



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Lent is a time of reflection, prayer, and repentance, during which we journey alongside Jesus Christ towards his ultimate sacrifice and resurrection. It is a period of spiritual renewal and transformation, inviting us to deepen our relationship with God and our commitment to living out His teachings in our daily lives.

Inspired by the example of St Thérèse of Lisieux, known for her simplicity, humility, and unwavering faith, let us embrace the spirit of Lent with open hearts and minds. St Thérèse's "little way" teaches us that even the smallest acts of love and kindness can have a profound impact in God's eyes. During this Lenten season, let us strive to follow in her footsteps by seeking opportunities to show compassion, forgiveness, and generosity to those around us, especially those in need. As we fast, pray, and give alms, may we grow closer to God and one another, embodying the true essence of discipleship.



Let us journey together as a school community, supporting and encouraging one another on our Lenten path. Through our collective prayers and actions, may we experience God's grace and mercy, and emerge from this season spiritually enriched and renewed in our commitment to living out the Gospel message. Wishing you all a blessed and meaningful Lenten season.

Laura Geaney
Principal

OPENING MASS



As we gathered in the church for our Opening Mass, we embarked on a new journey together—a journey filled with hope, faith, and the love of God. We also journey as a community—a family united in our pursuit of knowledge, growth, and love. Each one of us brings unique gifts and talents to this shared adventure, enriching our collective experience and fostering a spirit of collaboration and support.

Thank you to all those who attended this special event and to all the students and staff who played a part in preparing and celebrating the mass. We were very fortunate to have both Father Arul and Father Yornes with us, and thank them for their spiritual guidance.



SWIMMING LESSONS



It has been an incredible week of learning in the water at our school swimming lessons. Witnessing the growth and development of our children's water confidence and skills has truly been a joy. Throughout the week, we have seen remarkable progress as our students have become more comfortable and proficient in the water. We extend our thanks to the Swim Instructors at Onehunga Pools for their commitment to our children's safety and education in the water. Additionally, we want to express our appreciation to parents and caregivers for ensuring that their children were well-prepared and equipped for each day of swimming lessons.



MĀORI WITH WHAEA LIV



An introduction from Whaea Liv:

'My name is Liv and I am thrilled to be joining the St Therese School community through my role as the Kaiako Kapa Haka for Auckland Central Catholic Schools Kahui Ako. I was born and raised in Avondale and my family have called Auckland home for generations. My whakapapa connection ties strongly to Taranaki maunga and I take great pride in my Māori heritage. Having completed my BA in Māori and Indigenous Studies and Te Reo Māori last year, I am excited to share my passion for te ao Māori and Kapa Haka with the community of St Therese and other central Auckland primary schools. Here's to a fantastic year of collective sharing, exploration and learning.'



NAVIGATORS



Our homework club, Navigators, has had an exceptional beginning this term. It's been heartening to see a significant number of our students choosing to stay back after school from Monday to Thursday to participate in Navigators. In our school library, they've been tackling their homework tasks, supported by resources and guidance from our teachers. This initiative not only provides a conducive environment for focused learning but also ensures that students receive the assistance they need to navigate through their academic challenges successfully.



EXPLORING OUR JOURNEYS



The students of St Therese are thoroughly enjoying their journey-themed activities with our Creative, Geoff. We extend our gratitude to all families who have already supported their child in completing the 'Family Journey Story' Activity distributed on February 15th. For those yet to return their stories, we kindly ask that these be completed and returned by Monday 26th February, in preparation for our upcoming session with Geoff. During this session, children will have the opportunity to share their stories with their classmates, fostering a sense of community and connection within our school. As a reminder, all of these efforts will culminate in a spectacular school production at the end of term 2.

Geoff, with his extensive background in the arts, is not only facilitating storytelling but also guiding the children through activities that promote creativity, teamwork, and confidence-building. Through elements of drama techniques, Geoff is preparing our students to shine in the production. We are excited to witness the growth and development of our students as they embark on this creative journey, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements together as a school community.



UPCOMING SPORTING EXPERIENCES



We're pleased to share that on Tuesday, February 27th, our Year 5 and 6 students from Room 4 will be taking part in the Mt Roskill Zone T-ball Event. This event offers a wonderful opportunity for our students to connect with peers from other schools while learning a new sport. They'll have the chance to grow their enjoyment of physical activity and teamwork in a supportive environment.



In the coming weeks, our Year 4, 5, and 6 students will have the opportunity to learn about the exciting sport of Ki-o-rahi, thanks to the coaches from Ki o Rahi Tāmaki Makaurau. Ki-o-rahi is a dynamic ball sport played with a small round ball called a 'ki'. This fast-paced game combines elements from various sports like rugby union, netball, tag rugby, and touch, providing our students with a unique and engaging experience. We're excited for our students to develop new skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship through this enriching program.

All classes will engage in cricket sessions with Auckland Cricket over the coming weeks, scheduled for Fridays. Led by expert coaches, these sessions will focus on teaching fundamental skills of the game as part of our Physical Education Programme. We encourage students to come prepared by wearing their PE uniforms each Friday, as this day typically involves a range of physical education and movement activities.



ST THERESE SCHOOL NETBALL TEAMS FOR 2024



This week, students who have shown interest in playing for our Primary and Intermediate netball teams have received registration letters. We kindly request that these forms be returned by Friday, March 1st. However, for our teams to flourish, we rely on the support of volunteers from our community to coach, manage, and umpire. Your involvement in these roles is crucial for the success of our netball season. We want to emphasise that no prior experience is necessary – there will be plenty of training, guidance, and support available to ensure a fun and successful season for our students. Please consider sharing your time with us and volunteering for a role.

Together, we can make this netball season a memorable and rewarding experience for all involved.



VALUES AWARDS



In Term 1, our school's value focus centres around Courage - Maia. This foundational virtue plays a vital role in shaping the character and actions of our students. Courage manifests itself in various moments throughout our lives, from the seemingly small acts to the more significant challenges we encounter. It may be as simple as speaking up in class to share an idea or stepping out of one's comfort zone to try something new. It could also involve standing firm in the face of adversity, advocating for justice, or demonstrating empathy and compassion towards others in need. This term, we celebrate and recognise the displays of courage exhibited by our students in diverse situations.

As we explore the theme of Courage - Maia, we draw inspiration from the teachings of Jesus Christ, who exemplified unwavering courage in his mission to spread love, compassion, and justice. Like Jesus, we are called to embrace courage in our daily lives, reflecting God's will and embodying the values of our faith. Through courageous actions, we not only inspire others but also contribute to creating a more compassionate and just community, guided by the principles of love and faith.



CLASS MASSES



Father Yornes will be leading class masses for each of our classes this term, held in our school library. This arrangement provides a more intimate and informal space for our students to engage with the mass, fostering a deeper understanding of its components while strengthening their relationship with our parish priests and their faith journey. During these special gatherings, children will have the opportunity to explore the various parts of the mass, guided by Father Yornes.

Room 6 Class Mass – Wednesday 28th February
Room 4 Class Mass – Wednesday 6th March
Rooms 1 and 3 Class Mass – Wednesday 13th March



PARENT TEACHER MEETING



We would like to inform you that Parent-Teacher Meetings will be held on **Thursday, March 7th**, from 1pm to 6pm. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity for you to engage with your child's teachers, discuss their progress, and set goals for the remainder of the year. We encourage all parents to attend these important meetings to ensure the continued success and well-being of our students. **Please contact the school office to book your preferred time.**

Parent-teacher meetings serve as a crucial avenue for fostering collaboration between home and school. Research has consistently shown that parental involvement in education is linked to higher academic achievement, improved behaviour, and increased motivation in students. By actively participating in these meetings, parents can gain valuable insights into their child's academic performance, as well as contribute their own perspectives and concerns to the discussion.

Furthermore, Parent-Teacher Meetings provide an opportunity for parents to build meaningful relationships with their child's teachers. Establishing open lines of communication allows for ongoing dialogue about the student's progress and any challenges they may be facing. This partnership between parents and teachers creates a supportive environment where the needs of the student can be effectively addressed, ultimately leading to improved outcomes in their education.

St Therese School will officially **close at 12pm on this day** to facilitate the meetings. However, supervision will be available for children in our school library until 3pm. **Please contact the school office in advance to let us know if supervision is needed.** Please note that there will be **no Navigators on this day** to accommodate the Parent-Teacher Meetings.

We look forward to seeing every family at these important meetings. Your participation and support are invaluable in fostering a strong partnership between home and school, and together, we can ensure the continued success of our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you, and we look forward to productive and insightful discussions on March 7th.

