



St Mary's  
Catholic School  
Tauranga

## newsletter

ISSUE 1: 6 February 2020



Our People Our Place

# be. informed

oxforddictionaries.com / informed.

adj: having or showing knowledge of a subject or situation.

## Message from the Principal

### The Presentation of the Lord

Sunday, February 2, 2020

#### Gospel Reading

Luke 2:22–40 (Shorter Form: Luke 2:22–32)

*Simeon recognizes the infant Jesus as the promised Messiah.*

#### Background on the Gospel

On Sunday the Church celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple. The Presentation, which is celebrated 40 days after Christmas, is not mentioned in the other Gospels. Only Luke tells the story, most likely because he writes for Gentile Christians who are not familiar with the Jewish rite of presentation and purification. In addition, the intent of Luke's Gospel is to show that God's promise to Israel, fulfilled in Jesus, extends to Gentiles.

Luke recognizes Joseph and Mary as faithful Jews who bring Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Here they present their firstborn son to the Lord. Jesus is thus consecrated as required by the Law of Moses. Present in the temple at this time are Simeon and Anna. Both are awaiting the restoration of God's rule in Israel.

Simeon had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see Christ the Lord, the Messiah, before he died. The holy man immediately recognized the infant Jesus as the promised Savior, a "light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." Anna also recognized Jesus as the fulfillment of the promise of redemption and spoke about him to all.



#### Welcome

Welcome back to school and I hope everyone had a restful break with their families. A very special welcome to those families who are new to our school. There is a buzz of excitement, nerves and anticipation for the start of a wonderful year of learning. I would like to thank the children, staff, BOT and the community for their welcome to me and my family. We are excited to join the St Mary's Community and look forward to a strong working relationship. The Pōwhiri was a wonderful way to welcome my family and I and for St Josephs Fairfield to hand me over. Thank you to all who were involved and present, it was a special celebration.

#### Ra Whānau mai

Ra Whānau mai was a wonderful way in which families can connect with St Mary's. It was great to see children interacting with their new teacher and enjoying the family atmosphere.

#### Catch up every Tuesday this term

Every Tuesday at 9am for this Term I will be in the staffroom to meet family members, welcome them and answer questions that you have. This is an opportunity to build strong relationships and for me to meet as many of the St Mary's community as possible.

#### No Hat No Play

All children will need their school hat to be outside. No Hat No Play. Children are asked to apply sunscreen when necessary during the day.

#### Concerns

If there are any concerns throughout the year with your child please contact the teacher first. The teacher is the first contact and where necessary it is best to meet face to face. If you are not satisfied, then it is good to contact the Team leader, then make a time to come in and see myself or a member of the Senior Leadership team.

#### Buses

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council has been contacted regarding overcrowding of bus 806C. A larger bus has now been chartered for this route. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any concerns.

#### Bus Bay

I have had the opportunity to speak with some parents and bus drivers regarding keeping our children safe during the busy drop off and pick up times. It is crucial to keep the bus bay clear at ALL TIMES from **8.00am to 9.00am** and **2.30pm to 3.30pm**. The bus bay is NOT a drop off or pick up area.

We will trial coning off the bus bay, including the car parks on the road directly in front of the school for now. Let's please work together to keep our Community, and in particular our young people safe.

**James Murray**  
Principal

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## 2020 Term Dates

Tuesday 11 February

- Catch up with James Murray 9am in the staff room
- PTA Meeting 7pm

Wednesday 12 February

**Commissioning Mass at 6pm at St Mary's Catholic Church, Rotorua**

Friday 14 February

**Celebration Hui 11.30am**

Tuesday 18 February

- Catch up with James Murray 9am in the staff room
- Welcome to new students and new families liturgy

Thursday 20 February

- Aroha Swimming Sports
- Class Mass Whanau Vincent & Strange

Tuesday 25 February

- Catch up with James Murray 9am in the staff room
- Aroha Swimming Sports pp date
- Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm

Wednesday 26 February

**Ash Wednesday liturgy - BAMJC**

Friday 28 February

**Celebration Hui 11.30am**

Tuesday 3 March

**Catch up with James Murray 9am in the staff room**

Thursday 5 March

**Aroha Class Mass 9am**

Monday 9 March

**Art Gallery 12.30pm**

Tuesday 10 March

- Catch up with James Murray 9am in the staff room
- Art Gallery 12.30pm

Wednesday 11 March

**Aroha Art Gallery 12.30pm**

Thursday 12 March

- Aroha Class Mass 9am
- Art Gallery 12.30pm

Thursday 13 March

**PTA Outdoor Adventure Day**

Tuesday 17 March

- Catch up with James Murray 9am in the staff room
- South Cluster Swimming 9am

### Welcome Liturgy

**Tuesday 18 February 10am**

All families are invited to join us in welcoming our new children and new families at a Welcome Liturgy on Tuesday 18 February at 10am in the BAMJC.

Following the liturgy you are very welcome to join us for morning tea.

**be.**  
Christ-like

**be.**  
reflective

**be.**  
creative

### Special Character

E te whanau, tena koutou katoa.

Welcome to the learning year of 2020.

We hope you all had a blessed Christmas season. The weather has been fantastic and it is great to have students back to school.

In the first few weeks students will focus on understanding our school vision:

*With God, we strive to Be our best, Be prepared for the world;*

*And Be true to our Catholic faith, to others and to ourselves.*

### Invitation to Commissioning Mass

Commissioning Mass to Bless the New School Year. Invitation for all staff, students, families and school community. Bishop Steve invites us to join him for Mass to commission the new learning year. Wednesday 12th February. St Mary's Catholic Church, Seddon Street, Rotorua, 6pm

### Sacramental Programme 2019

For children who are in Year 5 and above. The sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist lessons will be held on Monday afternoons, 4pm - 5.30pm at St Mary Immaculate Church. Information will be sent home once dates have been finalised. Also check the parish website to keep up to date with full details and online enrolment once it is available:

<http://taurangamoanacatholic.nz>



### Welcome Father Arnold

We ask Christ to bless our new Assistant Parish Priest, Father Arnold Punzalan. Father Arnold arrived in the parish on the 23rd January from the Philippines. We look forward to getting to know him. We wish Fr Rico the best in his new parish in Opotiki.



### Waitangi Day

*Ka inoi tātou  
Every-living God  
From whom*

*All rangatiratanga (sovereignty) comes  
In the unfolding of time  
You led the Māori people  
And many other people  
To find their home in Aotearoa*

*As we strive to fulfil the destiny of our lives,  
Heal the wounds of our past,  
Draw together in tika (justice) and aroha  
All who call this land their own*

*We ask this through  
Our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit  
God forever*

Amene

Teresa Rush  
DRS

### Introducing Jessica Rood Whakapono Team

Being an ex St Marys student I am very blessed and excited to be embarking on my teaching career in a familiar environment. I am teaching this year in the Whakapono team, in room 9. I am lucky to be spending my days with an amazing group of year 3 and 4 students. I look forward to being part of the St Marys community once again, and meeting as many new faces as possible.





## Nuts & Bolts

### Sign in and out

In case of an emergency and for Health and Safety reasons we need to know who is on the school grounds. We therefore ask that you use the tablet at the school reception desk to sign in and out.



Reasons you need to use the tablet;

- Child late. **Sign in.**
- Child leaving school for an appointment, or because he / she became sick during school time. **Sign out.**
- Parent / friend / family member is helping during school hours or attending a class Mass or school event. **Sign in and out.**
- Child returning from an appointment. **Sign in.**

### Absences

If your child is absent from school, please notify by phone or text, the school office before 9.00am on the morning of the absence. When a child returns to school after an absence he/she should bring a written explanation from his/her parents or caregivers.

The absentee text number is **021 2969437**.

### Accidents and Illness at School

Three teachers are on duty at all times during the morning and lunchtime breaks.

Accidents of a minor nature are treated at school in the medical room. Parents, or a nominated adult are contacted if an accident is of a serious nature. If parents are not able to be contacted, the school will use discretion in obtaining medical aid.

Parents will be notified if their child becomes ill and needs care at home.

### Parking

*The safety of our students is paramount.*

We request that all parents take due care and diligence in respect to parking around the school.

- St Mary's School enjoys good relationships with our neighbours. We ask that you respect their driveways and grass verges and do **NOT** park over them, or on them.
- Please do **NOT** park in the bus bay.
- If you are parked on the opposite side of the road to school, we ask that you meet your child/ren on the school side and escort them over the road.
- The school grounds is for staff parking only. Please do **NOT** park or drive into the school grounds unless permission has been granted by



### Policies

Please visit <http://stmarystga.schooldocs.co.nz> to view all our school policies. Enter the user name (stmarystga) and password (1959).

### PTA

St Mary's PTA can lay claim to a proud record of fundraising, pastoral care and providing a vital link between home and school. There are many facilities and school equipment that have been provided through the hard work of interested parents. A number of social activities are organised so that parents can get to know one another and can work towards a common goal. Any parent who wishes to join the PTA should attend a meeting which is usually held on the second Tuesday of the month. Our first meeting in on **Tuesday 11th February** at 7pm. We would love to see as many new parents as possible.

### Parent Involvement

We encourage and value parental input with many school events which involve pupils, staff and parents. These include assisting the teacher in class, sports days, displays, field trips, fundraising and other activities throughout the year. Assistance with transport requires that the driver has a current full driver's license; the car has a current Warrant of Fitness and Registration and seatbelts for all passengers. On Monday mornings there is a Liturgy, on Thursday mornings there is usually a class Mass, and every second Friday we have a Celebration Hui. Parents and family members are very welcome and encouraged to attend.

### Swimming

Swimming is a mandatory part of the PE Programme. All children will participate with their class unless a note from parents is provided. Please ensure that gear is clearly named.



### Lost Property

It is amazing how quickly the lost property box fills up with brand new, unnamed uniforms. Please remember to clearly name all items of clothing. Unclaimed articles of clothing can be found in the box on the deck near the staff room.

### BAMJC

Is our **Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre**.

### Sun Protection Policy

St Mary's School is a Sun Smart School. In accordance with our Sun Protection Policy, regulation school sun hats are to be worn during school sun hats are to be worn during interval and lunchtime in Term 1 & 4.

Children without sun hats will be directed to stay in a designated shaded area.



**SUNSMART**

### No Hat No Play!

We require students to wear the St Mary's School hat whenever they are outside. Children will be asked to go to a designated shaded area in the school if they do not have a school hat during playtime, lunch, lunch-eating and during sports activities. Hats are available from our uniform supplier. Kia koi! Kei were! Keep your kids safe!

Thank you for your support.



### After School Care

We have our own After School Care. This service operates from 2.55pm to 5.30pm every day of the school week in the Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey Centre. If you wish to find out more information regarding this please contact Shelley on **027 3102090** or email [afterschoolcare@stmarystga.school.nz](mailto:afterschoolcare@stmarystga.school.nz).

### House System

This system offers to all children a teamwork approach to participate in school wide activities. It provides a sense of belonging, interest and intent; it also gives senior students the opportunity to exercise responsible leadership. Students have been divided into four Houses: **Viard (Green)**, **Pompallier (Red)**, **Cluny (Blue)**, **Ryan (Yellow)**. Please contact the school office if you don't know which house your child is in.

### Buy a sushi lunch

Thursday is Sushi day - A selection of very popular sushi rolls, teriyaki chicken on rice and juice is available. Order form envelopes are available from the school office and must be in no later than 9am Wednesday morning. Sushi lunches start this week.

There will be no more lunches on Friday as our supplier was no longer available. Watch this space for new options.

### Bicycles

Children may ride bicycles to school. A helmet must be worn at all times.

Riding in the school grounds is prohibited.



### School Grounds

These officially open at 8.15am. This is for health and safety reasons as there is no adult supervision outside these hours. Thank you for supporting us with this.

### Money

We discourage children bringing money to school outside of small amounts for specific fundraising purposes. Parents are invoiced for all school related activity fees and there are a variety of preferred methods of payment including via internet and automatic payment. We also have an eftpos facility available in our school office.

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you to support  
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be.  
thankful

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