

Mission statement: We are a Catholic School that is Christ centered and lives Mercy values. Our mission is to nurture faith, to grow community, and to achieve excellence.

Value for the Term 1: Social Justice: Social Justice is about being responsible for one another and trying to make sure everyone is treated fairly and justly.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

What's Happening This Week

Greetings

Welcome back for the 2018 school year. I hope that you have all had a most blessed and enjoyable holiday break. I am not sure whether or not the smiles I saw on your faces as you left school were due to the holidays ending.

We have had a great start to the year. The staff and children have quickly settled into a new start.

We welcomed 12 new students and their families along with the two new teachers Mrs Shaw and Miss Ball with a Mihi Whakatau on Tuesday morning. I hope that you all have a most enjoyable and successful association with OLV.

Mrs Shaw has agreed to be the Acting DRS. We are most fortunate that she is able to step into this role as she was DRS with me at Our Lady of Fatima and has a great passion for Catholic Schools and the role of DRS.

We began with a roll of 188.

It was with great sadness and a sense of loss we learnt of the death of Father Graeme in a motor cycle accident. He very quickly became an important part of the life of the school after his ordination last July 1. He had a knack of understanding how to relate to people at all levels and contexts. He was greatly loved by the staff and children and will be greatly missed. May he rest in peace.

This Friday at 9.00am is the first of our fortnightly Parish/School Masses. It would be great if you were able to join us.

Please keep Sunday February 25 clear as this is our first Parish/School Sunday Mass for the year. We would like all children to attend.

You have received your invoice for the year. This includes all actual costs for the activities for your child can be involved in. These Activities are a matter of choice so are user pays. We are happy for a regular payment to be made to cover these costs by the end of the year. Please arrange this through the office.

Due to having to change the Kapa Haka time the fortnightly Friday Assembly will now be at 9.00am commencing next week. Values Assembly will continue to be held each Monday at 9.00am.

On Sunday February 11, after the 10.00am Mass, there is to be a barbecue and picnic to remember Father Graeme. This is a Parish event and you can bring your own food. There will be some sausages and bread provided.

I hope that you all have an absolutely wonderful 2018.

Best wishes
Denis

School Diary

5th February	Values Assembly Led by Yr 7 and 8
6th February	Waitangi Day Public Holiday No School
9th February	Full School Assembly Led by Room 7 9.00am All Families welcome.
12th February	PFA Meeting 7pm Staffroom
12th February	Values Assembly Led by Room 10
14th February	Ash Wednesday
16th February	PFA Family Fun Night 5.00pm
16th February	Room 7/8 Camp Rapaki Marae.
16th February	Full School Mass Please be at school at 8.45am.
25th February	Full School Mass Sunday 10am. Please line up at Room 1 at

PFA

PFA Weekly Sausage Sizzle

Our PFA runs a weekly Sausage Sizzle for lunch each Friday.
COST: \$2.00 for a sausage with bread and sauce, \$1.00 for a small juice

WHERE: Sausages are delivered to each classroom at Lunchtime.

ORDERS: Please order and pay by 9am each Friday at the Creative Space (Between Rm 1 & the Office)

SPECIALS: If your child has an allergy you can bring your own sausage, however, please be aware all sausages are cooked on the same BBQ. We are always looking for Mums, Dads, Caregivers, Grandparents etc to help with cooking sausages on a Friday.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE ROSTER:

Please add your name to the Sausage Sizzle Roster if you are able to help out cooking sausages this term. The roster for Term 1 is on the noticeboard in the office. If you would like to give it a go, but are a bit unsure what to do, don't worry! Put your name down or talk to the friendly ladies taking orders on Friday morning and we will put you on with an experienced sausage sizzler! Many thanks for your ongoing support of this popular Friday lunch. Did you know that our weekly Sausage Sizzle makes over \$3500 each year which is given back to our School!

PFA Meeting:

Keen to help out and make a difference at your child's school? All parents/caregivers most welcome to join us at our first meeting of the year – Monday 12th February, 7pm in the Staffroom (above the School Office). Get to know some more parents, take part in planning this year's Fundraisers / Events, have a bit of fun, use your skills and take an active part in helping our great wee School. See you there!

Our School Website

For all our update information of what's going on in the school head to our website and click on the news tab at the top of the page.



OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

Quality education in an environment that lives Mercy values of excellence, respect, service, social justice and sustainability, in truth and action.

News Search Sign In



Friday 16th at 5pm

Bring along your families and a fish and chip or whatever tea you like to enjoy in our School grounds, then join in the fun afterwards...

Sack races, running races and more!



Mihi Whakatau



On Tuesday morning we welcomed 10 new students and their families along with two new teachers Mrs Shaw and Miss Ball with a Mihi Whakatau.



Welcome to Our Lady of Victories



A special welcome to Mrs Shaw, Louie, Alice, Sofia and Catherine. We hope that you enjoy OLV.



We would like to welcome Connor and Maya into room 10.



A warm welcome to Thea who has joined us in Room



A warm welcome to Toni who has joined us in Room 4



We welcome Estelle and Jesse who has joined us into Room 7



A very warm welcome to Rachel who has joined us in Room 6

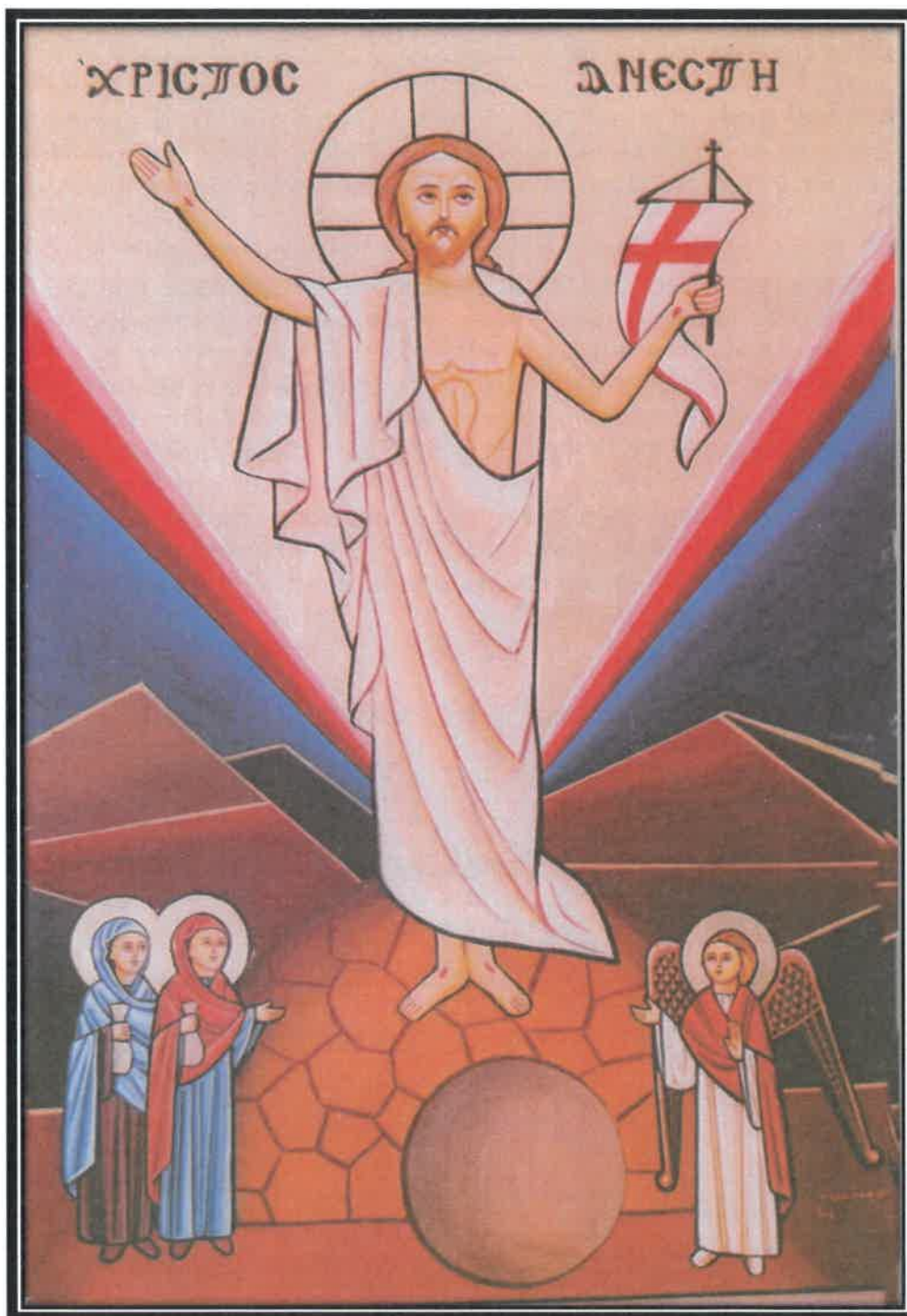


A warm welcome to Meg who has joined us into Room 8.

Our Lady of Victories

Religious Education Newsletter

Term 1, 2018



Respect, Service, Social Justice, Excellence and Sustainability

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Haere mai, welcome to Term One at Our Lady of Victories School. We have been reminded of the precious gift of life with the tragic news of Fr Graeme's accident. As we continue to learn about Jesus we know that his plans and ways are very often not our plans but we have to trust that God has us in the palm of his hands. As Fr Graeme has returned to be with Jesus and all the Angels and Saints, our prayer is that we too will join the heavenly kingdom when our time on this earth comes to its completion.

On Sunday February 11th. Fr Michael and the Parish are hosting a BBQ Lunch in memory of Fr Graeme after the 10.00am Mass. It will be a time to gather to remember Fr Graeme and reflect and share stories on the time and talents he gave to so many. The Parish will provide sausages, bread, plates etc. Bring your own drinks, salads and other yummys to share.

All classes begin the year learning about Prayer. This will be followed by everyone doing lessons from the Jesus Strand. The Jesus Strand links very well with the liturgical Year Lessons Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter, which are a major focus of Religious Education at this time of year.

We are blessed at Our Lady of Victories to have a very active relationship with the Parish. An important aspect of this is our fortnightly Masses at 9.00am on Friday which we begin on the 2nd February. Please try to have the children at school by 8.45am so we can get to Mass on time. Each term we also attend Mass as a School on a Sunday. Please mark 10.00am, 25th February on your calendars for our Parish / School Mass. During Lent our Young Vinnies group will be organising a Food Drive to support the needy people in our area and in Holy Week we will be re-enacting the Stations of the Cross and the Last Supper. Please keep an eye out in the weekly newsletter for more information on these events.

Each term you should expect your child's Religious Education work to come home at least twice. Please take some time to share in their learning together. Every class has one Prayer Pack. This arrives home on a Monday with your child at least twice a year. Please make use of these precious packs that can assist your family in prayer time together.

Thank you for supporting your children in forming their faith.

God Bless

Cath Shaw – Acting DRS



Dates for the calendar

30 January	School begins
2 nd February	Parish Mass Room 8 leading
6 th February	Waitangi Day
11 th February	Fr Graeme Memorial BBQ after 10.00am Mass
14 th February	ASH WEDNESDAY School joins Parish for Mass
16 th February	Parish Mass Room 4 leading
25 th February	Parish and School Mass. Sunday 10.00am
2 nd March	Parish Mass Room 9 leading
16 th March	Parish Mass Room 7 leading
16 th March	Y7/8 lead Stations of the Cross in Church 7.00pm
25 th March	Palm Sunday
29 th March	Last Supper and Stations of the Cross 1.30pm
1 st April	Easter Sunday
13 th April	Parish Mass Room 12 Leading
13 th April	End of Term

Palm Sunday

The Eucharist Is Alive!

The following is an excerpt from chapter 1, the book, *7 Secrets of the Eucharist*, by Vinny Flynn. Vinny talks about how we should be treating the Lord as we receive Him in Communion.



When I come to a human heart in Holy Communion, My hands are full of all kinds of graces which I want to give to the soul. But souls do not even pay attention to Me; they leave Me to Myself and busy themselves with other things. ... They treat Me as a dead object.

– Our Lord speaking to St. Faustina (*Diary of St. Faustina*, 1385)

“The Eucharist is *alive*. That may seem obvious to you. I guess it was to me, at some intellectual level, but somehow I never really thought very deeply about what that actually meant.



The Eucharist is *alive*. If a stranger who knew nothing about the Eucharist were to watch the way we receive, would he know this? When you and I approach the Eucharist [*at Mass*], does it look like we believe we are about to take into our bodies the *living person*, Jesus Christ, true God and true man?

How many times, Lord, have I forgotten that the Eucharist is alive! As I wait in line to receive you each day, am I thinking about how much you want to unite yourself with me? Am I seeing your hands filled with graces you want to give me? Am I filled with awe and gratitude that you love me so much as to actually want to come to me in this incredibly intimate way? Or am I distracted, busy with other thoughts, preoccupied with myself and my agendas for the day? How many times, Jesus, have I made you sad, mindlessly receiving you into my body, into my heart, with no love and no recognition of your love? How many times have I treated you as a *dead object*?

The Host that we receive is not a thing! It's not a wafer! It's not bread! It's a person – and He's *alive*!

...In many of our churches, a stranger in our midst, witnessing a typical Sunday liturgy, would not realize this, but would simply see a bunch of people get up from their seats, wait in line, receive a piece of bread, and then go back to their seats.

In contrast to this, there's another scene, one that helps me remember how we *ought* to approach the Eucharist.

In 1916, as a year of preparation for Our Lady's appearances at **Fatima**, the Angel of Peace appeared three times to Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco. The most dramatic scene is the third visit, when the angel comes with the Eucharist. Suspending the Host and the chalice in the air, he [*the angel*] throws himself prostrate on the ground and has the children repeat a prayer three times. ...An angel, a pure spirit, who lives constantly in the intimate presence of God, prostrates himself before the Eucharist in adoration!

That's a pretty strong message. It was so strong that young Francisco spent the rest of his short life trying to console God in the Eucharist. Every moment he could, he spent in front of the Blessed Sacrament, trying to console God for the indifferent way that people respond to the Eucharist.

So there's our invitation... We can treat God as a dead object, or we can prostrate our whole beings in front of Him, in adoration, in gratitude, in love, in reparation.”



The following objectives will be taught during the Jesus Strand in Religious Education this term.

<p>Year 1 JESUS STRAND – Jesus My Friend † Our life today – Jesus/ life † Jesus our brother is the Son of God † Jesus invites us to be his friend.</p>	<p>Year 2 JESUS STRAND – Jesus Showed His Love In Many Ways. † Jesus showed love and respect † How I show love to others † The Bible has stories about Jesus</p>
<p>Year 3 JESUS STRAND - Jesus Gives Himself In The Eucharist † Eucharist is a meal, a remembrance and a presence † Jesus is present in the bread & wine † We give thanks through the Eucharist</p>	<p>Year 4 JESUS STRAND - Jesus Came To Show People How To Live & Lead Them To God. † Jesus invites people to share in his life † Living as Jesus lived † Sharing Jesus' mission on earth † Jesus' respect for people † Jesus reveals God's love</p>
<p>Year 5 JESUS STRAND – The Life Of Jesus † The structure of the New Testament † What life was like in New Testament times † The life story of Jesus † Jesus is human and Jesus is divine</p>	<p>Year 6 JESUS STRAND – Jesus The Fullness of God's Revelation † Jesus is the Son of God † Jesus asks us to turn away from sin † Faith, Hope, Love † Jesus Love Through His Life, Death & Resurrection.</p>
<p>Year 7 JESUS STRAND – Jesus Savior And Liberator † How Jesus saved through his Life † Jesus' Resurrection † Titles of Jesus</p>	<p>Year 8 JESUS STRAND – Jesus, His Values And The Role of Disciples † The beatitudes in our lives today † Sin and forgiveness † Advancing the cause of justice † Significance of the risen Lord.</p>

Lent is the period of preparation for Easter – a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving to the poor. During this season, we remember that Jesus Christ - Hēhu Karaiti calls us as members of a worldwide community. The call to fullness of life, the sharing in the very life of God, endows every human life with inestimable value and an innate and sacred dignity. As children of God we each have the same needs and yearnings: for food, water and shelter; for protection of family and whānau; for education and work; for the opportunity for spiritual reflection and renewal; and for a safe and peaceful environment in which to live.

Find us ready Lord.

When you return Lord, I want to be ready. Help me clean out the dusty corners of my life and keep my heart ready for your return. Through prayer I will grow closer to you. By loving others I will prepare myself for your coming. By knowing that you might come at any moment, I will remain ready for your return because I wish to live always in your love.

Inspired by Matt 25:1-3 From Breakthrough! The Bible for young Catholics p1428

