



newsletter

ISSUE 7: 6 May 2020

What families are doing during lockdown



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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

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Cycle A

Sunday, May 3, 2020

Gospel Reading

John 10:1-10

Jesus is the gate for his sheep.

Background on the Gospel Reading

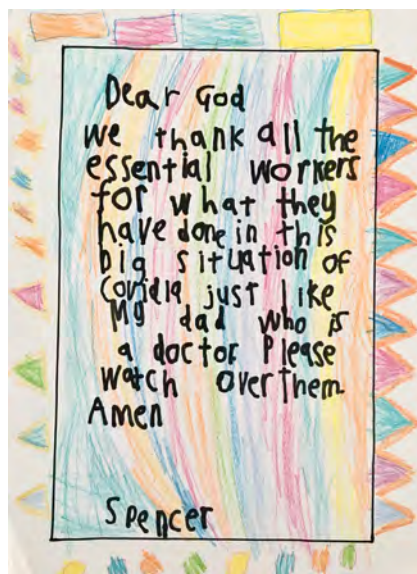
This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle the reading is from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus' teaching about himself as the Good Shepherd.

Today's reading falls between the stories of Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year's season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs his allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees.

Throughout John's Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus' ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be "robbers and thieves" because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus' disciples) should follow.

The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd.

Today's Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus' words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognize that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus' allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good shepherd.



be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

We are officially in Week 2 of Term 2, however this is the fourth week of distance learning. A little confusing I know, what hasn't changed is the end of Term 2 is Friday 3rd July.

I want to thank everyone for the way in which they have responded to the feedback around our distance learning. We believe we are being as responsive as we can and altering content, delivery and discussions to suit whilst maintaining connection. We have been operating a hybrid model of learning with teachers supporting the children in Alert Level 3 bubbles as well as the children who are distance learning. I want to thank the staff for all their efforts as well.

Alert Level 2

This week we will know what will happen for next week and we are beginning some planning and preparation for Alert Level 2 should that happen. This will look and operate differently to when everyone went into lockdown so we will keep you as updated as we can.

Sports Coordinator

Rachel Parry is our new sports co-ordinator and you can reach her on the email: sports@stmarystga.school.nz



I want to thank Steven Finlayson for his commitment to St Mary's and we wish him luck with his studies.

Online Celebration Hui

Next week families will receive a powerpoint on Monday morning Liturgy as well as a video from our first ever online Celebration Hui. We hope you enjoy viewing these.

HERO

We communicate to our parents on various platforms and one of those we had wanted to change was our student management system. We currently use ETAP and we are moving to HERO. We use HERO for most of our functions currently but we are now giving parents access.

Please note, there is nothing on there to look at currently as we are placing data into your children's learning stories later this Term.

On HERO you will be able to track your child's goals and see progress and achievement overtime.

We will hold parent sessions when we are able to, however for now we just require you to login and get familiar.

We are delighted to be able to launch our new reporting system, Hero. The staff and students will be posting rich content to our Hero software and we are excited to share this with you to include you in your child's learning journey.

Our aim has been to implement a robust system that allows teachers, parents, and students to access learning in an online environment that is secure, easy, and effective.

Hero allows teachers to share learning anytime, anywhere and this can be viewed on any device. We are excited about the potential that the software offers. The report is designed to build year on year so that over time you will have access to written posts, assessments, images, video and helpful resources all in one place.

James Murray

Principal

How to log in to HERO and view your child's learning.

Go to the **Hero for Parents website page**. <https://www.linc-ed.com/parents/>

To set your password and log into Hero for the first time:

1. Download the Hero by LINC-ED app from the app store
Note: use the keywords Hero LINC-ED when searching for the app

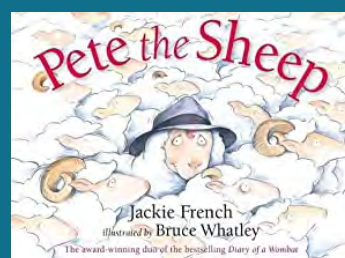
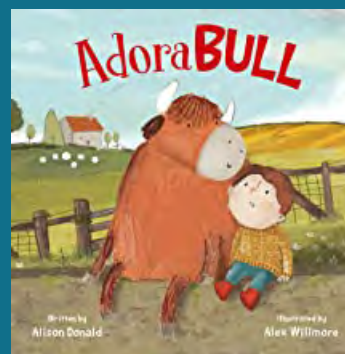
2. Click NEW USER

3. Enter the email address you have provided the school and click REQUEST PASSWORD LINK

Hero by LINC-ED
Making Education Heroic
★★★★★



Mr Murray has read the books below to our community on Facebook daily. Checkout his story telling <https://www.facebook.com/stmarystga/>



Special Character

I hope all your bubbles are continuing to be peaceful. Meeting the challenges of level 3 as a family has been interesting. Distance learning for the kids and the different requirements each school has been a challenge at times to navigate. Trying to keep the anxiety levels down and encourage my own kids to learn and keep up their learning as I have physically returned to work, as many of you know, has also been another added dimension!

As we perhaps move toward level 2 and new challenges, take care of each other in your bubble, ask for help from your family, let your child's teacher know if your child is finding things difficult. Above all I encourage you to take more time to share your worries in prayer and breathe.

May is known as one of the months of Mary. It is comforting to know that we have someone protecting us all as a family who also knows the challenges of raising children in trying times.

Teresa Rush

DRS

Responding with Hope - Digital Pastoral Conference.
7-10 May

Kia Ora! This conference is for parishioners across the diocese to come together to start to think about how to revitalise parish life once church doors open again. The speakers will share an exciting vision for discipleship, including practical tips and takeaways. There will be opportunities to pray, reflect and worship together, all from our lockdown 'bubbles'.

Register today!

A free opportunity in our Diocese to be involved as we look forward as a Church. If you would like to find our more information or register :

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eh2eu02cf6e69e1&llr=o7ld6ab>



Thanks to our wonderful students and families

A big thanks to those students who have been part of liturgies each week. To those who have prayed alongside us. These liturgies are on our school facebook pages and are usually put on each Monday and Thursday.

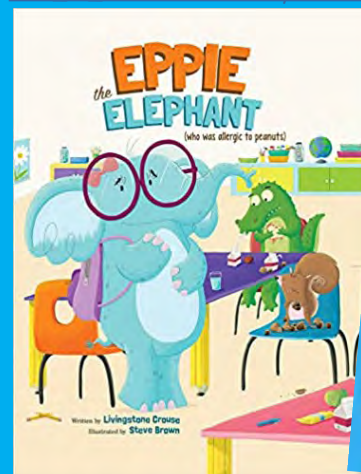
Allergies

This year Allergy Awareness week has been cancelled due to COVID-19. We have several children in our community that suffer severe allergic reactions so it is still important to keep allergies at the forefront of our minds. Below are some useful resources that you may like to share with your children.

Eppie the Elephant (who was allergic to peanuts)

This book has an important message for school age children and adults and is about an elephant named Eppie who has an allergy to nuts. The story could help your child understand about allergies and how to accept a friend who might have one. Watch here

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-W_dvIW4E&feature=youtu.be



Daily online Mass Livestream with Bishop Steve, 9am.

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

Daily Mass with Father Philip and Father Arnold, 7pm.

<http://taurangamoanacatholic.nz/masses/>





Celebrating Whanau Aroha home learning



Working with PETS!



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