



# St Francis Xavier Catholic School

To Love, To Learn and To Serve  
Kia Aroha, Kia Akona, Kia Aro Atu

## No. 3 Rāpare-Thursday 11th March-Poutū-te-rangi-2021

Good morning parents, caregivers and friends of our school,

“It’s hard not to feel like our country is having a run of bad luck when you have an earthquake, tsunami and pandemic to contend with all in one day,” New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said.

The tsunami event last Friday was something new for most of us but fortunately everything, from the schools perspective, went relatively smoothly. We did take some learnings out of the day, such as having more people to answer the phone and we could eliminate some of the time parents spent at the office counter by situating someone at each administration entranceway. This would not only alleviate congestion but enables those working the phones to be more effective and heard.

We did email and send a text alert but unfortunately, the Whangarei network was overloaded, so the text didn’t get out as quickly as we would have liked.

If you haven’t already, it is worthwhile having a look at the Northland Regional Council website which shows a colour coding for at risk areas. <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/civildefence/tsunami-evacuation-zones/>

Our school is in the green zone so we are considered to be a safe area.

Thank you parents for your support and efforts to assist us.

Parent / Teacher Meet and Greet: These afternoons were very well attended and teachers appreciated the opportunity to meet with parents to discuss the challenges children are facing and their goals for 2021. If you have any concerns about your child then please contact the classroom teacher in the first instance.

Year 5/ 6 Camp: Thank you to the parents who have offered their assistance for the Yr 5&6 camp. Please remember that donations can be made either through the school bank account or at the school office.



On Top of the World: Many thanks to Bowling Infrastructure Group for the donation of the World Map which is now in our school library. The large map is backlit and is a wonderful resource for children as Charlie Lornie is demonstrating.

Also, our thanks to Eugene Bates for his electrical expertise and willingness to get power to the world!

**Craig McKernan**

*Principal*

## School Gala - Saturday 20th March

Address: 1 Percy Street, Whangarei 0112 Phone: 09-4371039 Cellphone: 027 2784303

Email Office Manager: [office@sfx.school.nz](mailto:office@sfx.school.nz) Website: [sfx.school.nz](http://sfx.school.nz) Email Absences: [absent@sfx.school.nz](mailto:absent@sfx.school.nz)

# Religious Education

## *This Sunday's Reading:*

(Fourth Sunday of Lent) *Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2: 4-10; John 3:14-21*

## *Lenten Reflection:*

*Give up complaining—focus on gratitude. Give up pessimism —become an optimist.  
Give up discouragement—be full of hope. Give up bitterness —turn to forgiveness.  
Give up harsh judgements—think kind thoughts.*

### \*Faith Fact

#### *The Season of Lent*

*The season of Lent is one of the two Penitential seasons of the year. It starts with Ash Wednesday and lasts for forty days finishing in Holy Week.*

*It is a time for fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Lent is an opportunity for people to reflect on their lives and identify what they need to change. It is a season of preparation for the feast of Jesus' Resurrection which is the greatest feast in the Church's calendar.*

### \*The Sacrament of Penance

*The Sacrament of Penance has been known by several names over the years. It was called confession when the emphasis was on people confessing their sins anonymously in private. Then it became known as penance when the emphasis was on doing something to make up for what you had done wrong. Now it is more commonly known as reconciliation and it is celebrated mostly within the community. The emphasis is on recognising our need to change, admitting our failure to love God and people in our lives, asking for forgiveness, receiving absolution and making peace with each other. It is good to celebrate this Sacrament during Lent.*

### \*Reconciliation

*On Wednesday **17th March at 11am**, Years 4, 5 & 6 will participate in Rite 2 Reconciliation, as part of their Easter preparation.*

### \*Holy Week - School Mass

*We will be having a school Mass on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 9:00am, in St Francis Xavier Church. It will be a wonderful way of leading us into the Easter season.*

*As part of our Holy Week celebration, the children will be offered a hot cross bun at interval.*

*If your child has any food allergies or does not want to receive a hot cross bun at interval, please inform your child's teacher.*

### \*Family Masses

*Our next Family Mass will be on Sunday 23rd May at 10am. Kowhai Whanau (Rooms 8,10, 11 and 12) will be participating in the Mass.*

### \*Classes attending a Tuesday Mass at 9:00am

*If you are able to, you are welcome to come and join your child's class when they attend Mass on a Tuesday morning.*

Week	Tuesday 9am Mass	Class -Year Level	Week	Tuesday 9am Mass	Class -Year Level
7	Kauri - 16th March	Room 2 - Year 1 Room 4 - Year 3	8	Karaka - 23rd March	Room 19 - Year 2 Room 20 - Yr 5 & 6
9	Karaka- 30th March	Room 17 - Year 4 Room 18 - Year 5 & 6	10	Easter Tuesday - 6th April	School Closed
11	Rimu - 13th April	Room 21- Year 2 Room 22 - Yr 5 & 6 Room 23 - Year 4			

*Yours in Christ,*

*Maria Wilson*

*DRS – Director of Religious Studies*

All are welcome in the Family Support room -  
haere mai mō te kapu - come in for a cuppa!

Trying to get settled into a new school environment? Need a non-judgemental listening ear and a space for a confidential chat about what's going on at home? Having some worries about your child or some new family circumstances? Pop into the Family Support room for a chocolate bikkie and a hot drink with Rosie & be supported to find the best services to match your personal situation.



Ko koe ki tēna, ko āhau ki tēnei kiwai o te kete (you take that handle of the kete, I'll take this one - let's work together!)



## What's on offer here?



Coffee & bikkies in a toddler friendly space!  
(\*Breastfeeding friendly zone with seating)



A friendly, non-judgemental listening ear.



Space for a confidential chat about anything going on at home.



Support to find services to best match your personal situation.

Please text or email Rosie to make an appointment:

021 028 33587  
rosie@sfx.school.nz

...OR JUST DROP IN

ON THURSDAYS

8.30-9.15 & 1.30-3pm  
My door is open & no appointment is needed!

Welcome to our new students who started with us recently .... Noah Alo, Aenon Aneesh Paul, Ruby Butler, Ash and Lani Ponifasio and Justin Reid.



## SCHOOL ACCOUNTS

Thank you for the many parents who have paid the attendance dues and school donations through internet banking or come in to the office to pay by eftpos or cash. Many have also organised automatic payments, and this is greatly appreciated.

Please if you are experiencing financial difficulties, you are welcome to come and see me.

Our conversation is strictly confidential. We can make an arrangement to suit your personal situation.

Many thanks,  
Deborah Rudolph  
Office Manager

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DUES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support with the payment of Attendance Dues for preference students attending Catholic schools in Auckland Diocese, both primary and secondary.

Families facing financial difficulties can contact their school office, their Parish Priest or the Revenue Manager on 09-360-3069 at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland for further information.

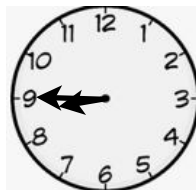
Application forms for this assistance are available from school and parish offices, or can be down-loaded from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Website:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/acfl-attendance-dues-financial-assistance/>

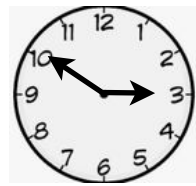
Reading your Newsletter helps to keep you informed on what is happening in our School Community

## Please Note:

Although we issue passes for being late and finishing early, it would be preferable if **ALL** our children are here, and finish at the same time so teachers and their classes are not interrupted and children can learn without disruptions.



Morning classes begin at **8:45 am**. It is essential for your child/children to be at school ready to start their learning day before the bell rings.



Classes end at **2.50pm**. **Children should be collected by 3.15pm** unless they are with their parents, attending the After School Care programme or attending sports practice.

1971 1976 1981 1986 1991 1996 2001 2006 2011 2016 2021



Pompallier Catholic College  
50th Jubilee

Queen's Birthday Weekend 2021 June 4th - June 6th

Pompallier Jubilee

jubilee@pompallier.school.nz



# SCHOOL EVENTS

Dates and times for events are subject to change.  
Please check this fortnightly newsletter for any changes.

## **March**

12th	9am 12pm	Yr 5&6 Swimming Sports at Pompallier Catholic College
16th	Swimming	<b>Room 22</b> Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am <b>Room 15</b> Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am <b>Room 12</b> Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am <b>Room 18</b> Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am <b>Room 20</b> Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am <b>Room 1</b> Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
17th	11:00am 1:30pm	Reconciliation Yr 5&6 He Kakano Programme W.P.S.S.A Swimming Champs
<b>20th</b>		<b>SCHOOL GALA DAY</b>
24th	1:30pm	He Kakano Programme
29th		Rooms 1, 12 & 18 Leave for Camp 1
31st	9:00am 1:30pm	Holy Week Mass He Kakano Programme

## **April**

1st		Camp 1 home Holy Thursday
<b>2nd</b>		<b>Good Friday-No School</b>
<b>5th</b>		<b>Easter Monday-No school</b>
<b>6th</b>		<b>Easter Tuesday-No School with the exception to Rooms 15, 20 &amp; 22 who leave for Camp 2</b>
9th		Camp 2 home
<b>14th</b>		<b>PTFA SAUSAGE SIZZLE \$2 (please place your order with the class teacher at the start of the day)</b>
16th	1:30pm	Whole School Assembly Northland Swim Champs
16th	2:50pm	<b>Last day of Term 1</b>

## **May**

3rd	8:50am	<b>Term 2 begins</b>
-----	--------	----------------------

## **TEACHER ONLY DAYS TO NOTE:**

4th	June	Term 2 - Teacher only day
27th	August	Term 3 - Teacher only day
30th	August	Term 3 - Teacher only day