



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 4: 18 March 2020

Outdoor Adventure Day 13 March



13th Avenue, Tauranga, New Zealand

E office@stmarystga.school.nz

T 07 578 8066

www.stmarystga.school.nz

Our People Our Place

be. informed

[oxforddictionaries.com / informed.](http://oxforddictionaries.com/informed)

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

Message from the Principal

Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle A

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Gospel Reading

John 4:5-42

Jesus reveals himself to the Samaritan woman at the well.
(shorter form: John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42)

Background on the Gospel Reading

On this Sunday and the next two Sundays, we break from reading the Gospel of Matthew to read from John's Gospel. The Gospel of John is the only Gospel not assigned to a particular liturgical year. Instead, readings from John's Gospel are interspersed throughout our three-year liturgical cycle.

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation as well. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." With no running water, the daily trip to the well by the women of the community was of paramount importance. The women of the town would have traveled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands."

Behind the conversation lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included worship of Yahweh, but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. When the Jews refused Samaritan help in the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, the Samaritans eventually built a temple for themselves at Mt. Gerizim (the same mountain mentioned by the woman at the well). Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshiping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship.

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people.

The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.



2020 Term Dates

Thursday 19 March

- Whole School Mass - St Joseph at St Mary Immaculate - cancelled
- Mayoral Welcome for International Students - cancelled
- Whanau Robbie Class Mass 9am

Tuesday 24 March

- Catch up with James Murray 9am
- Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm

Thursday 26 March

- Whanau Robbie Class Mass and Adoration 9am - 2pm
- Benediction 2pm

Friday 27 March

- Teacher Only Day - school is closed
- Aquinas EPro 8

Tuesday 31 March

- Catch up with James Murray 9am

Wednesday 1 April

- WBEET Aspiring Future Athletes (Aroha)

Thursday 2 April

- Whanau Walter Class Mass

Friday 3 April

- Palm Sunday Liturgy 11am

Monday 6 April

- Holy Week Liturgy - Washing of the feet and The Last Supper 10am

Tuesday 7 April

- Catch up with James Murray 9am
- Holy Week Liturgy - Garden of Gethsemane 10am

Wednesday 8 April

- WBoP Swimming Champs (Aroha)
- Holy Week Liturgy - Good Friday Crucifixion 10am

Thursday 9 April

- Holy Week Liturgy - Way of the Cross (4 sessions) 9am, 9.45am, 11am and 11.30am
- Term 1 ends at 2.55pm

Monday 27 April

- Anzac Day - school is closed

Tuesday 28 April

- Term 2 starts

Thursday 30 April

- Whanau Laban Class Mass 9am

Wednesday 6 May

- Book Fair starts

Thursday 7 May

- Whanau Yorke Class Mass 9am



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Firstly, I want to thank the PTA and all the volunteers who helped plan, prepare and implement Adventure day. It was an amazing day which was full of excitement, fun and certainly a wide range of challenging obstacles. The most pleasing aspect of this is to see the joy in our children's faces as they completed a task and heard their peers cheering for them as they completed the course. This was my first experience of this community day and once again I want to thank all those involved.

How quickly the world can change. The evolving situation with COVID-19 is on everyone's minds, and I want to assure our school community that we are taking all practical precautions and responding to the latest advice. The Ministry of Education is communicating daily with Principals and our decision making is guided by them. At St Mary's we have implemented extra hygiene measures for students and ensured that our cleaning protocols are thorough and responsive to the situation.

I'm sure that you can appreciate the challenges that schools face at the moment in prioritising the health and wellbeing of all students and staff. We need your support please. ***We have students/staff at school who are immunocompromised. This means that they have medical conditions which significantly weaken their immune systems, so if they get sick it can be very serious. Please, now more than ever before, keep your own children home if they are unwell, so that we can keep our school a healthy environment.*** Please make sure your contact details are up to date at the school office, and respond quickly to calls from the school, as students will need to go home if they are unwell.

There are many events being postponed or cancelled at the moment in the interest of public health. We appreciate your understanding around this, and we are all doing our best to help students deal with their disappointment. In classrooms, students are obviously talking about coronavirus, and we do our best to lessen their fear and give them accurate, age appropriate information. There is good information about how to talk to children about coronavirus on <http://www.education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/pastoral-care-and-wellbeing/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-coronavirus/>

Taking care of children

There may be children or young people in your life who experience distress. As a trusted adult, you can help reassure and educate them about COVID-19 – it can be good to talk to them now, so they can understand the illness and be reassured. If you feel the child or young person is getting distressed through this conversation, reassure them and end it.

Children react to stress differently than adults – they may withdraw or behave in a more 'babyish' way, seem anxious or clingy, be preoccupied with illness in their play or drawing, have problems sleeping or nightmares, or may get physical symptoms such as stomach aches or headaches. Here are some tips for supporting children and young people:

1. Reassure them they are safe.
2. Encourage them to talk about how they feel.
3. Tell them they can ask questions and answer these in plain language appropriate to their age – be honest, but avoid details which may distress or cause anxiety.
4. Tell them that feeling upset or afraid is normal, that it's good to talk about it and that they'll feel better soon.

5. Be understanding – they may have problems sleeping, throw tantrums or wet the bed – be patient and reassuring if this happens. With support and care, it will pass.
6. Give your children extra love and attention.
7. Remember that children look to their parents to feel safe and to know how to respond – reassure them, share that you are upset too but that you know you will all be fine together.
8. Try to keep to normal routines – mealtimes, bedtimes etc. – allow them to get out and play, to go to the park etc.

While the pandemic is ongoing, St Mary's will continue to give regular updates. The main communication channels will be emails to parents via HERO, our new student management system, (so please make sure we have your current email address), via facebook and links on our school app, and there is also a section on the frontpage of our website for school related COVID-19 links and updates. Please be aware that we will continue to use our facebook page as many parents find this easy to access, but we ask that you don't use this social media platform to direct questions back to the school - please come and talk to us if you have concerns or questions.

We will not be celebrating St Joseph's Day Mass at St Mary Immaculate this Thursday at 9.30am. This is a precautionary measure in conjunction with the BOT and Parish. The classrooms will share some information around St Joseph to celebrate the occasion. Celebration Hui will be conducted in classrooms this week as well. No Monday Liturgy 23rd March as Whanau Vincent will be sharing their reflections through slides which classes will share. As things happen we will continue to update our community.

HERO - is the new School student management system where we will be informing parents around student learning and communicating via notices. At the end of the week you will be receiving instructions on how to login.

James Murray
Principal

School will be closed for Teacher Only Days. Please put these dates in your diary.

* Friday 27 March * Friday 29 May * Monday 10 August * Friday 29 May



Special Character

E te whanau, tena koutou katoa.

We are now in the third week of Lent, a good time to assess how we are going with our Lent promises and goals. As we prepare for Holy Week and Easter and pray with Jesus during his final days and hours on earth.

Feast of St Patrick - 17th March

Happy feast day for all those with Irish heritage. St Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461.

Patrick was a humble, pious, gentle man, whose love and total devotion to and trust in God should be a shining example to each of us. So complete was his trust in God, and of the importance of his mission, he feared nothing -not even death.

"The Breastplate," Patrick's poem of faith and trust in God:

"Christ be within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ inquired, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger."

Feast of St Joseph - 19th March

Happy Feast Day, We wish the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny a very blessed and happy feast day on St Joseph's Day.

Who are the Cluny Sisters: We are a group of Catholic Religious Sisters who dedicate our lives to "doing a little good" in the places where we are missioned. We follow in the footsteps of our Foundress Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey whose vision was based on LIBERATION. She did this through Education, Nursing, Caring for Orphans, Pastoral Work of any kind. Her motto was "The Holy Will of God". We all strive to live this Charism to the full in the places where we live and work.

<https://www.clunysisters.org.nz/>

Pope Francis 2019 The courage to take a risk for God's promise

"The Lord's call ... it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking. ... Every vocation is a summons not to stand on the shore, nets in hand, but to follow Jesus on the path he has marked out for us, for our own happiness and for the good of those around us."

We give thanks to God for all those who have chosen the vocation of parenthood. May you always be a blessing to your family and to others. May you remember you have been and are blessed.

Sacramental Programme

Congratulations to 55 year 5 and 6 students who are preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion. We also have two students who are preparing to be Baptised. An exciting time for our students, family and school. Please keep these students in your prayers.



Teresa Rush
DRS



Outdoor Adventure Day

On Friday we had Outdoor Adventure Day at school. First I ran to the net and I had to crawl under it. It was easy to do. Next I ran to the tyres and stepped through them. After the tyres I came to the slide. I climbed up the inflatable slide and slid down the other side. I had to continue running until I came to the car wash noodles. Water was splashing everywhere and I had to run through it. Then it was the big water slide. It was really high so I followed the children in front of me. Then I slid down into the water. SPLASH! Great fun!

Next into the swimming pool with lots of balls and noodles. Out of the pool and down the slippery slide. Last I ran through the zig zag poles to the finish line. My Mum and Dad had a big smile on their faces because I made it to the finish line.

Thank you PTA for a very cool day! By Francis Diaz



South Cluster Swimming

Congratulations to our swimmers who represented St Mary's at the South Cluster Swimming Championships yesterday. Many of our students have qualified to compete at the Western Bay of Plenty Swimming Champs to be held on Wednesday 8 April.



We encourage
you to support
our **Gold Group**
Sponsors



St Mary's
Catholic School

Our People Our Place

be.
thankful

JEREMY PRYOR

Sales Associate - Sotheby's Realty

M. +64 27 280 2121
E. jeremy.pryor@nzsr.com

New Zealand

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

RAYE
ELECTRICIANS

Ray Young 07 543 2999 or 027 2755615

WAZZA'S FLOORING

Carpets, Vinyl, Floor Preparation
Commercial and Residential

Phone: 021 0220 3829
warrenmarsters@gmail.com

tasman
plumbing contractors •

specialists in commercial & residential plumbing

www.tpc.net.nz

Phone 075432481 Email admin@tpc.net.nz

EARTH MOVING CONTRACTORS

PAGE
EARTHWORKS LTD

578 2887

www.pageearthworks.co.nz