

ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seek and you shall find



Newsletter

14 May 2024

Kia Ora, Welcome, Hello, Nǐ hǎo, Talofa Lava, Hallo, Salut, Namaste, Bonjour, Bula Vinaka, Guten Tag, Shalom, Cìào, おはよう (Ohayou), 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
Monday 20 May	PENTECOST LITURGY	Dress in cultural clothing or wear something red
Tuesday 21 May	HPPA Netball Field day	
Thursday 23 May	Camp Information sessions in Room 1	at 2.15pm and repeated at 6.30pm
Thursday 30 May	Choir Festival practice from 9 - 10.30am	at Farm Cove Intermediate
Monday 3 June	King's Birthday	school is closed
Tuesday 4 June	Staff Only Professional Development day	school is closed
Thursday 6 June	HPPA Soccer Field day	
Friday 7 June	Trees for Survival planting day	details TBC
Wednesday 12 June	Museum Trip	Rooms 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7
Friday 14 June	Museum Trip	Rooms 1, 10, 11 and 12
Tuesday 18 June	HPPA Hockey Field day	
24 - 27 June	KEEPING OURSELVES SAFE	with Constable Matt Green - details TBC
Thursday 27 June	School Disco	details TBC
Friday 28 June	Matariki public holiday	school is closed
Friday 5 July	Last day of Term 3	PJ mufti-day

FEAST OF PENTECOST - CULTURAL MUFTI-DAY

The feast of Pentecost marks the beginning of the apostolic church and the mission to spread the good news to all corners of the globe. St Mark's is a richly diverse school reflecting the spread of christianity and catholicism. We would like to invite children to wear cultural clothing, or the colour RED on Monday 20 May to celebrate this special feast day.

Special Catholic Character

Prayer for the Feast of the Ascension



Dear Lord Jesus Christ, Right before your Ascension into heaven you told your apostles to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth upon receiving the Holy Spirit. May I be similarly inspired to spread your Gospel message in word and deed, according to your will for me. Amen

Liturgical Year

12 May - The Ascension: The church celebrates this feast 40 days after Easter. After His resurrection Jesus completed his work on earth and ascended to heaven on this day. The Ascension enabled the disciples to carry on the mahi of Jesus and spread the Good News.

19 May - Pentecost Sunday: When Jesus ascended to heaven, the apostles and Mary were present in the upper room. *“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them”.* Acts 2: 1- 4.

Pentecost is also known as the birthday of the church. This is because after receiving the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit, the apostles went out and preached Jesus’ message to everyone—even those who spoke other languages.

26 May - Corpus Christi: We celebrate the presence of Jesus in the Body and Blood (bread and wine) at the Eucharist.

WINTER UNIFORM

Now the weather has cooled, we would like to see all students wearing the correct winter uniform. Uniforms help create a feeling of oneness and belonging. The St Mark’s uniform is an integral part of our school’s proud Catholic identity. Please ensure your child wears the correct uniform items to school every day - this includes socks and shoes. If you require uniform items, you can purchase on-line here: <https://stmarks.nzuniforms.com> or at the second-hand uniform shop that is open at these times:

Tuesday: 2.30 - 3.00pm and Friday: 8.30 - 9.00am

If your child requires alternative uniform items due to allergies/ health reasons, please speak to Mrs Hodgson, Our School’s Associate Principal and SENCO (special needs coordinator) in the first instance.

CHANGE OF SEASONS - ills and chills

Over the past week or so we have experienced a wave of sickness/illness across our school. If your child is sick they should be kept home until they are well enough to return. If your child is coughing, sneezing and feeling generally unwell during the school day you will be called to collect your child. As you can appreciate, colds, flus and covid are highly contagious and we would like to keep as many of our students and staff well.

PLEASE SLOW DOWN AROUND THE SCHOOL/PARISH PROPERTY

Community safety is a priority at St Mark's. Please ensure you drive safely in the car park and Parish grounds. Please watch your speed as you travel down the shared driveway and remember to only turn left at the exit beside KFC during peak traffic times.

BEFORE SCHOOL DROP-OFF

Children should not be dropped at school before 8.20am. If children arrive at school before this time they will be sent to SKIDS and this will incur a financial charge.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LEARNERS

We extend a warm St Mark's welcome to: Roain, Elle, Ethan, Dylan and Liam-James

Message from the Principal

Wow - what a wonderful start to Term 2! The first couple of weeks have been action packed and I thank you for your awesome support of last Sunday's Mass and bake-sale. It is always great to come together as a faith community to pray and I commend your beautiful children for their reverent and respectful participation in the Mass.

Classrooms are happy and settled. Students have enjoyed some mini-topics focused on St Mark, ANZAC day, Mother's day and the feast of the Ascension. We are also delving deeper into the NZ histories curriculum to consider the relationship/connection to place and the environment: *Tūrangawaewae me te kaitiakitanga* and trips to the Auckland museum are being planned. Many students are busy preparing for a variety of inter school sporting and cultural events. Our school will be represented in Soccer, Netball, Hockey, Junior Dance, Senior Dance, Kapa Haka and Choir. I thank the staff for affording the children these wonderful lunchtime clubs through their leadership in coaching/facilitating these activities.

Our partnership with Trees4Survival (<https://www.tfsnz.org.nz/>) will see the Year 5 children involved in a planting day this term. This is a great opportunity for the children to learn more about caring for the environment as we help protect vulnerable land from the effects of erosion.

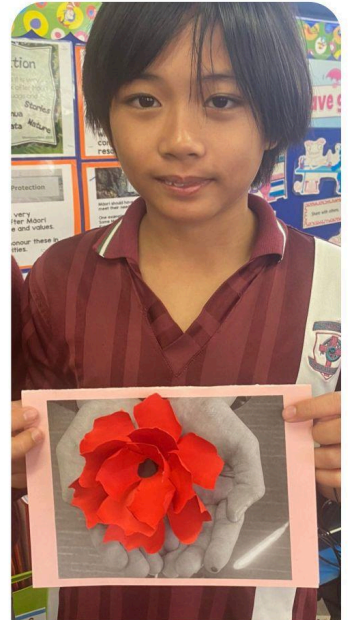
The Parish sacramental programme is well underway and approximately 30 children from our school will be confirmed and receive their first holy communion. Continued thoughts and prayers for all the candidates and their families as they prepare to receive these blessed gifts of God's grace.

A reminder that we use Schooldocs to manage our policies. This is a web-based system that allows us to maintain, update and review our policies. Schooldocs provides us with a comprehensive core set of policies, which have been well researched and follow the Ministry of Education National Administration Guidelines. Parents can logon to the site and view policies and provide feedback. This term, the school BOT is reviewing the EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITY section. You can visit the site at: <https://stmarks.schooldocs.co.nz> (note that there's no "www.")

Our username is "**stmarks**" and password "**seekfind**"

Your friend in Christ
Tracey Kopua

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