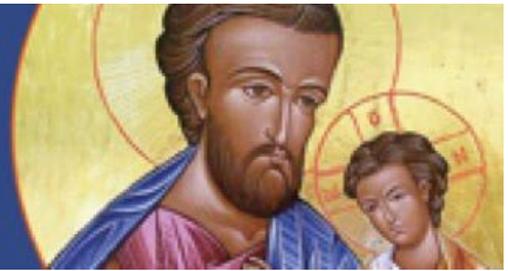


# St Joseph's School

TE KURA O HATO HOHEPA PAPANUI

EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO BECOME CONFIDENT, MOTIVATED LEARNERS, LIVING GOSPEL VALUES.



## Thursday 9 April 2020 - Covid19 Update & School Newsletter

### From the Boardroom

We hope this email finds you all safe and well inside your bubbles.

We understand that this is a difficult time for everyone, and particularly challenging for many. It is our hope that as a Catholic community we are supporting one another where possible and reaching for a higher perspective that our strong faith affords us. We know you will all be doing your part to keep yourselves and others safe and encourage you to feel proud of these efforts.

Term Two commences next week on Wednesday 15th April after our Easter celebrations and there are a couple of things we would like to communicate to you from a Board of Trustees perspective. At this time we wish to reassure you that as a Board we continue to meet (virtually at this time), and are in regular communication whilst assessing the situation and any actions we might need to take or support required.

Firstly, Aaron and our dedicated staff/support staff have been working extremely hard in preparation to provide our children with quality online learning during what is their Term One break. We would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank Aaron and the teaching/support staff for all their hard work and ongoing efforts. Like us, they too are managing their wellbeing and the wellbeing of those inside their bubble during this time whilst serving our community. For all of this we are extremely grateful.

Secondly, Aaron is diligently following the multitude of Ministry of Education directives and communicating these effectively with the board, staff, and our community where appropriate. We would like to reinforce and support these directives and Aaron's expectations at this time. In particular we wish to reiterate that our distance learning is not designed to replicate the school day but rather as a way of maintaining connections, student engagement, and continuity of their learning. Consequently classroom teachers will not be preparing and setting students five hours of work each day. This is in alignment with the Government directives and the importance placed on staff, students, and wider community wellbeing.

There are many valuable learning opportunities for students to experience during this time in the home and as you know your children best, if they require and/or desire more than what is provided, we encourage you to engage with the time filling activities and resources our dedicated SJS staff have put together and previously emailed through. We've recently been informed that there will even be T.V. channels that will be dedicated to children's learning and have become aware of a multitude of free apps.

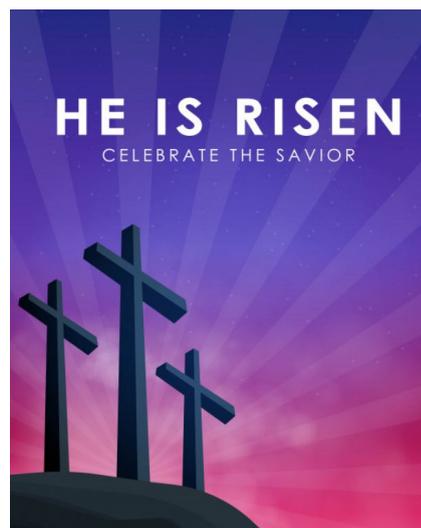
Ultimately we encourage your focus at this time to remain on your wellbeing and that of all those in your bubble. If you require further guidance surrounding why it is paramount there is a greater emphasis on wellbeing at this time then there are many of our NZ based experts doing a multitude of interviews and small presentations on a variety of platforms. We can recommend viewing Nigel Latta's Breakfast discussion or with Jacinda Ardern and Nathan Wallis' Facebook interviews to name but a few.

We are blessed with a fantastic community at St Joseph's and thank you for your patience as we navigate these new waters together. We look forward to returning to our physical environment when it is safe for us to do so. Until then, take care and we wish you every blessing for the Easter period. Our prayers are with you all. God bless.

*"And then the whole world walked inside: and shut their doors, and said we will stop it all. Everything. To protect our weaker ones. Our sicker ones. Our older ones. And there are few things in the history of humankind that ever felt more like love than this - (modified from C.D.)"*

## **Trust in the Lord**

Throughout the Season of Lent, the Gospel readings have illustrated how we can be renewed through our encounters with God. Many of the gospel readings include stories of suffering or overcoming great challenges, and by trusting God found salvation. This Lenten season has been particularly unusual, and we've found ourselves experiencing new challenges that none of us could have expected. We are facing new uncertainties, physically isolated from our friends and neighbours, adjusting to new ways of living. It's not like anything we have ever seen or experienced before. This Holy Week, we remember that Jesus understands our fear and our pain through his encounter with humanity in his Passion. We know that our encounter with Jesus carries us through the crucifixion to Easter morning, to the Resurrection, where we find true renewal of life.



As we move through this uncertain time I am particularly mindful of how Covid19 continues to affect all areas of life. I am mindful of families who are separated from loved ones, I am mindful of the essential workers who are juggling the demands of work and family, I am especially mindful of families who may have had their income affected. I hope that over this Easter break you may have some respite where you can turn to the cross and seek strength from the Lord.

Please remember that as a Catholic community we are here to support those in need. If you need support please call Megan on 0210696233.

## **Farewell**

As we now have reached the end of the “new” Term 1, it is time to farewell Mrs Culling and Mr Harrison who are moving to St Patrick’s Kaiapoi. I know that many staff, parents and students will miss them very much. On behalf of the school community I would like to thank them for their years of service and the commitment they have given to the students they taught.

## **Welcome**

While one door shuts, another opens. At the start of Term 2 we will be welcoming Mrs Crampton and Mrs Tait to St Joseph’s School. Over the next week both teachers will be assisting with the online learning.

Sanne Tait has had experience teaching at junior levels at St Alban's Catholic School and Belfast Primary. She has strengths in numeracy and literacy and is passionate about teaching creative arts. Sanne has worked with various outside agencies to support the learning of students who have special needs. She is looking forward to working as part of Timoney

Elizabeth Crampton is an experienced teacher who has recently been teaching at Isleworth School. She has experience teaching a range of year levels and has a passion for music. While at Isleworth school Elizabeth took responsibility for the school choir. She is looking forward to working in McAuley 1.

At the last virtual Board of Trustees meeting we welcomed Megan Stewart to the board table. Megan has been appointed as a proprietor trustee.

## **Online Learning**

A huge thanks to the parents who have sent through positive feedback regarding the Time Fillers website. The time fillers website was created to provide families with access to a range of online learning sites and apps. I am glad that families are making the most of these resources.

Since the school was closed the teachers have been working very hard to ensure that the online Learning from Home programme is up and running for the beginning of Term 2. For many teachers the venture into online learning is new, so there has been a lot of learning taking place during the last few weeks. I commend our very dedicated team of teachers for coming together and sharing their skills so that we could have the online learning ready for our students.

On April 15 an email will be sent out to all families with the address to the school's Learning From Home website. This website has buttons that will link you to your child's learning. The school has used a range of Google apps to deliver the online activities. To access the online information families with students in years 1-4 will need a Google account. To set up a temporary Google account please visit the following website and click the 'Create Account' button - [www.google.com](http://www.google.com). Once you have created a google account, click on the link below and complete the form.

[Year 0-2 Form](#)

[Year 3/4 Form](#)

Each learner in the Year 5-8 Team will need a google account to access the Google Classroom for Online Learning. This account has already been created by St. Joseph's School. Please click on the link below and follow the instructions to access this account.

[Year 8 Connect Form](#)

[Year 7 Connect Form](#)

[Year 6 Connect Form](#)

[Year 5 Connect Form](#)

If you are having trouble accessing your google account please send a message to [communication@stjopapa.school.nz](mailto:communication@stjopapa.school.nz). The school is monitoring this email address and will allocate the issue you have with the appropriate staff member. In the message please include the following information:

- Student's name
- Name of the student's teacher
- The issue that you have accessing the online learning

## **Online Learning Expectations**

We understand that our current situation will be affecting families differently. We also understand that different families will have diverse expectations regarding what online learning will look like. As different as schools are, it can also be expected that the delivery and content of online learning will vary. The Ministry of Education has provided guidelines and resources for online learning. Please be assured that St Joseph's online Learning from Home expectations adheres to these official guidelines.

Approximately an hour of structured online learning has been set for each child, each day of the week. The learning does not involve a teacher sitting in front of the screen in real time. It does include a range of structured learning tasks for children to engage with. There are online resources children can connect with including stories and videos. We even have a few videos of teachers. Children have a choice on the activities they do. They are encouraged to share their work back with their teacher so that feedback can be provided.

We understand that some families may choose not to participate with online learning. There is no official compulsion to participate with online learning and we respect families' right to make this decision. Some families may want to provide their children with more learning time. There may be a few optional activities children could complete or they could jump onto the Time Fillers website.

## **Ministry of Education Announcement of Support**

Last night the Minister announced details of the package of supports and resources for supporting schools to deliver learning at a distance. The announcement mentioned hard copy packs and the provision of digital devices. At this point in time the Ministry of Education has only asked us to collect information regarding families' ability to access online learning. The Ministry of Education has prioritised the dispatching or learning materials and devices to NCEA students only.

On the 25 of March the Secretary of Education stated that all school personnel were prohibited from entering the school site. As a consequence all school leaders and teachers have been unable to access any resources or equipment. We are awaiting future directives from the Ministry of Education as to when we can return to site to potentially access resources we may be able to send home to families to assist with online learning. I will keep you updated as the advice comes through.

The Ministry of Education have been working with a range of educators to develop Home Learning TV | Papa Kāinga TV, on TVNZ, which will run from 9am to 3pm on school days on TVNZ2+1 and Sky channel 502. Some lessons will also be available on TVNZ On Demand. There will be content for parents and whānau with preschool children, and lessons for those aged 5 to 15 years of age will cover a broad curriculum that includes movement, music, physical education, wellbeing, numeracy, literacy and science through an integrated approach to curriculum. The Ministry of Education will be putting information about the programme scheduling on the Learning from Home website early next week.

### **Easter wishes**

I wish you all a happy Easter spending quality time with those in your bubble. Please remember that you can attend Mass online during this sacred time - Please click the icon below to link to the diocese Mass channel.



"May your Easter be happy,  
May your day be bright,  
May you enjoy the treats,  
And sweet delights.  
But remember the meaning,  
Remember God's gift,  
Remember the resurrection,  
May your soul uplift."

—Bill Hoeneveld

