



St Thomas More Catholic School

School Newsletter
Panui
Week 8, Term 1
22nd March, 2018.
Nau mai, Haere mai.

Welcome to Thomas Gregorio who has celebrated his 5th birthday and joined Pipi.



Palm Sunday.... this Sunday....

We'd love it if any children who can make it to Mass at 9.30 am, could meet on the yellow brick road in front of the school dressed as one of a Jewish crowd. (tea towels are the quick fix).

Father Stuart is arranging for our children to lead the procession into church with palm branches, calling Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna to the King.

It is Palm Sunday, the day Jesus travelled into the city of Jerusalem where he was met by crowds waving palm fronds calling out in excited voices. Jesus had been travelling around Galilee speaking to as many people as he could, sometimes healing people when requested and sharing the vision of God's Kingdom. This photo shows how steep the road was. It is the same road which Jesus and his disciples took to enter Jerusalem. At the bottom of the hill we passed the olive groves to the right known as the Garden of Gethsemane.



Thank you for coming out in big numbers to speak with the Catholic review team last week. John, Terry and Sister Anne were very positive about the response they got to their questions in regard to the special character of the school and how everyone was contributing to strengthening our special status here at St. Thomas More. The team assured us that the report would be sent out to the Board as soon as they can write it.

You're invited to the Stations of the Cross drama on Wednesday starting at 11.00 in the church. Our Year 6 students are performing a play and sharing prayers about the journey of Jesus to the Cross.

Update on Kina teachers

Both Ms Pirini and Mrs Meredith have been absent from school this week. Ms Pirini is returning to Kina on Monday however Mrs Meredith is taking another week before she returns from bereavement leave on Wednesday after Easter. Thank you to Ms Lees, Mrs

Milne, Mrs McHugh and Miss Turnbull for keeping everything running so smoothly in Kina team. Much appreciated.

Union meeting yesterday

Thank you for hearing our request and picking up children early yesterday. We had so many parents who took time out to collect their children that I was able to release all the union teachers to attend. The union meeting was focussed on two areas of concern (1) supporting special needs children through increasing teacher aide hours and providing more specialist teachers (2) providing more in-school time for teachers to meet in collaborative teams to assess and plan for students (3) time for teachers with curriculum responsibilities to work alongside their colleagues to improve teacher effectiveness.

Congratulations to Oscar and Nathan – Golf champions



Nathan and Oscar represented our school at the Inter-schools' golf tournament held at Omanu Golf Course on Monday. Nathan had the highest score and the combined scores of both boys took out the Schools Competition.

Mum did a great job as caddy and cheer leader. Good on you Hazel.

Teacher aide position

We have several students who need support with English as a second language. We are looking for someone who could work alongside students for two hours a day, four days a week, during Term 2.

Ideally if you have had experience working in a classroom or have capabilities in written/spoken English and either Tagalog or Portuguese, this is the job for you.

Teacher aide rates are: \$18.50 per hour and we have funding for one term to start off with. There are oral language programmes and resources at school which you can follow.

You would be working alongside teachers and teacher aides to support students.

The main thing would be keeping a regular timetable i.e. four sessions per week.

If you are interested in finding out more please email me principal@stm.school.nz

Invitation to a social evening for PTFA mums and dads.

The Board of Trustees (Matt, Peter, Maria, Janine, Cathy, Colin, Steve, Therese, Richard, Kath Kerry and Fr Darren) would like to invite members of the school Parents, Teachers and Friends Association to a social evening to thank you for all the fundraising that you do to support our children at St. Thomas More. We are bringing the nibbles and drinks...we really want you to relax and enjoy our hospitality.

Where: in the staffroom. Starting at 6 p.m. On Thursday 12th April. Please RSVP to Jane for catering purposes either by message or by email secretary@stm.school.nz

Board of trustees news

At our first meeting of the year Peter Deering was elected Chairperson. Steve Scott is stepping down from this position and is leaving the board. The reason being that all of Vicki and Steve's children have moved through our school and onto Aquinas College now after 12 years' involvement with our school in various ways (trips, coaching sport, camp parents, PTFA and BOT).

With Steve signalling that he will be resigning, the Board is setting up for a by-election, as the scheduled BOT elections aren't until next June 2019.

The strategic planning sub-committee of the PTFA and the BOT has met to plan out fundraising for 2018. One of the projects which the Board has been discussing is the resurfacing of the asphalt courts. The surface has been deteriorating for the last five years due to traffic generated over weekends when parishioners park on the courts. The parish and the school have an agreement which goes back to the establishment of the school which says that the parish will have free access to the courts for parking on weekends and holidays. Originally the area which is fenced in was wide open and had proper carparks and pedestrian islands like Bayfair does...this was when the church operated six offices and a large hall facility in the now converted school buildings.

To resurface the courts there will need to be a long term fundraising strategy- to ensure we have asphalt areas which cars can still use and an artificial surface for basketball, netball and other ball games, a surface which will be off limits to vehicles.

The Diocese has indicated that they will contribute towards the project by matching our funding 1:3. All that needs to be done now is for quotes to be collected and discussion about activities and funding sources which could enable this to happen.

The STM property project

Are you wondering who is paying for this project? You are through the Diocese. The \$750,000 project has taken 18 months (conversion of the buildings into flexible learning spaces, reinstating the administration area, the landscaping and shaping of the entranceway).

The amount set aside for this project has come from the accumulation of the last five years of attendance dues and the next five years of attendance dues...isn't it good to be able to see what your support has achieved. Attendance dues are paid to the Hamilton Diocesan Office - the invoices usually come out in the mail on April.

The office people in Hamilton are very easy to deal with and there are various payment plans available if you would like to spread your attendance dues payments throughout the year, especially if you have more than one child at a Catholic school as so many of you do.

Just contact the Hamilton Catholic Diocese in Grey Street if you would like to know more about working out a payment plan that suits your family. They are there to help.

STM Parent Contribution Term 1

We are fast approaching the end of the term! Please ensure that your parent contribution is up to date. The parent contribution covers all swimming costs, school trips or concerts per child, religious education resources and chromebooks, ipads and big screens used in every learning space – our school is not a Bring Your Own Device school – we provide equal access to all students. Costs not covered include Camp (Year 5 & Year 6), sports fees, school photos (always optional). Our Office Administrator Jane is happy to provide you with a “donation” receipt for tax rebate purposes (end of tax year March 31st). Our school community wants to maintain and build on the excellent reputation we have established for academic, sporting and cultural success.

It is the intention of the BOT to support the learning which is taking place in our classrooms through the purchasing of additional resources and the expertise needed to empower our 21st century students to reach their goals.



Paua are swimming for the first two weeks of term 2 – April 30th to May 11th

First Station: Jesus is sentenced to death



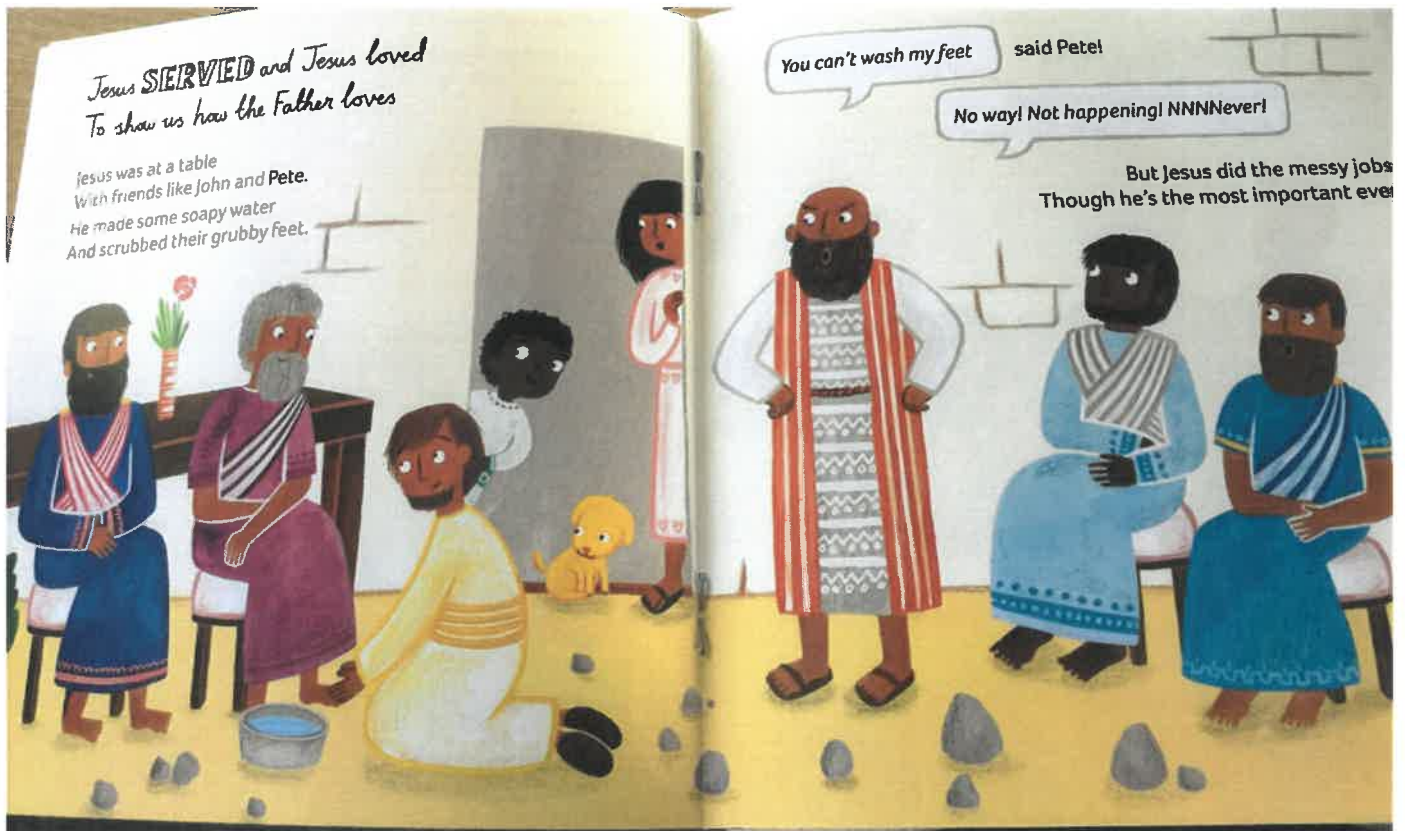
Second Station:
Jesus carries his cross.

(Stained glass art from the
Home of Compassion- Island
Bay)

An Easter present for your children

I found this really lovely book on the Bible Society website. We are sending a copy home with children class by class so that you can share it for Easter with your family.

It's a present from us to you.



HOLY THURSDAY when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples before sitting down to share a meal with them is celebrated next week.

People walked everywhere and so when the guests arrived the servants knelt down to wash the feet of the travellers. Jesus did this job as a sign that he was a servant and not a ruler of men.

Father Stuart will be washing the feet of people in Mass as part of the rich drama associated with the Easter services. This liturgy starts at 7.15 pm

Mrs Duncan - Acting principal this week

Today and tomorrow I will be out of school on Community of Learning business. As Lead Principal of the COL/Kahui Ako I have two days each week which are specifically focussed on improving the teaching and learning in our nine Catholic schools. Mrs Duncan is Acting Principal whenever I am out of the school. If you have something urgent you want to share and I am unavailable, then Mrs Duncan has authority to act for me on the days I am out. If there is something bothering you, in regards to classroom or playground issues then your child's home teacher is the first person to make contact with. If you are feeling that this is not reaching the solution, then contact Mrs Duncan (junior school) or Mrs Thomas (senior school). If there is still concern, then I probably would be the one to talk with because I

would have heard from the teachers and the leadership team before your call- I will have time to gather information to help with the situation.

Dates for your diary	
March 26 th	PTFA Meeting – 7pm @ Imbibe – all welcome!
March 28 th	The Year 6 students will be dramatizing Jesus’ journey to the cross – at 11.00 in the church. You are all invited to take part if you can get time off work. Last “Reading Together Session” with Mrs Duncan
March 29 th	Holy Thursday – Mass of the Last Supper and the washing of feet at 7.15 p.m. in the church Funky Fun Day for Pipi @ ASB Arena – more info to come from teachers We will be hosting a group of students and staff from the Sister Schools network.
Good Friday Mass at 3 pm. Saturday vigil at 7.15 p.m. Easter Sunday - resurrection Sunday Mass at 9.30 a.m. No School from Friday to Tuesday We’re closed.	
April 6 th	School Disco (6.30 pm to 8pm – theme : “Celebrity Stars” @ STM Parish Lounge
April 11 th	Funky Fun Day for Kina @ ASB Arena ANZAC Assembly @ 11.30 am
April 11 th	WBOP Swimming Competition
April 12 th	BOT and PTFA social in staffroom at 6 p.m.
April 13th	End of term 1
April 30 th	Start of Term 2
April 30 th -11 th May	Paua Swimming
14 th -18 th May	Paua – Kids can ride programme/Bike Week
May 16 th	Aquinas 2019 Enrolment Meeting @ 1.30 pm (for current year 6 students only) @ STM
May 23 rd	Rippa Rugby World Cup Competition
June 6 th	School photos
June 13th, June 14th & June 15th – School closed teachers attending Catholic Convention in Wellington	

It would be very helpful if you contacted families in our community who are new and who may not be able to read the newsletter to let them know that school is closed until Wednesday after Easter. We noticed that our Brazilian families and our Filipino families didn’t realise that we had mufti last Friday...many went home and got changed when the children saw that everyone else was dressed in green. We don’t want to embarrass anyone ... we need your help to spread the word. If you were able to send a message in to the office in Tagalog or Portuguese we can send this out on our email system. Thank you so much. 😊

Childrens' Liturgy Sessions – a message from the Parish

No Childrens' Liturgy on Easter Sunday but there will be a special childrens' liturgy at 3pm on Good Friday – children to go straight to the room. Also Childrens' Liturgy on Palm Sunday – children to straight to the room after the blessing of the palms.



ST THOMAS MORE DISCO

Friday 6 April 2018

6.30 pm—8 pm

St Thomas More Parish Lounge



THEME: "CELEBRITY STARS"

Drinks/sweets/glowsticks for sale

\$3 per person or \$5 per family



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