



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

newsletter

ISSUE 9: 3 June 2020

*Celebrating Samoa
Language Week*



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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

Pentecost Sunday, Cycle A

Sunday, May 31, 2020

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-23

Jesus appears to his disciples and gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The Season of Easter concludes with this celebration, the Feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem; this event marks the beginning of the Church. The story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the Apostles, today's first reading. The account in today's Gospel, John 20:19-23, also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Yet the event in John's Gospel takes place on Easter Sunday. There is no need to try to reconcile these two accounts. It is enough that we know that after his death, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to his disciples a helper, an advocate, who would enable them to be his witnesses throughout the world.

We already heard today's Gospel proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter this year (Lectionary Cycle A). That Gospel passage, however, also included the description of Jesus' appearance to Thomas.

In the context of the Feast of Pentecost, John 20:19-23 reminds us about the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and sends them to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' act of breathing the Holy Spirit mirrors God's act of breathing life into Adam at the time of Creation. In fact, both the Greek and Hebrew words for "spirit" can also be translated as "breath."

This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. The reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church's sacramental life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God through the forgiving of sins. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people.



be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

I do hope you are enjoying all the online components that we have been sharing, the Liturgies, Liturgy of the word and the online hui. They have been a wonderful addition to school-life and it's fantastic to see all our children involved.

I also want to thank our community for their support and patience as we navigate through this Pandemic. I have been so impressed by the way everyone has been able to roll with the changes and adapt to this ever changing environment.

Reporting

I want to bring to your attention our thinking around reporting for the rest of 2020. As we are all aware COVID 19 has meant a slowing down of the norm and recalibrating where we are at with our purpose. This will mean that for midyear reporting we are going to concentrate on the Key Competencies and for child, teacher and parent to fill out a little information to bring to a meeting.

Next week you will receive a two page Key Competency sheet. This does not mean that parent/child fills out every point on the document, just what you can. It will then come back to school for the Teacher and child to work on it together before the parent/teacher meeting. This will provide everyone with some next steps for children to grow in their learning. It will then be uploaded into HERO.

The parent/teacher meetings will be held on **Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th of June from 2 - 6pm.** More information regarding booking appointments will be sent home soon.

HERO

In Term 3 we will show families via our new Student Management system HERO, progress and achievement for our core curriculum areas and a parent/teacher meeting on a report based on their learning. This will be early in Term 3. Term 4 will look very similar to Term 3.

Mrs MacKinnon and I will hold some parent meetings on HERO and what reporting will look like.

These meetings will take place on:

Tuesday 9th June 9am, Wednesday 10th June 2:30pm, Thursday 11th June 9am.

Gobsmaeked Production

We are excited to inform you that our biennial Gobsmaeked production will be going ahead in the first half of Term 3. This is a great opportunity to bring 'The Arts' curriculum to our learning. Patrice Williams will be promoting this with students on Friday this week, with auditions being held next week. Separate details regarding this, will follow.

St Mary's Cross Country

We are now going to go ahead with our school cross country. We have set the date for **Wednesday 1st July.** More details about races will come next week, we just wanted to inform you that we can now hold it.

James Murray
Principal



Talofa lava

It was great to celebrate le Vaiaso o le Gagana Samoa from 25-30th May.

The theme for Samoa Language week was 'Tapena sou óso mo lau malaga' which in English means 'Prepare yourself a gift for your travels'.

This year's theme urges us to prepare for the journey ahead. It highlights the need to honour, respect and share the gifts of our life's journey.

Due to the implementation of public health control measures at Alert Level 2, we were unable to invite the community into school to share our celebrations. However, both students and staff have enjoyed a fun week of learning about the Samoan culture. In Aroha, students embraced the song "Savalivali" (the video can be seen on our facebook page), and worked on their pronunciation of numbers from 1-10, together with some simple Samoan phrases. They were also engaged in making Tapa art. The Junior School enjoyed learning how to say colours and count to ten. They drew beautiful Teuila flowers, the National flower of Samoa, and together they created a tapa display.

The importance of Samoan Language Week is an opportunity to acknowledge and increase our awareness of the Samoan culture, and to support where we can in keeping the third most spoken language in New Zealand alive for the next generation.

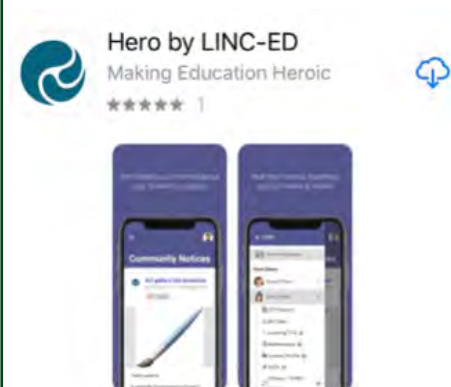


How to log in to HERO and view your child's learning.

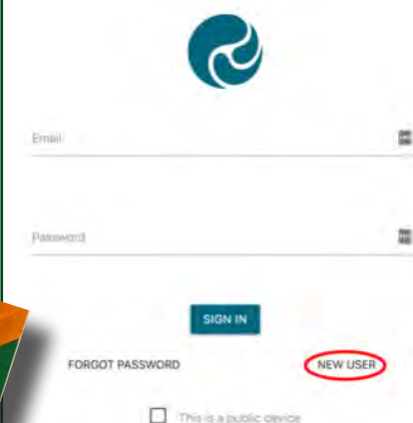
Go to the Hero for Parents website page. <https://www.linc-ed.com/parents/>

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

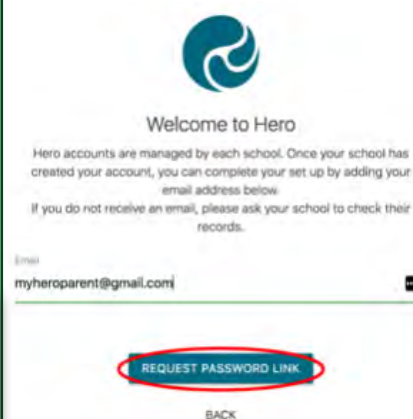
1. Download the Hero by LINC-ED app from the app store
Note: use the keywords Hero LINC-ED when searching for the app



2. Click NEW USER



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



Special Character

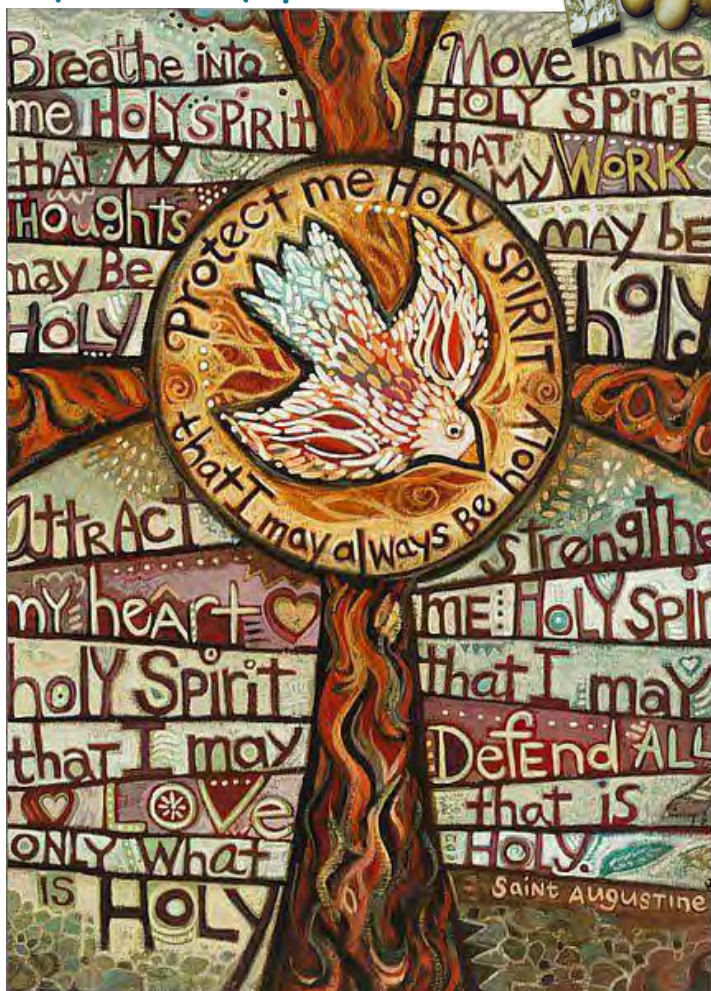
Liturgy of the Word

Thank you Fr Arnold and Fr Philip for guiding us with Liturgy of the Word on a Thursday. These liturgies are uploaded to our school Facebook page on Friday morning. A fantastic way we have been able to keep connected with the parish, our students, families and community.

It was wonderful to have the students read the Prayers of the Faithful in first languages during the Liturgy of the Word. All our students are always very impressed and enjoy hearing other students speak many different languages.

Students watch the videos in their classrooms on Fridays. For our Monday liturgy the liturgies are being prayed in classrooms with students participating in each room and God's message continues to be shared.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit



Maramatanga prayer stones

Maramatanga students made some wonderful prayer stones for classroom prayer time. They were blessed on Thursday and students are looking forward to using them and sharing them with others.



From the Parish Newsletter

As from last Friday, noon, we were able to open the doors of our locked churches for the celebration of the Eucharist. This is a great joy. On the eve of Pentecost a new sending of the Holy Spirit will bring new life to our faith community, renewed strength and hope as we continue to live in a changed world under the shadow of a pandemic.

This is not business as usual, or back to normal. Rather it is a new normal. Please take note of the following changes in the way we will now celebrate Mass on weekdays and on the weekend: (For full details please visit the Church's Website)

Stay connected to the Parish

- Parish website - <http://taurangamoanacatholic.nz/>
- Parish App (go to the App store or google play on your mobile device and search for Tauranga Moana Catholic or Parish of St Thomas Aquinas Tauranga.)
- Parish Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/taurangamoanacatholic/>
- Parish Youtube Channel (to view all the Masses) <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUeiovon6XFOYxjpqDgxXvQ/>

Teresa Rush DRS

Aroha Samoa Art



Aroha Celebrate Samoa Language Week



RICOH
imagine. change.

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