



Religious Education Newsletter

Term 1 - 2022

Dear Parents/Caregivers

The main strand to be taught is "Jesus ~ Hehu Karaiti" (outlined further in this newsletter). Lessons on the Liturgical seasons of Lent, Holy Week and Easter will also be covered.

Unfortunately, due to the current 'Red' setting, we have not been able to have our regular Friday Mass in the chapel but classes are able to use the chapel for morning prayers. We were not able to have a Mass today for Ash Wednesday but were able to celebrate the beginning of the Liturgical season of Lent with an outdoor prayer service.

One of three Lenten practices we are asked to do as Catholics is to Pray (as well as fasting and almsgiving). Lent is a time to pray more. Each child has been given a small card with a prayer on it to pray with their families during Lent. [Click here](#) for more prayers from Caritas.



Caritas ~ Lent in Schools

The Caritas theme for Lent 2022 is *Building Dreams Together: Called to be Peacemakers*. In our changing world we need to come together and find ways of realising our dreams. There is always hope of transforming our world for the better when we are guided by peace, love and justice in our lives.



During Lent children are encouraged to donate to the Caritas Lenten appeal by giving "a little, often". Every class has a donation box. This Term our donations will be going to the Caritas Pacific Relief Fund, to help with the aftermath of the volcanic eruption in Tonga. Caritas Aotearoa NZ is the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' agency for justice, peace and development.



Our Parish has a new website:

<https://www.christchurchnorth.org.nz/>

During Lent the Parish is having a "Lent Challenge" for children and families. There is more information at the end of this newsletter.

God bless, Catherine Quinn, DRS

This Term's virtue is *Social Justice ~ Manatíka Pāporí*

What is Social justice?

Practising justice is being fair in everything you do.
Being just is standing up for your rights and the rights of other people.
It is taking responsibility if you make a mistake and making amends.

Why Practise it?

When justice is practised, everyone has a fair chance to be seen for who they are, With justice, everyone gets a fair share. Living in a socially just way means that people have a vision which drives them to seek the well-being of each and every person. We call this "the common good".

How do you practise it?

Be fair in everything you do.
Take responsibility for your mistakes and make amends.
Act honestly and always be truthful.
Think about the needs of other people.
What could you do for others?



*This is what God asks of you: only this,
to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.
(Micah 6:8)*



Pope Francis  @Pontifex · Feb 28



I renew my invitation for everyone to take part on 2 March, Ash Wednesday, in a Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace in [#Ukraine](#), in order to be near to the suffering Ukrainian people, to be aware that we are all brothers and sisters, and to implore God for an end to the war.

The key concepts of the Jesus ~ Hehu Karaiti Strand to be covered by each class:

Room	Theme	Jesus Strand Summary
1	Jesus My Friend	Catholics believe that Jesus is both human and divine. As a human, Jesus was born into a particular culture, lived in a certain location in a precise time in history. To appreciate Jesus' messages we need to know the realities of his life. In learning about his friendship with his disciples, we can become friends with him today. Family/Whanau Book Pg.17
2	Jesus Showed His Love in Different Ways	Jesus showed his respect and love for people in many ways - talking, listening, sharing, touching, healing and dying, for them. We are called to follow Jesus' example. We can learn about how Jesus lived by reading stories in the Bible. Family/Whanau Book Pg.20
3	Jesus Gives Himself in the Eucharist	We can give thanks to God for Jesus by joining in the Eucharist. Eucharist helps us to grow in grace and recognise Jesus' presence in the gathering of his people, ministers and Word. Above all, people recognise him in the transformed bread and wine. Family/Whanau Book Pg. 23
4	Jesus came to show people how to live and lead them to God	Jesus invites people to grow closer to God by sharing in his life through the gift of God's grace. By accepting this invitation people share in Jesus' mission of worshipping God and bringing about the Kingdom or Reign of God on earth as it is in heaven. Family/Whanau Book Pg.20
5	The Life of Jesus	Catholic belief is that Jesus called Christ is both human and divine. We need to understand Jesus' reality. To appreciate his message we can study and reflect on the Scriptures. Family/Whanau Book Pg.29

School Masses and Liturgical Celebrations

2 March (Wednesday) 9am Ash Wednesday Prayer Service
 Year 5 and 6 students will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent.



The Family/Whanau Book can be viewed or downloaded as a PDF on **Faith Alive** website (<http://www.faithalive.org.nz/>) under the **Families** tab

Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. The Church colour for Lent is violet or purple. The colour is a symbol of our willingness to prepare, change and repent.

During the season of Lent we make special effort and time to do things we may not do as often as we should.

We pray:

- ❖ Talking and listening to God
- ❖ Speaking to God in our own words
- ❖ Praying the prayers of the Church community
- ❖ Going to Mass on Sundays or other days.

We fast:

- ❖ Giving up foods we do not need
- ❖ Going without things we like but do not need

We give to those in need and We make sacrifices:

- ❖ Being kind to someone
- ❖ Doing what your parents say without arguing
- ❖ Being happy with things you have
- ❖ Not complaining
- ❖ Thinking of others before yourself.



Your family may like to use the "Keep It Simple For Lent Action Plan". Caritas challenges YOU to keep it simple and do little acts each week that will make a positive difference in the lives of those around you. Grow in empathy and compassion for those in need in our local communities and around the world.

Download a copy:

<https://caritas.org.nz/system/files/resources/Lent2022%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

Catholic Parish of Christchurch North: Lent Challenge



How many of these challenges can you tick off during Lent? Download the checklist and see what how many you can do with the family.

You'll need the Lenten Wheel - so make sure you get Mum or Dad to download that too.

When you complete them email your finished wheel back to

school@christchurchnorth.org.nz

<https://www.christchurchnorth.org.nz/lent-activities>