



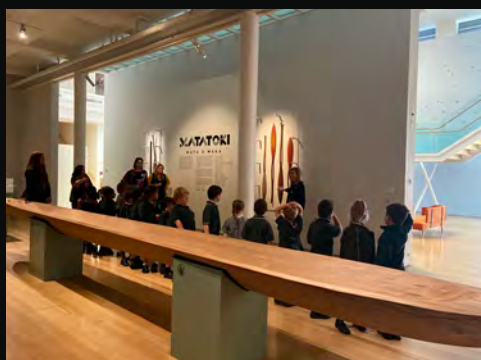
St Mary's  
Catholic School  
Tauranga

Our People Our Place

## Newsletter

ISSUE 16 16 September 2020

### Tika Library & Art Gallery visit



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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

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

Sunday, September 13, 2020

### Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

Jesus teaches that we must forgive one another as God has forgiven us.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

### Maui the Magnificent

Tickets for our show 'Maui the Magnificent' are now on sale! To purchase tickets please see the latest notification in HERO or alternatively you can visit [eventbrite.co.nz](http://eventbrite.co.nz) and search 'Maui the Magnificent'.

Shows will be held at the Bethlehem Performing Arts Centre at the following times:

Wed 23rd September - 7pm

Thurs 24th September - 12:30pm

(Seniors, Caregivers and Under 5's only)

Thurs 24th September - 5:30pm

### IMPORTANT MESSAGE:

We will update you with more information on Monday 28 September if Tauranga is still in Alert Level 2 or higher.



**be.**  
Christ-like

**be.**  
reflective

**be.**  
creative

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

As you know we are still currently sitting in Alert Level 2. We are praying that we will be able to come out of that Alert level next week. We will keep you posted. We are planning to be able to hold our Gobsmacked show next week. We are very much looking forward to seeing all the hard work and determination from our beautiful children on display.

Our Alert level 2 protocols are below and are still operational until we hear further. Once again thank you for your continued support with this.

**So we ask that if you do come onto the school site that...**

1. you are onsite for less than 15 minutes (morning or afternoon)
2. you do not enter the classroom under any circumstance
3. you maintain a safe distance from other people within the school grounds
4. also follow the necessary hygiene protocols around handwashing and use of sanitiser pre and post being on the school site
5. You must sign in using our school app which has been updated currently. This will trace the number of people coming in and out of the school grounds.
6. All children bring their own water bottle.

### Staffing

In Term 4 we welcome back Mrs Walters and Mrs Armstrong. Mrs Walters will move into Ms Rood's classroom with Mrs Strange continuing with her Friday in that classroom. Mrs Armstrong will be in Rm 4 where we will be starting a New Entrant classroom. We also welcome to our staff Mr McCabe who comes to us from Hamilton and will be taking over from Mrs Kelliher. Mrs Kelliher will still go on camp and be working 2 days a week in the Aroha hub. We are very pleased with our new appointments and we know they will settle into St Mary's life well.

This Friday we also say farewell to Mr Veitch who is moving onto a new job in landscaping. We thank Mr Veitch for his dedication and commitment to St Marys over the past 4.5 years. We will certainly miss his knowledge and passion for making St Marys the beautiful place it is.

### Police Vetting

We are required to Police Vet all volunteers that come into school who coach, manage, work, assist with children. This is also required for support with transport, trips, camps etc. We are updating our register and we require all those who have not completed one to please do so. If you have completed one through your work you will just need to photocopy it and hand it into the office. Thank you for supporting us through this process.

### Sports / Cultural Exchange

The Yr 5 and 6 sports and cultural competition on the last day of this Term has been cancelled. This was due to the current Alert Level restrictions and uncertainty around what lies ahead for next week.

### Conferences

Thank-you to our community for supporting us as we completed our parent/teacher conferences. It was great to share the achievements and learning stories with you. As explained in previous newsletters we will be adding to the reports in Term 4 and hopefully adding a graph to support your understanding of your child's progress and achievement.

### HERO

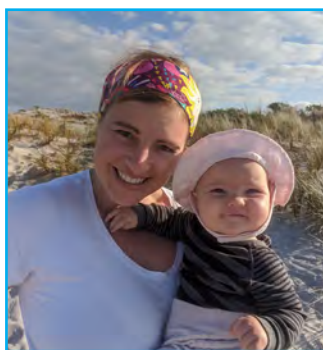
As you know HERO is the system we are using to communicate and share formal and informal reporting. We have had a number of information sessions and opportunities for families to understand the system. We will hold some more early in Term 4 and we will put the dates into next week's newsletter.

### Holiday programme

During the second week of the Term 3 holidays we will be operating a Holiday programme like we did in the previous holidays.

If you have any queries or questions please email Shelley: Shelley's email is [afterschoolcare@stmarystga.school](mailto:afterschoolcare@stmarystga.school)

**James Murray**  
Principal



## TERM DATES

### Wednesday 16 September

- Gallery & Library Exchange  
Whānau Mayall 9.30am-11am  
Whānau Oates 11am-12.30pm

### Thursday 17 September

- Korean Family & Friends Mass
- Gallery & Library Exchange  
Whānau Goldsmith 9.30-11am  
Whānau Broadmore 11am-12.30pm
- Aroha Camp Meeting 5pm and 5.30pm for parent helpers

### Friday 18 September

Mufti Day for Social Justice Week  
please bring a pantry item

### Wednesday 23 September

Maui the Magnificent Production 7pm

### Thursday 24 September

Maui the Magnificent Production Matinee  
12.30pm and 5.30pm

### Friday 25 September

Term 3 ends at 2.55pm

### Monday 5 - 9 October

1 week Holiday Programme

### Monday 12 October

Term 4 starts

### Tuesday 13 October

PTA Meeting

### Wednesday 14 October

Aroha are away on camp until Friday

### Thursday 15 October

Class Mass Whanau Vincent/Strange

### Wednesday 21 - 23 October

Book Fair until Friday

### Thursday 22 October

Class Mass Whanau Yorke

### Monday 26 October

Labour Day - school is closed

### Tuesday 27 October

Board of Trustee Meeting

### Thursday 29 October

School Photos

### Friday 30 October

Whole School Mass

### Monday 2 November

Speech & Drama concert 11.15am & 1.30pm

### Tuesday 3 November

New families and new children liturgy  
10am





Mauni the Magnificent tickets are on sale now.

# Special Character Term 3

*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.*

## Catholic Character Review

Welcome to our Catholic Character Review team. This week we have been Blessed to have participated in our Cathoic Character Review. This review is undertaken by the Diocese every three years. It is a very special opportunity for us as a school to look back over the last few years, how we have supported and strengthened our Catholic Character as well as forward planning for improvement. It is a fantastic time for us to celebrate all the wonderful things we have accomplished and how we as a school are living our Mission.

We thank the review team for their commitment in assisting us on our school's journey. The three reviewers were Zita Smith; Wellington Diocese Office, Andrea Colebourn; Principal - St Joseph's Morrinsville, and David Macmillan; Principal - St Mary's Rotorua.

## Korean Martyrs

This week our Korean students will celebrate Mass at school to recognise the Korean Martyrs Saints Andres Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions. We are saddened that we cannot have our families join us and celebrate together, but we are fortunate that we can celebrate within the school.

## Feast Day Saturday 20th September

We remember a whole group of courageous Korean Christians—113 martyrs canonized together in 1984. Among them were Andrew, a 21-year-old priest; Paul, a 45-year-old seminarian; Columba Kim, a 26-year-old single woman, and her sister Agnes; and Peter Ryau, a 13-year-old boy. Some 10,000 Catholics were martyred for their faith before religious freedom came to Korea in 1884. Today Korea has nearly 4 million Catholics.

During a Japanese invasion in 1592, a small number of Koreans were baptized. Soon after, Korea cut itself off from the rest of the world. Around 1777, some Confucian scholars decided to follow Christ after reading books brought into the country by Catholics from China.

When a Chinese priest secretly arrived about 12 years later, he found 4,000 Catholics who had never seen a priest. Korea's first Christian community was made up entirely of laypeople! Between 1839 and 1867, there were fierce persecutions. One hundred three members of this community were martyred along with three bishops and seven priests from the Paris Foreign Mission Society.

Andrew Kim Taegon was the first native Korean priest. He was the son of converts. His father, a farmer, was also martyred. Andrew was baptized when he was 15. He then attended the seminary in Macao, China, 1,300 miles away from home. After six years Andrew returned to Korea and assumed the job of bringing missionaries into the country secretly. Almost immediately he was arrested, tortured, and beheaded.

In a letter written to fellow Christians, Andrew stated, "We have received baptism, entrance into the Church, and the honor of being called Christians. Yet what good will this do us if we are Christians in name only and not in fact? (Loyola press)

## Fatima Movie

A number of staff are going to this moving tonight. Showing at Rialto Cinema in Tauranga during September. For inquiries phone 577 0455 or visit:

<https://www.rialtotauranga.co.nz/movie/fatima>

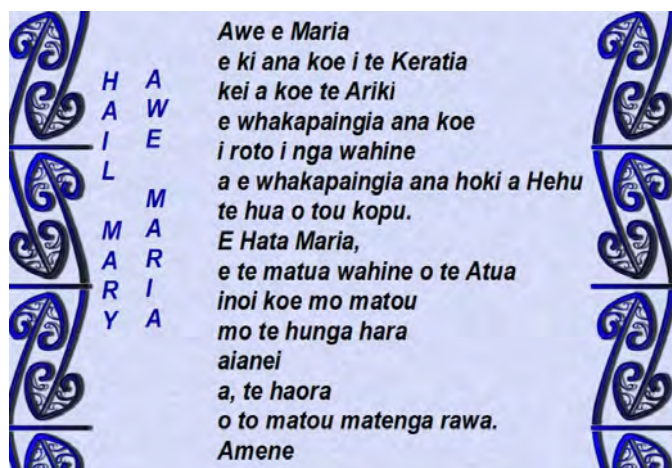
Trailer: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iA54U\\_SoMso](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iA54U_SoMso)



The story of a famous miracle in Fátima, Portugal, began in May 1917, when three children Lucia Santos, 10, with her cousins, Francisco, 9, and Jacinta Marto, 7 encountered the Virgin Mary on their way home from tending a flock of sheep. The oldest girl, Lucia, was the only one to speak to her. Mary told the children that she would reappear to them on the thirteenth day of the next six months.

Teresa Rush

DRS



## Parish News

### Sacramental Programme

The children in this programme will have their final lesson this coming Monday. Unfortunately due to the covid level restrictions we have not been able to hold the Confirmation Liturgy, and due to the continued uncertainty for the next few weeks, the First Eucharist Masses have also now been postponed. Please keep these children, and their families, in your prayers as we work through alternative dates for both these two significant Sacramental celebrations.

### RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Do any of these describe you?

- Are you interested in learning more about Christianity and the Catholic Church?
- Are you a baptised catholic who has not yet received First Holy Communion or Confirmation?
- Are you married to a catholic and attend Mass, but just do not know what the next step is in becoming Catholic?
- Would you like to better support your children at a Catholic school? The next RCIA programme is commencing on Thursday 24th September, 7pm. Please express your interest by contacting the Parish office 578 6209, by email: [office@taurangamoanacatholic.nz](mailto:office@taurangamoanacatholic.nz) or complete the online form that is available from the Parish website and submit. The link is: <http://tauranga-moanacatholic.nz/sacramental-life/become-catholic/>

### Altar Servers

Training for Altar Service is on going. If you know someone who would want to serve in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass please contact the office for details. We are very happy to share the love in serving the Lord.

*"In your Generosity, Support Bishop Steve Today to Build a Stronger Faith Community and Keep Hope Alive"*

## 2020 BISHOP'S APPEAL

Sunday  
20<sup>th</sup> September 2020



Keep Hope Alive,  
Make a difference this year!



+ *Steve Lowe*

Bishop of Hamilton



donate online today at  
[BISHOPAPPEAL.CDH.NZ](http://BISHOPAPPEAL.CDH.NZ)

For more information & assistance, please contact Catholic Diocese of Hamilton  
Fred Ralaimihoa, Fundraising Manager - [fredr@cdh.org.nz](mailto:fredr@cdh.org.nz) 07 856 6989 - 021 24 999 52

### Parish of St Thomas Aquinas Youth Choir

Invitation for our youth - any students in years 5,6,7 or 8 who would like to sing in a Youth Choir!

You can register/enrol on the Parish website <http://taurangamoanacatholic.nz/our-place/youth/>

Practices will commence on Wednesday 14th October, 4pm at St Mary Immaculate Church. Practices will be held every Wednesday during term time and will run for approximately one hour. It is planned for this choir to sing once a term at Mass and for any other special occasions. If you have any queries please contact Sally Washer on [sallywasher54@gmail.com](mailto:sallywasher54@gmail.com) or Margie, at our Parish office. We are very excited about this Parish initiative and look forward to hearing our beautiful young people singing for us.

### Aroha Camp Meetings

A reminder about our camp meeting that will be held this Thursday

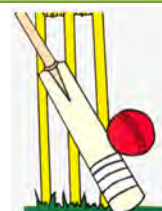
17th September, Week 9 in our Aroha Hub space at 5:00pm to

inform parents/whanau of our programme. At the conclusion of this meeting at 5:30 pm there will be a Parent helper meeting for those parents coming to camp only. **Please email your child's teacher if you are unable to make the meeting and notes can be emailed to you.**



### Term 4 Sports Registrations

A reminder that registrations are now available for Term 4 Sports. Please follow the links on Hero. Any questions, please email Rachel on [sports@stmarystga.school.nz](mailto:sports@stmarystga.school.nz)





# It's Book Fair Time!

A special time for our entire school and community.

**When: Wednesday, 21 October  
to Friday 23 October 2020**

**Time: 8.30am to 3.30pm.**

**Where: St Mary's School Library  
(now called Te Kopu Hapori / The Community Bach)**



It's book fair time again. Parents/children will have a chance to buy books as well as Sponsor a Book for the school library, or make a cash donation. All books are supplied by Scholastic Books.

You will find a wonderful variety of books and other products at the fair. All Book Fair purchases benefit our school and provide new books for our library.

**Our goal is to put more books into the hands of children!**

## Competitions

During the book fair there will be fun competitions - come to the library and check them out!

We will be having a dress up fun day on **Wednesday, 21 October 2020** Children (and staff) can dress up as their favourite Book Character.

Get creative in the holidays and make your exciting, interesting, creative and fun costumes.

- Each child must be in an individual costume. We would prefer that two children do not share one costume.
- Please do not bring props / things that need to be carried (eg swords, weapons etc)
- Children can come to school in their costume, but they **MUST** bring their uniform to school to change into later in the day.
- If your child chooses not to wear a costume then they must wear their school uniform.

A costume parade will begin at 9.15am in the BAMJC. Parents are most welcome to come and watch if we are in Alert level 1.



## Help Needed

Some assistance with book fair sales during peak times is needed:

8.30am–9.30am, 12.30pm–1.30pm, and 3.00–3.30pm Wednesday and Thursday.

Just 8.30–9.30am on Friday.

If you can help please contact Debbie in the Library or email [dnowell@stmarystga.school.nz](mailto:dnowell@stmarystga.school.nz)

Many Thanks  
Debbie Nowell



**You can find magic  
wherever you look. Sit  
back and relax, all you  
need is a book.**

**- Dr. Seuss**



More Tika Art Gallery & Library photos



St Mary's  
Catholic School

## Social Justice Week - Bring A Pantry Item- Mufti Day

18th September 2020



Distributive Justice  
Te Tika Ka Tokaina



All should have the necessities  
of life such as food, shelter,  
clothing and access to what they  
need for their full development.



The pantry items  
will be gifted to  
the Food Bank at  
the St Vincent  
De Paul.

Easy as CST:  
Unlocking  
the Church's  
Potential

Te Wiki o te Whai Tika



Mānā Noa, Pēnei  
i te CST:  
Te Tuku i ngā  
Pūmanawa o te  
Māhi kia Whai Hua

Social Justice Week

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



St Mary's  
Catholic School

Our People Our Place

be.  
thankful

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