 3 (11 - 15 February), your child/children will share their Religious Education learning with you. The purpose of Home Sharing is to inform parents about, and involve families in, students' learning in an authentic way. Home Sharing reflects the current learning focus for students.

Your feedback is encouraged and valuable as it affirms students and advises teachers.

Ideas for parents to use when commenting on Religious Education work are suggested on pages 41 – 44 of the Family - Whanau Book. You can access this very useful text through the following link www.faithalive.org.nz. The password is *primaryre*. Click on Families tab.



MERCY CHARISM

As part of Religious Education and Integrated Curriculum Learning in Term One, and as an ongoing focus throughout the year, students will explore the history, identity, traditions and practices of St Joseph's School as a Catholic Mercy school.



An integral part of this learning is a focus on the life and work of Blessed Catherine McAuley, the Charism of Mercy and the Gospel/Mercy values.

The learning unpacks and reinforces St Joseph's School's Mission, Charism, Vision and Core Beliefs.

For your information and to help you support this learning please visit the Mercy Schools' website <http://www.mercyschools.org.nz>.

This is a wonderful resource that students and teachers learn through and enjoy.

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME

The FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME begins on **Wednesday 27 February**, 7.30 pm, at St Thomas' Lounge. Children who have been baptised, are eight years old and in Year 4, are eligible to make their First Holy Communion. Enrolment forms, available from the parish and school offices, need to be into the parish office by **Wednesday 20 February**.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in preparation for Easter.

Lent 2019 begins on Ash Wednesday 6 March, and lasts until Holy Thursday 18 April.



On Ash Wednesday the students in Rooms 5 (Year 4 students), 6, 7, 8 & 9 will attend the 9.00 am Mass, at St Thomas' Church, Mountainview Road.

Students from Room 1 - 4 (and Year 3 students from Room 5) will participate in a paraliturgy, with Distribution of the Ashes, in the school hall at 9.00 am.

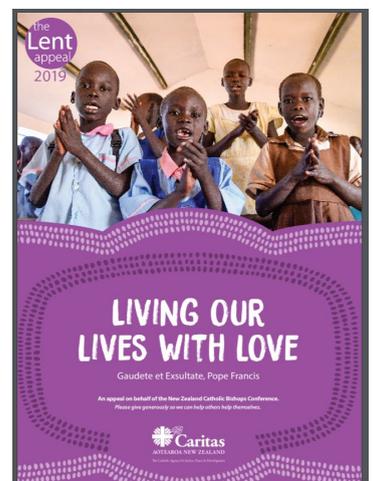
We invite you to join us for these Ash Wednesday liturgies.

CARITAS LENT PROGRAMME

The theme for Lent 2019 is inspired by a quote from Pope Francis: "*Living our lives with love*". We are called to live our lives with genuine love - for others and for God.

Peace, Love and Life: Hope and Challenges in South Sudan is the title of the unit which features stories from South Sudan that highlight the challenges faced by millions of South Sudanese who have encountered ongoing conflict and food insecurity.

A range of engaging resources, prepared by the Caritas Education Team, will be used as the context for the learning and social action around Lent. This provides an authentic opportunity to act on our 2019 Whakatauki



‘Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka ora ai te iwi’
With your basket and my basket, the people will thrive

[2019 Keep it Simple for Lent Action Plan](#)

Use the above link to access the 2019 Lent Action Plan, which encourages us to improve other people's lives by living simply and making small changes to our daily actions.

MASS CELEBRATED BY BISHOP PAUL

On **Thursday 14 March** at St Thomas' Church at 4.30 pm, Bishop Paul will celebrate Mass at which teachers and support staff from Catholic Schools in South Canterbury will be commissioned for the new teaching year. This is a very beautiful liturgy organised by the staff of the Catholic Education Office Christchurch, at which we are reminded of, challenged by and re-dedicated to our work in catholic education. Please continue to pray for everyone involved in catholic schools.

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE/RECONCILIATION

On **Wednesday 27 March**, Fr Joaquin and Fr Huynh will offer Reconciliation to students in Years 5 - 8 at school. Students will prepare for this sacrament in a paraliturgy focusing on God's loving forgiveness.

PRESENTATION OF STARTING SCHOOL BOOKLETS

On **Sunday 17 March** at the 10.30 am Mass at St Thomas' Church, Mountainview Road, the following students will be presented with a Starting School Booklet, which records their first days at St Joseph's School. Congratulations to - *Asha Lamont, Marcus Bridson, Charlie Roberts, and Angel Hurst.*

ST JOSEPH'S DAY

The feast day of St Joseph is on **Tuesday 19 March**.

We will celebrate St Joseph's Day with a school mass at St Thomas' Church Mountainview Road at 9.00 am.

This is our school Mass for Term One, and our students will be involved in many aspects of this liturgy. Please join us at mass on this special day.

Students will participate in tabloid sports during the afternoon of St Joseph's Day. More information will be communicated through the school newsletter.



MUFTI DAY

This term's mufti day is on **Thursday 11 April**. Students bring a gold coin to school for the privilege of wearing mufti clothing. The money raised will be donated to the Caritas Lenten Appeal - relief work in South Sudan.



HOLY WEEK PARALITURGY

A paraliturgy based on the events of Holy Week will take place on **Friday 12 April** at 1.45 pm in the school hall. Please join us for this very special, solemn time of prayer and reflection around the passion and death of Jesus.

EASTER ASSEMBLY

This year Easter is in the school holidays. Because of this, the Easter Assembly, at which we celebrate the most important event of the Church's year will be on **Friday 3 May**. Classes will share religious and secular presentations. You are invited to be part of the reflections and entertainment around this joyous, hope-filled event.

PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH

Dear St Joseph,

We thank you for your life and the way it shows us how to live.

Teach us how to love Jesus as you did.

Remind us to be caring people in our families as you were.

Help us to be diligent workers like you.

Guide the members of our school community, and lead us each day in God's holy ways.

Amen



Please read and reflect upon the linked material -

- [Gardening for Lent](#)
- Overview of class programmes for [LENT, HOLY WEEK and EASTER](#)
- [Reflecting on the Qualities of Catherine McAuley](#)
- [Jesus Strand Year Level Focus](#)
- [God Strand Year Level Focus](#)

God Bless.

Trish McCambridge
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

PARISH CONTACTS

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