



17 September 2025

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Kia ora koutou,

Our annual Cultural Festival was a truly wonderful celebration of who we are as a community. The joy, colour, and pride on display reflected not only the rich diversity within our school, but also the strong bonds that hold us together. As educator and author James A. Banks reminds us, *"Diversity enriches the learning experience for all students by helping them develop greater respect for others and a deeper understanding of the world."* We witnessed that truth in abundance last week.

The preparation for this event was just as important as the performances themselves. Over two weeks, our tamariki engaged in authentic learning experiences that stretched across the curriculum. Our Year 7 & 8 students stepped into leadership roles, guiding younger children and discovering both the challenges and joys of teaching—from the patience needed to support a 5-year-old learning new steps, to the satisfaction of seeing them shine on stage. These moments gave our senior students real insight into responsibility, communication, and empathy.

The arts curriculum—through music, dance, and performance—was at the heart of the festival, but literacy and numeracy were also embedded throughout the process. From reading scripts and lyrics, to measuring timing and rhythm, our students engaged with core learning in meaningful ways. Experiences like this highlight how the arts deepen understanding, build confidence, and connect learning across subjects.

Equally important were the relationships strengthened along the way. The tuakana teina model—where older students support younger ones—was visible at every rehearsal. This Māori concept, deeply valued at St Therese, fosters reciprocal learning: older students grow as leaders and mentors, while younger students feel supported, encouraged, and inspired. Our staff played a vital role too—stepping in to guide when necessary, but stepping back to allow students the space to problem-solve and learn through the challenges.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible support of our parent community. Thank you for sending in costumes, preparing your children, cheering from the audience, and helping us pack away the hall. A special thank you to our Ethiopian community, who generously shared their New Year celebration with us—through word, dance, coffee, and food. It was a gift for all of us to experience this beautiful tradition together.

There is something truly special about gathering as a community to hold pride in our own culture, while celebrating and learning from others. Our Cultural Festival is always a highlight of the year for me, and this one was no exception. I am so proud of every one of our students and deeply grateful for the way our St Therese whānau continues to care for and support one another.

Let us carry this spirit forward into everything we do.

Additional photos from this event have been shared on our school Facebook page.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Laura Geaney
Principal





FEAST OF ST THERESE OF LISIUEX



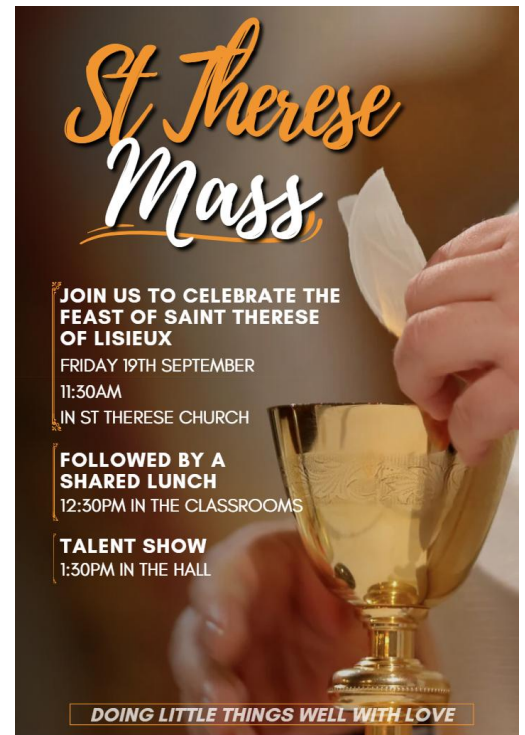
This Friday, 19th September, we will gather as a school to celebrate the Feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux, our patron saint. St Thérèse is often known as “The Little Flower” and is remembered for her “little way”—a simple but profound approach to life centred on doing small things with great love. She showed us that holiness is not about grand gestures, but about everyday acts of kindness, patience, and love for God and others.

We will begin our celebrations with Mass in the church at 11:30am, led by our students. We warmly invite all parents, caregivers, and whānau to join us for this special occasion.

After Mass, students will return to their classrooms for a shared lunch. We kindly ask each family to send a plate of food for students to share with their peers. Please note that there will be no school lunches delivered on this day.

At 1:30pm, we will gather in the hall for our much-anticipated School Talent Show. This is always a highlight of the term, as students showcase their wide range of talents and passions. It is a joyful way to celebrate our students and end the term together as a community.

School will finish at the usual time of 3:00pm, after which we wish all our students a happy and restful two-week school break. We hope this is a chance for families to enjoy time together and for our tamariki to simply enjoy being children. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the start of Term 4 on Monday, 6th October.



FATHER'S DAY LITURGY



Last week we gathered as a school community to celebrate our annual Father's Day Liturgy. It was a beautiful occasion where we celebrated our fathers, grandfathers, and the special men in our children's lives. Our students led the prayers, readings, and music with reverence and joy, reminding us of the gift of fatherhood and the important role these figures play in shaping our young people.

The liturgy was also a moment of gratitude. We gave thanks for the guidance, love, and sacrifices that fathers and father figures make each day. We also prayed for those who could not be with us, and remembered those who live on in our hearts.

What stood out most were the voices of our children, who shared in their own words what makes their dads so special. Some spoke of the love that surrounds them each day: *"I love my dad because he loves me."* Others noticed the effort and humour their dads bring into their lives: *"I love my dad because he works hard for our family and he is funny."* Many celebrated the everyday moments that mean the most—playing football together, reading bedtime stories, or flipping pancakes on a Saturday morning. One child summed it up simply: *"I love my dad because he gives the best hugs."* These heartfelt reflections reminded us all of the unique and irreplaceable role fathers play in their children's lives.



BLUE LIGHT POLICE COMPETENCY TEST



Yesterday, four of our students proudly represented St Therese School at the 2025 National Blue Light Police Competency Test (PCT), held at the Auckland Netball Centre in St Johns. Una, Ofa, Simone, and Moses took on the challenge of completing the same obstacle course used to assess aspiring police officers.

The event was about more than just physical fitness — it was a chance for our students to develop teamwork, resilience, and leadership under pressure. From climbing and crawling to sprinting and problem-solving, every part of the course required determination and cooperation. Our team showed great spirit and represented our school with pride.

A huge thank you to Mrs Paterson for accompanying and supporting our team throughout the day. We are incredibly proud of our students for stepping up to this challenge.



TE WIKI O TE REO – MĀORI LANGUAGE WEEK



This week at St Therese School we are proud to be celebrating Māori Language Week. Te reo Māori is a taonga (treasure) of Aotearoa, and this week provides us with a special opportunity to strengthen its place in our school. As Sir Tīmoti Kāretu has said, *“Ko te reo te mauri o te mana Māori”* — *“The language is the life force of the Māori people.”*

Throughout the week, our students have been engaging in a variety of activities to celebrate and deepen their learning. They are practising te reo Māori in everyday conversations, sharing their pepeha, singing waiata, performing haka, and exploring aspects of Māori history and culture. It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and confidence growing as our tamariki embrace the language and traditions that are such an important part of who we are as a nation.

At St Therese, we believe that celebrating Māori language and culture enriches our school community and strengthens our identity as New Zealanders. This week is another step in our ongoing journey of learning, respect, and connection.



CANS FOR CHRISTMAS



A huge thank you to our St Therese community for your generous support of our Cans for Christmas fundraiser. Together, we collected an incredible number of food donations, which have now been gifted to St Vincent de Paul. These will go directly to families in need this Christmas, bringing comfort and support during what can be a difficult time of year.

This initiative was a powerful way for our students to live out our school values. From bringing in donations with pride, to understanding the impact of giving, our tamariki saw that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference in the lives of others.

We are so grateful to every family who contributed. Thank you for helping us share the true spirit of Christmas beyond our own school gates.



CONGRATULATION TO OUR VALUES WINNERS



We congratulate our most recent Values Award winners, who have been recognised for showing Excellence in their learning and in the way they contribute to our school community.

★ William Fineanganofa ★ Joeli Gilling ★ Victoria Veukiso ★ Eric Basil
★ Siola'a Ve'a ★ Langa Niva ★ Lauti Niva

These students have demonstrated that Excellence is seen in many ways — through taking pride in their work, showing determination when faced with challenges, and encouraging others to do the same. Their attitude and commitment remind us that success comes from small, consistent steps as much as from big achievements.

At St Therese School, our values guide everything we do. When our students live out these values, they strengthen the culture of care, respect, and growth that makes our kura such a special place to belong to. We are so proud of our winners and the example they are setting for others.

Keep aiming high and continue to inspire those around you. You are wonderful role models for our St Therese whānau.



PHOTOSHOOT FUNDRAISER – SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL



We are excited to be partnering with New Zealand Family Portraits for a very special Photoshoot Fundraiser happening on Saturday 18th October right here at St Therese School Library.

For just \$30, your family will receive a professional 10" x 13" colour family portrait — normally valued at \$79! This is not only an incredible deal, but also a wonderful way to support our school community.


Why Get Involved?

- \$30 goes directly to the school — every single booking makes a difference.
- Additional portraits will be available to purchase at discounted prices, with no obligation.
- Family, friends, neighbours, and extended whānau are welcome — the more, the merrier!

How to Book

- Pay online to the school bank account: 12-3033-0353893-00.
Reference: *Photoshoot + your child's name*
- Once payment is received, you will be contacted to select your appointment time.



 **Viewing and collection of portraits** will take place on Wednesday 22nd October between 2:30–4:30pm.

TERM 3 EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Friday 19 th September	St Therese Feast Day Mass from 11:30am-12:30pm in the church Shared Lunch from 12:30pm-1:30pm in the classrooms Talent Show from 1:30pm-2:45pm in the hall
Friday 19 th September	Last Day of Term 3. School finished at 3pm.

TERM 4 EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Monday 6 th October	Term 4 starts at 8:50am
Tues 7 th – Thurs 9 th October	Life Education Mobile Classroom lessons
Friday 10 th October	Auckland Squash lunchtime session
Tues 14 th & Wed 15 th October	Getwise Financial Literacy Lesson for Rooms 3 & 4
Friday 17 th October	Assembly at 2:15pm in the school library
Saturday 18 th October	Family Photoshoot Fundraiser
Tuesday 21 st October	Mt Roskill Zone Have a Go Day for selected Room 3 & 4 students
Wednesday 22 nd October	Wheels Day
Thursday 23 rd October	School closed - NZEI members industrial strike action
Monday 27 th October	School closed – Labour Day
Thursday 30 th October	Lessons with Father Yornes
Thursday 30 th October	Board of Trustees Meeting at 6pm
Friday 31 st October	All Saints Day & All Souls Day Liturgy
Friday 31 st October	Assembly led by Room 1 at 2:15pm in the school library
Tuesday 4 th November	St Therese Athletics Day
Friday 14 th November	Assembly led by Room 6 at 2:15pm in the school library
Friday 14 th November	Family Fun Event on the school field from 3pm-6pm
Tues 25 – Thurs 27 th November	Year 7 & 8 BLAKE Camp
Wednesday 26 th November	Board of Trustees Meeting at 6pm
Friday 28 th November	Assembly led by Room 4 at 2:15pm in the school library
Thursday 4 th December	Nativity Play at 3:15pm in the hall (Rooms 1, 3, and 4)
Sunday 7 th December	Carols at the King Performance 5:30pm-7:30pm at Three Kings Reserve
Monday 8 th December	Ballet workshops for all classes
Tuesday 9 th December	Whole school trip to the Nutcracker Ballet
Tuesday 9 th December	Graduation Mass at 5opm in the church – whole school to attend
Wednesday 10 th December	Colour Fun Run Fundraising Event
Thursday 11 th December	Last Day of Navigators for 2025
Friday 12 th December	Prizegiving at 11am in the hall followed by Shared Lunch Reports will be sent out via HERO
Monday 15 th December	Year 8 End of Year Trip to Onehunga Pools
Monday 15 th December	Assembly led by Room 3 at 2:15pm in the school library
Tuesday 16 th December	Last day of Term 4. School closes at 12pm

LOOKING AHEAD – 2026 TERM DATES



2026 Term Dates				Public Holidays
Term 1	Monday 2 nd February	to	Thursday 2 nd April	Waitangi Day- Thursday 6 th February
Term 2	Monday 20 th April	to	Friday 3 rd July	ANZAC Day- observed Monday 27 th April King's Birthday- Monday 1 st June
Term 3	Monday 20 th July	to	Friday 25 th September	-
Term 4	Monday 12 th October	to	Monday 14 th December	Labour Day- Monday 26 th October