



# ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Following in the footsteps of Jesus

## Newsletter 29 November 2023

Kia Ora, Welcome, Hello, Ni hāo, Talofa Lava, Hallo, Salut, Namaste, Bonjour, Bula Vinaka, Guten Tag, Shalom, Cìào, おはよう (Ohayoou), 안녕 Ahn Nyeong, Olá, Privet!, Xin Chào, Kia Orana, Malo e Lelei, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Sat Shari Akal, Melo Ni, Halo Ola Keta, Mauri, Fakaalofa Atu, Salam, Welkom.

### KEY DATES

Date	What	Details
Wed 29 Nov	Thanksgiving Whole-school Mass	6pm in Parish Church
Thurs 30 Nov	Last day of swimming for Torotoro and Whakatere teams	
Friday 1 Dec	Welcome to summer tabloids/athletic sports fun day	
Wed 6 Dec	Christmas concert, Nativity and special awards from 1.15pm in the Church	
Wed 13 Dec	Last day wearing school uniform	
Thurs 14 Dec	Christmas-themed mufti and teddy bear picnic (shared lunch)	
Frid 15 Dec	Last day of 2023 (mufti day) - <b>school closes at noon</b> / reports emailed home	
Wed 20 Dec	2024 stationery and class lists emailed home	
Thurs 25 Jan	School office open from 10am - 1pm for general enquiries	
Tues 30 Jan	School office open from 10am - 1pm for general enquiries	
Wed 31 Jan	First day of 2024 school year	

### THANKSGIVING MASS - tonight at 6pm in the Parish Church

**Please note: children are to meet in their class groups in the Parish Centre between 5.45 and 5.55pm**

This is a **whole-school** Mass for our community to come together in prayer to give thanks for the year that's been. There is the expectation for **ALL** children to attend in the correct school uniform. At this special Mass, our Year 6 graduates will be formally thanked and farewelled. Families of Year 6 graduates are invited to bring a **small** plate of finger foods and join together for a light supper in the Parish centre after the Mass.

### END OF YEAR EVENTS

- This Friday, we encourage all children to wear summer colours or house coloured sports clothing as we observe the first official day of summer. The teaching team has planned some fun activities for the children to enjoy.

- You are warmly invited to next Wednesday's Christmas concert, Nativity and Special Awards event. This is being held in the Parish Church with a start time of 1.15pm.
- Wednesday 13 December is the last day for wearing school uniform
- On Thursday 14 December, a teddy bears picnic is planned. Children are welcome to wear Christmas - themed mufti and bring along a small teddy bear of their choice. As this is a shared lunch, children should bring a **small** plate of finger foods to share with their class friends (nothing that needs to be cut or heated please). If your child has specific dietary requirements, they should bring their own packed-lunch.
- On Friday 15 December, school closes at noon.

## **A WARM ST MARK'S WELCOME**

Welcome to our newest learners and their families: Stephanie (Room 8) and Ryaile (Room 4)

## **BOT - STAFFING NEWS**

- An error was noted in the previous newsletter - we look forward to welcoming Sarah Rinloo Danny (not Davey) to our staff team in 2024.
- At last night's BOT meeting, Beverley Dias-McAllum's resignation letter was tabled and accepted. Beverley has been awarded a position at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School in Epsom. Again, whilst we are saddened by this news, we are genuinely happy and excited for Beverley as she embarks on a new journey in her teaching career. A special note of thanks to Beverley for leading our school's Special Catholic Character as DRS since 2019.
- We congratulate Tracey for being awarded the Lead Principal role for the SECKA Kahui Ako. This will see Tracey managing two important positions - leading our school into its next strategic phase and overseeing the Kahui Ako cluster of schools (ELIM, OLSOS, KINGSGATE, SMCPs, SMC). This position is currently held by Mrs Louise Campbell, Principal of OLSOS.

## **PROPERTY NEWS**

- During the summer holiday break the administration area and the corridor adjacent to Rooms 1,2 and 3 will be modernised. This is a joint project with the Catholic Diocese of Auckland.
- The BOT approved funding for additional shading around the school - this will see replacement sails being installed above the sandpit and over the concrete tennis table area as well as a new shade structure over the Junior Playground.
- Thanks to the generous support of the PTFA, new furnishings have been purchased for classrooms. We are making a move away from single desks to group tables. From Wed 13th Dec - Fri 15th Dec desks will be outside at the front of the school if you would like to take one for home.
- First come, first served - the soft furnishings in the reception area (2 couches and 1 chair) are 'up for grabs'. All we ask is that you arrange your own transportation to take away these items on Friday 15th December. If interested, Contact Tracey directly: [tkopua@stmarks.school.nz](mailto:tkopua@stmarks.school.nz)

## **ENROLLING NOW FOR 2024 AND BEYOND**

NEW ENTRANTS: If you, or anyone you know, has a child and/or children turning 5 in the next year or so, please do connect directly with Kerrie Hunt in our school office to lodge an expression of interest and to collect an enrolment pack.

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE: We are also accepting enquiries and enrolments from families who may be seeking schooling for their child/children across different year levels. Limited spaces are available so register your interest quickly to avoid disappointment.

For all enrolment enquiries, please contact Kerrie Hunt: [admin@stmarks.school.nz](mailto:admin@stmarks.school.nz)

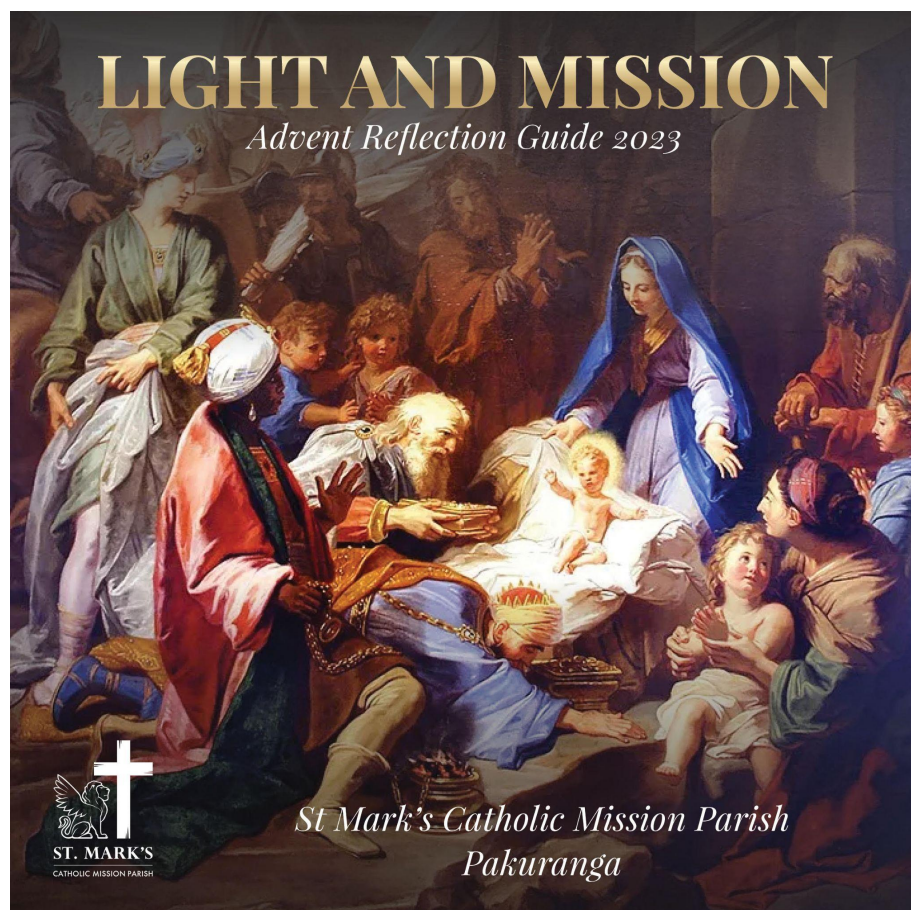
## SECOND HAND UNIFORM

**Second hand uniform donations** - we are always seeking donations of pre-loved uniform items that are in good condition. Donations can be handed into the school office.

**Volunteers required** - St Mark's PTFA runs the second hand uniform shop. Currently we only have a couple of volunteers to oversee the shop's operation and this restricts opening times/hours. Can you help? If so, please let the school know by emailing Tracey Kopua who will pass information to the PTFA exec: [tkopua@stmarks.school.nz](mailto:tkopua@stmarks.school.nz)

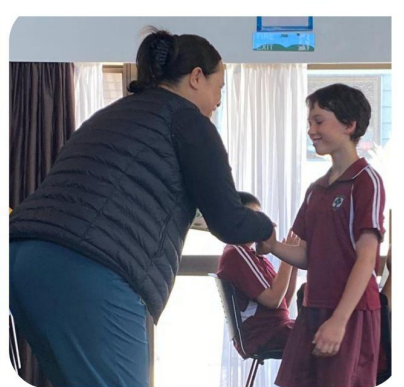
## ADVENT REFLECTION GUIDE

Please support St Mark's Parish Youth ministry by purchasing an Advent Reflection Guide for \$10 through Kindo. Sales close on Wednesday 6 December.



*The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord. – Henri Nouwen*

## Making Magical Memories at St Mark's



## *Following in the footsteps of Jesus* **At St Mark's Catholic School**

Learners at St Mark's are reminded to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. To encourage learners to do this, we reference our school's ABCs and 3Rs.

ABCs: A - AROHA; B - BELIEF; C - COURAGE  
3Rs: RESPECT; RESPONSIBILITY; RESILIENCE

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