



25 August 2025

STUDENT-LED LEARNING CONVERSATIONS – A GREAT SUCCESS



We are delighted to reflect on the success of our Student-Led Learning Conversations held on Thursday 21st August. It was a truly special afternoon, with students confidently leading discussions about their learning, progress, and goals for the future.

These conversations provided a valuable opportunity for students to take ownership of their learning journey — to reflect on their achievements, articulate their next steps, and celebrate their growth with the people who matter most to them. It was heartening to see so many parents and whānau engaging with their child's learning in such a meaningful way.

The positive feedback we received from families reinforces the importance of these events in strengthening the partnership between home and school. We extend our sincere thanks to all those who attended and supported the event. Your presence and engagement send a powerful message to your children: that their learning is important, valued, and supported.

We look forward to continuing this shared journey of learning and growth at St Therese School.



HAVE YOU HAD YOUR SAY YET? GATHERING WHANAU VOICE



A huge thank you to those who have already completed our Community Consultation Survey — your voice matters. To the rest of our parent and whānau community, we sincerely need more voices at the table. So far, we have only received a handful of responses — and while we are grateful for them, they are not enough to reflect the hopes, ideas, and dreams of our wider community.

Every few years, schools are required to develop a Strategic Plan — a document that sets our direction and priorities for the next three years. This shapes how we teach, how we allocate resources, what we focus on, and how we create the best possible learning environment for your children.

👉 This is your chance to influence the future of St Therese School.

You see your children grow, thrive, and experience daily life at our school. Your perspective is incredibly valuable. What do you love about our school? What possibilities could we explore further? What hopes do you hold for your child's education in the years ahead?

We know life gets busy — but this is a moment that truly matters. It takes just a few minutes to complete the survey, and your input will help shape a shared vision for learning, growth, and success at St Therese School.

📄 The survey is available on HERO and was also provided in hard copy at the Student-Led Learning Conversations. If you need another copy or help accessing the survey, please contact the school office.



Let's work together to shape the future of St Therese School — one that reflects our shared values and aspirations as a school community.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE



Congratulations to the recent recipients of our Excellence Value Awards.

- ✦ Rebecca Sebin
- ✦ Enrique Nithin
- ✦ Simione Otufangavalu
- ✦ Shreyansh Rajput
- ✦ Catherine Akhil Joe
- ✦ Sina Su'a
- ✦ Abemelek Nuguse

At each school assembly, our teachers thoughtfully share the reasons behind their student selections. It is always uplifting to hear these stories — moments where our students have gone above and beyond in their learning, behaviour, or service to others.



We hear about academic achievement, exemplary conduct, acts of service, and demonstrations of resilience and perseverance. These awards reflect the many ways our students live out the value of *excellence* — not by being perfect, but by striving to be the very best versions of themselves.

We are proud of all our students who continue to demonstrate these qualities in their daily school life.



A GREAT DAY ON THE COURT – ZONE NETBALL TOURNAMENT



On Wednesday, our Year 5 & 6 Netball Team represented St Therese School at the Mt Roskill Zone Netball Tournament. The students showed exceptional commitment, teamwork, and perseverance throughout the day, giving each game their full effort and maintaining a positive attitude both on and off the court. The sunshine made for perfect playing conditions, and our team made the most of every opportunity to grow their skills and support one another.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Tracey and Nicole, who coached and guided the team with positivity and care. A special thank you also to Rosanne, whose encouragement and practical support (including snacks and hydration) ensured our players were well looked after. Our appreciation also goes to Ms Duarte for her behind-the-scenes coordination and ongoing support of school sport.



CULTURAL PRACTICES BEGIN NEXT WEEK



We are excited to begin preparations for our annual Cultural Festival, a much-anticipated event that celebrates the rich diversity within our St Therese School community. This week, students will begin Cultural Group practices during school hours. By now, your child(ren) will have selected the cultural group they wish to be part of — some have chosen to celebrate their own heritage, while others are exploring a culture different from their own through dance and performance.

Our Year 7 & 8 students, supported by staff, will be leading the practices over the next three weeks. It's a full and energetic time of learning and collaboration as each group prepares their performance.

The festival will culminate in a whole-school performance for whānau and our wider community on Thursday 11th September at 3:15pm in the school hall.

We welcome and encourage **parent involvement** in a few ways:

- Attending practices during school hours to help guide and support our Year 7 & 8 student leaders,
- Helping with costume preparation and dressing students on the day,
- Assisting with set-up for the performance in the school hall and pack away.

If you are able to support in any of these areas, please contact the school office — your help would be greatly appreciated.

Please also keep an eye on the HERO app, as all costume information and updates will be shared through the Community Feed. We look forward to another fabulous Cultural Festival — a joyful celebration of identity, unity, and the beauty of diversity at St Therese School.



CANS FOR CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER & MUFTI DAY



On Friday 29th August, St Therese School will be participating in the Cans for Christmas initiative — a nationwide effort to support families in need during the Christmas season.

We invite students to bring in canned food or other non-perishable items to contribute to this cause. All donations will be passed on to St Vincent de Paul, who will distribute them to families experiencing hardship over the holiday period.

To mark the occasion, students are welcome to wear mufti (non-uniform clothing) on the day.

If you are in a position to do so, we warmly encourage your family to contribute to this important fundraiser. Every can counts, and together, we can help bring a little extra hope and support to others this Christmas.



UIKE KĀTOANGA'I 'O E LEA FAKA-TONGA – TONGA LANGUAGE WEEK



Theme: *Ko 'etau lea, ko e fe'unu mahu'inga ia ki he mo'ui 'a e Tonga – Our language is a vital strand of our Tongan culture.*

This week, St Therese School proudly joined the nationwide celebration of Tonga Language Week — a time to honour the rich language, heritage, and contributions of our Tongan community. The 2025 theme reminds us that language is more than communication — it is a powerful connector to identity, belonging, and cultural knowledge.

We were privileged to witness a special assembly presentation led by our Room 6 students, who spoke confidently and performed with pride to celebrate Tongan language and culture. Their leadership and spirit truly reflected the heart of this year's theme.



A very special mālō 'aupito to our amazing parent, Ofaloto, who generously brought in delicious chop suey for our students to enjoy as part of the celebration. Your kindness and support made the day extra memorable.

The Tongan community has always played a significant role in the life of St Therese School, and we are grateful for the opportunity to learn, celebrate, and deepen our understanding together.

Mālō 'aupito to all who made this week so meaningful.

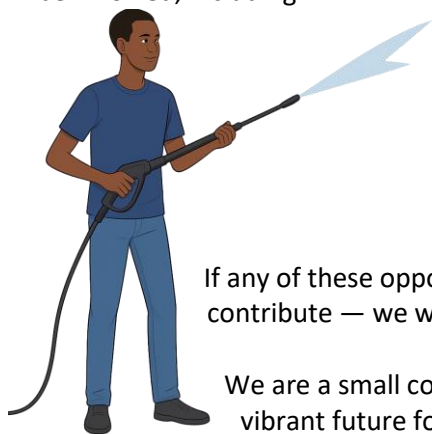


HELPING HANDS – VOLUTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



A heartfelt thank you to **Mehari**, one of our parent community members and a Parent Representative on the Board of Trustees, who has generously given his time on weekends to help the school with various maintenance jobs. We deeply appreciate the time, energy, and care Mehari continues to offer in support of our school. Thank you for your generosity and service.

At St Therese School, we believe in the strength of community. We are always looking for parent and whānau volunteers who can lend a hand — whether during school hours or outside of them. There are a variety of ways to be involved, including:



- Gardening and weeding
- Assisting with learning in classrooms
- Organising and preparing school resources
- Delivering flyers in the community
- Supporting school trips and events
- Helping with set-up and pack-down for events

If any of these opportunities appeal to you — or if you have a unique skill, idea, or way you'd like to contribute — we warmly invite you to get in touch with the school office.

We are a small community with a big heart, and together, we can continue building a bright and vibrant future for St Therese School.

JOB VACANCY AT THE CATHEDRAL



The Cathedral wishes to employ a person part-time for 25 hours per week as the parish Pastoral Coordinator. This role is to assist the Cathedral Dean to ensure that the pastoral and administrative needs of the parish are met.

The role provides pastoral assistance and is responsible for the coordination of the Parish Education Programmes and assisting with Sunday morning Masses.

Applicants should be active Catholics able to partake in the full sacramental life of the church, with theological formation (preferred) and ministerial experience. Good communication, planning and organisation skills are essential. Applicants for this position must have NZ residency or a valid NZ work permit.

To view the full advert, position description and how to apply, please visit: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/

Applications close at 5pm on 4th September 2025..

FATHER'S DAY LITURGY – FRIDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER



We warmly invite our school community to join us for a special student-led Liturgy in celebration of all the fathers, uncles, grandfathers, and significant male role models in our students' lives.

Date: Friday 5th September

Time: 2:30pm

Location: St Therese Church

This is a wonderful opportunity to come together in prayer and gratitude, as we acknowledge the love, guidance, and strength these men provide in our whānau and school community.

Our theme is inspired by the words of Proverbs 20:7:

"The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him."

Let us give thanks for the men who walk with integrity and lead with love.

We look forward to seeing many of you there as we come together to reflect, celebrate, and give thanks.

SMILE FOR THE CAMERA – SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL



We are thrilled 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!
- A great way to update your family photos before the holidays.



How to Book

- Return the registration form (sent home with your child today) and \$30 payment to the school office, or
- 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.

Let's Rally Together!

We know that St Therese is a small school with a big heart. This fundraiser is not just about raising money — it's about coming together as a community and celebrating the beautiful whānau that make our school so special.

For questions or help with booking, please contact the school office.

STAY CONNECTED WITH ST THERESE



Keep up to date with all the learning, events, celebrations, and important reminders happening in our school community by following us on Facebook and Instagram!

Facebook: St Therese School

Instagram: @saintthereseschool_nz

TERM 3 EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Monday 25 th August	Cultural Group practices begin during school hours
Tuesday 26 th August	MRZ Football Tournament for Room 4 students at Keith Hay Park
Thursday 28 th August	Māori and Pacific Maths Challenge for 4 selected Year 5 & 6 students
Thursday 28 th August	Board of Trustees Meeting at 6pm in the school office
Friday 29 th August	Cans for Christmas Fundraiser Mufti Day
Thursday 4 th September	School Assembly led by Room 4 at 2:15pm in the school library
Friday 5 th September	Father's Day Liturgy at 2.25pm in the church
Monday 8 th – Friday 12 th Sep	Catholic Social Justice Week
Thursday 11 th September	Cultural Festival Performances from 3:15pm in the hall
Friday 12 th September	St Therese Cross Country from 11:30am-1pm on the school field
Monday 15 th September	School Assembly led by Room 3 at 2:15pm in the school library
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.