



St Mary's  
Catholic School  
Tauranga

Our People Our Place

## Newsletter

ISSUE 19 11 November 2020

### Prayers

Please pray for our families who are facing difficulties and are grieving at the moment.



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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

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

Sunday, November 8, 2020

### Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:1-13

*Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, teaching his disciples the importance of being prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven.*

### Background on the Gospel Reading

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about what it means to be prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. This week's reading follows a series of warnings and predictions by Jesus about the coming of the Son of Man. Jesus wants his disciples to understand that the exact day and time cannot be predicted. He teaches the disciples that they must remain vigilant so that they will not be caught unprepared.

When thinking about the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, it is important to consider the first-century wedding traditions of Palestine. Scholars tell us that it was the custom of the day for young maidens—friends and family members of the bride—to meet the bridegroom when he came to bring his bride to her new home.

As with many of Jesus' parables, several levels of interpretation are possible. In last week's Gospel, we heard Jesus warn against following the example of the Pharisees and scribes. If read in the context of early Christianity's struggle to define itself against Pharisaic Judaism, this parable is a continuing critique of Judaism. It suggests that the Jewish leaders were like the foolish virgins, unprepared to meet Jesus, the bridegroom of Israel.

In the chapter preceding this parable, however, Jesus warns about the destruction of Jerusalem, the tribulation of the end times, and the coming of the Son of Man. When read in this context, today's parable is a warning to the Christian community to remain vigilant and prepared to receive Jesus, the Son of Man who will return at the end of time. This interpretation is supported by the reference to the delay of the bridegroom. The Christian community for whom Matthew wrote this Gospel was coming to terms with the realization that the promise of Jesus' return would not be fulfilled within their lifetimes. The question remains for us to ask ourselves, Are we ready to receive Jesus? Will we be prepared to receive him?

## Grandparents/ Grandfriends Day 2020

To our dear Grandparents and Grandfriends of our Whanau,  
We would love for you to come and celebrate.



### Tuesday 17th November

9:30 am Liturgy at St Mary Immaculate Church

10:30 am Morning Tea at St Mary's School

11:15 am We welcome you to visit classrooms  
(Come and spend some time in your whanau  
classroom reading and talking to our students)

12:00 noon Grandparents Concert in School centre

**be.**  
Christ-like

**be.**  
reflective

**be.**  
creative

Téná koutou kátoa e te whānau,

I would like to thank all those families that were able to attend our first Parish/School Mass for 2020. We were lucky to be able to celebrate the Eucharist together and we hope for 2021 we will be able to have a few more. The year has had its challenges and we appreciate that the Mass clashed with other dates but we are pleased we have celebrated our School Mass with the Parish. I was also privileged the week before to attend the Confirmation of many of our St Mary's students. Congratulations to you all.

### Aroha Athletics

We were very pleased to get through Aroha Athletics and I would like to thank the staff and parents who were able to support our children while the weather was challenging. Congratulations to all those children who qualified for the South Cluster Athletics, unfortunately due to bad weather conditions it was cancelled.

### No Hat No Play

We have a strict rule of NO HAT NO PLAY at St Marys. This week we are going to place those children without their own named school hat in a shaded area during the break times. Please make sure your child comes to school with their school hat. We also have sunscreen in the classrooms as well as 3 sunscreen holders out on the field during break times for children to use.

### Lost Property

The lost property is the source of many parents and teachers frustrations and concerns. We appreciate that taking away the main lost property box has caused some other problems. The main reason for the removal was to promote our children to be more responsible and to ask everyone to return named items to their owner.

We need to work in partnership with our families so each team will have an area dedicated to un-named lost property and named items will be returned. We are purchasing some sharpies to name hats and a labeller to name any unnamed items. We will inform you where the boxes are for each team later this week. Could we please ask you to make sure all items are named and we will endeavour to get everything where it is supposed to be. Our children will need to be better at not leaving their items outside and placing them in their bags as well. We all have a collective responsibility so again thank-you.

### 2021 Class Placements

We are working on class placements and teachers for 2021 over the next couple of weeks. We will keep you informed as to how that is going. If you have any enrolments please let the office know. Also, if you are not intending to be at St Mary's in 2021 could you please let the office know.

### School Magazine

As we know this year has thrown us some real challenges and some things just have not happened this year. Unfortunately, we cannot get the school magazine completed in time for the end of the year so this will not be happening in 2020. Mrs Akkerman, Mrs MacKinnon and Mr Murray have spoken with our 6 children to ascertain what we can do to collect the memories for them as they leave St Mary's. We got some great suggestions and will be in contact with those families to inform you of the end of year happenings for our Yr 6 leavers.

**James Murray**  
Principal

## TERM DATES

### Thursday 12 November

- Class Mass Whanau Tanner 9am
- Year 6 Aquinas Orientation Evening 7pm

### Friday 13 November

- Celebration Hui – Maramatanga & Tika
- PTA Hot Dog Day

### Tuesday 17 November

Grandparents and Grandfriends Liturgy at St Mary Immaculate Church 9.30am (time changed)

### Thursday 19 November

- Class Mass Whanau Wood 9am
- Aquinas Transition Day 9am-12pm
- New Entrant Meeting for all children starting in Term 1, 2021

### Friday 20 November

Mufti Day

### Saturday 21 November

- Jump Jam North Island Champs
- First Holy Communion 5pm

### Sunday 22 November

First Holy Communion 10.30am

### Thursday 26 November

Senior Liturgical Leaders Mass 9am

### Friday 27 November

- Out of Hours Music Concert
- Celebration Hui Whakapono

### Tuesday 1 December

Board of Trustee Meeting 6pm

### Thursday 3 December

- Year 0 – 4 End of Year Mass 9.30am
- School Band playing for parents 2.15pm

### Friday 4 December

Year 6 Retreat

### Monday 7 December

Farewell Liturgy 2pm

### Tuesday 8 December

- Prize Giving Holy Trinity 11am
- PTA Meeting 7pm

### Thursday 10 December

End of Year Mass for Year 5 & 6 and Year 6 Graduation 5.30pm

### Friday 11 December

- Whakapono Memorial Pools
- PTA Disco

### Monday 14 December

School finishes at 12 noon

## Dramatic News Ahead!!!!

A HUGE congratulations to Milli Banbury, Maebh Manning and Abby Moore for excelling in their October Trinity College, London Speech and Drama exams. After a year of sorts, the girls persevered and gave their all to preparation – and came out top. All three were awarded Distinction for their Grade 2 and Grade 3 (Abby) exams. We are so proud of your efforts – well-done girls.

Gentle reminder: Speech and Drama Enrolment forms for 2021 and Year 6 Speech and Drama Scholarship Applications are due into the school office BY 1st of December. If you need to pick up a form, these are available at the school office.







100's more beautiful Maui photos coming soon on our Facebook page

# Special Character Term 4

*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.*

## Thank you

Thank you for supporting the Parish School Mass on Sunday. The Pasifika group sang beautifully with such love for the Lord. Congratulations Nelson Santos for your solo. Peter Chang played the piano to an exceptional standard, well done. The Joseph family wore their traditional Indian clothing to bring the gifts forth on our behalf. The readers spoke competently and represented us all with their reverence. It was great to see all the students in their uniform and those who came along in their best Sunday clothes, thank you. We had many comments about the school prayer which students illustrated last week and that were handed out at Mass so our parish can pray for us. A wonderful community.

## First Communion

Please pray for our students who will receive their First Communion on the weekend of 21/22nd November.

Bishop Steve spoke last week at the Confirmation reminding parents to bless their children each night, being thankful for their gifts and asking the Lord to help with their needs.

## World Day of Poor

Pope Francis releases his message for the Fourth World Day of the Poor, observed on 15 November. The Pope calls on people to keep their gaze fixed on the poor, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, and warns against succumbing to a "whirlwind of indifference."

The theme for the Fourth World Day of the Poor is "Stretch forth your hand to the poor," taken from the book of Sirach.

"Generosity that supports the weak, consoles the afflicted, relieves suffering and restores dignity to those stripped of it, is a condition for a fully human life," Pope Francis says.



**Teresa Rush**  
DRS

## Parish News

Volunteers wanted as Conference members (St Vincent de Paul working groups). Membership needs to be increased. Ph. Peter, St Mary's conference 021 755864; H: 5782613 or PH. Mary, St Joseph's conference 578 9803. Volunteers are also required for the Fullstop food van roster. Ph Meari 027 373 1416.

## Catholic Bible Diaries 2021

A Catholic Daily Word Companion for the whole year, published by Claretian Missionaries. We have two Claretian Missionaries in our diocese Frs. Thomas & Prakash. Bookings are all online with the following link: <https://bit.ly/3o68Nkj> Copies available to purchase from the Parish office, or you can contact Fr Prakash, directly on 022 585 2875.

## MUFTI DAY FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

### Donations

As a school we would love to be able to sponsor some of the Christmas dinner hampers for those in need.  
Supporting our local Catholic Family Support Services



Catholic Family Support Services are the the Social Services arm of the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton. Our staff are all qualified and registered social workers, or trained budget advisers. Our services are available free of charge to all people whatever their beliefs.



## Sponsor a Family's and Whanau Christmas Dinner

Christmas doesn't come easy for many families and whanau. You can make a difference today by sponsoring a Christmas Hamper for families, whanau and children going through tough times.

Small Hamper—\$50  
Larger Hamper—\$100



**St Mary's  
Catholic School**





## Jump Jam

Our Year 2 and 4 Jump Jam team coached by Tony Mann and Gabby Cardey, recently competed in the 'Strictly Competition' which is aimed at children who are new to Jump Jam.

Our team had some of the youngest competitors in their category, but that didn't stop them taking out First Place! They all did such a brilliant job, and also came home with certificates of Merit for Presentation and Technical Execution.



## Rugby 7's

Good luck to our St Marys Year 5/6 Girls 7's team playing in the tournament today.

Won 2/3 games so far!  
Go girls !!

## BOP Cricket World Cup

A fantastic day, the boys were great and unbeaten. Gareth Hopkins awesome coach!

They were Canada and looked and played amazing. Congratulations Team!





# Aroha Athletics



## Results

### Year 5 Girls

- 1st Greer Sander - 16 points
- 2nd Maxine Yu - 13 points
- 3rd = Nieve Barry/Erena Coffin - 8 points

### Year 5 Boys

- 1st Harry Grosso - 19 points
- 2nd Lachlan Murray - 15 points
- 3rd Matthew Robinson - 14 points

### Year 6 Girls

- 1st Jahren Ralia - 17 points
- 2nd Maria Tustin - 16 points
- 3rd Areta Kahura - 14 points

### Year 6 Boys

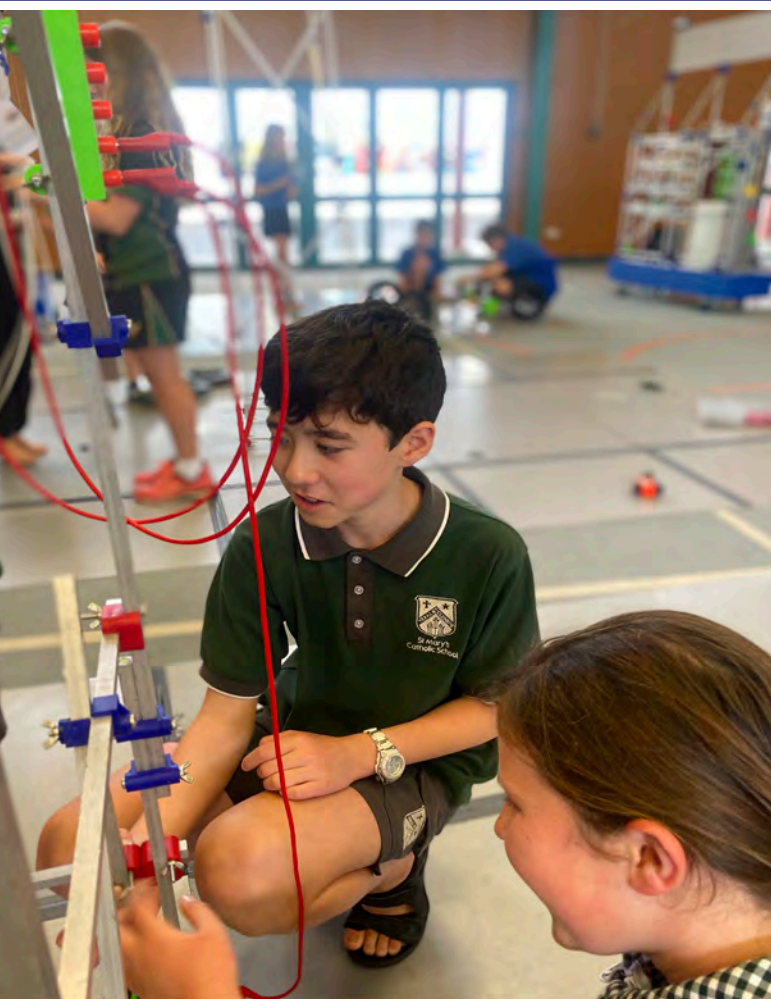
- 1st Sidney Orchard - 23 points
- 2nd Cormac Gardiner - 22 points
- 3rd = Oliver Laurie/Vaughan Murray - 5 points





## EPro 8

Congratulations to Cormac, Ivy, Leo and Ben for making the semi finals of the EPro 8 competition recently held at Tauranga Intermediate. They displayed amazing cooperation, problem solving and worked so well as an awesome team.



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



St Mary's  
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Our People Our Place

be.  
thankful

**RICOH**  
imagine. change.

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