



**Week 8, Term 1**  
**23 March 2021**

# NEWSLETTER

**Te Reo ō te Kura ō Hato Hoāni**  
**The voice of St John's School**

Kia ora whānau

## **This week's Lenten thought**

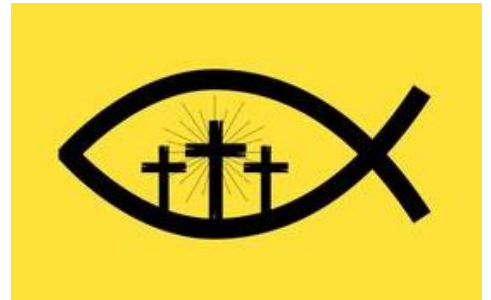
**FISH** – ever wondered why it is suggested that we eat fish rather than meat on Fridays during Lent?

**F = Forgiveness** – forgive yourself and forgive others – Jesus died so we would be forgiven.

**I = Inspire** – inspire others by letting the light of God shine from you daily.

**S = Share** – share your love of God with others through actions and words – be kind.

**H = Help others** – never see a need without doing something about it!



Last week was awesome!

On Wednesday we celebrated our annual St John's School Swimming Sports day. We were all so grateful that this favourite event could go ahead and it was great to see so many of our families sitting on the banks around the pool to support their children.



Personally, I love this day as it is an opportunity for me to see every child in our school having fun. It always amazes me how confident our children are and those who do find water activities challenging, compete at their level and are cheered on by their peers. I know that many of our children attend professional swimming lessons, but I do wish to thank our teachers also who do such a good job of preparing them for our swimming sports. I also wish to thank Mrs Dorrington who ensures that this event runs smoothly, and this year was no exception. For the pristine, sparkling water and beautifully maintained pool surrounds, we thank Mr Dixon for his work over the whole swimming season and Mr Moore for keeping on top of things in his absence.

The competition is high as all the house teams strive to win the Nicola Jack Memorial Cup, and whilst all teams gave their best, it was Pierce House who took this coveted prize. House and Vice Captains, Chloe and Zoe were thrilled.

On Friday we attended Mass as a faith community to celebrate the Feast day of St Joseph. Father Emile shared a beautiful homily that was pitched to really engage our children. He also told them a great story about when he was a little lad at school with the Sisters of St Joseph. Although we had not been to Mass as a whole school for some time, our children behaved with respect and participated wholeheartedly. It was lovely to have so many parents share this special occasion with us also.

Ngā mihi nui, *Viki Trainor - Principal*



## **SWIMMING POOL CLOSURE - OUR POOL CLOSSES FOR THE SEASON ON SUNDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AT 8.00PM**

Pool key bond refunds are now available from the office.  
To receive the bond refund, keys must be returned before the end of term on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> of April.



# SAVE THE DATE



## PTFA KIDS MOVIE NIGHT

The big screen is coming to the St John's School hall on Friday, 9th of April for a children's movie night.

There will be two sessions; Juniors (Years 1 - 3) from 5.00pm to 6.30pm  
Seniors (Years 4 - 6) from 7.00pm to 8.45pm

Each child should bring a blanket to sit on and a cushion/pillow and their own drink bottle.  
Tickets are \$5.00 each (popcorn included) and will go on sale from next week.

## SPORTS NEWS



### 2021 Kidzplay Junior (Yr 1 – 4) Winter Netball Registration is now open on Kindo.

To register your child, pay registration fees and/or volunteer as Manager/Coach/Umpire please log into your account [www.mykindo.co.nz](http://www.mykindo.co.nz) and complete the registration process as soon as possible and definitely by the end of the day THIS Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March.

## FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION – Thursday, 25th March



Making decisions is integral to living. Some decisions concern the daily ebb and flow of our lives. But others are more challenging: addressing the uncertainty and effects of a pandemic, choosing a partner or a career, negotiating puzzling behaviours of those we love, facing our own vulnerabilities ... (pause) ...

What and how we decide has far-reaching consequences! On Thursday, we celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation, this can then be our touchstone: A young woman in Nazareth is suddenly blown off course when invited by God's messenger to move in a totally unforeseen direction – to share in God's desire to give birth to Jesus – Life for the world!

Grounded in the Jewish scriptures, Mary knew that God's call could be trusted no matter how unexpected. But, even so, a confronting invitation is not easily resolved; it engages us in a process.

Mary's response was to open her heart to listen deeply, to engage with God, discerning the import of what this new call could mean. May she inspire us in these last days of our Lenten journey.

Ngā mihi,  
Laura Baddeley - *Director of Religious Studies*

## NGĀ KĀKAHU O TE KURA - UNIFORM REMINDER OF THE WEEK

Please ensure that all items of uniform and belongings that come to school are named. It is very easy to return these to the correct child and whānau.



---

## WORD OF THE WEEK

**moe:** sleep

Kupu o te Wiki

---

## HAUORA WELLBEING

2021 brings with it new financial pressures. If you require some additional support around income, then look at [Work and Income](#) which outlines a summary of what may be available to you and your family to assist with the bills.

If you need someone to talk to about your feelings or are worried how someone else is managing, then one of the phone numbers here can put you in touch with trained counsellors and support staff [HELPLINES](#)



---

## PĀNUI WHAKANUIA – CONGRATULATIONS

**Isla McQueen** – POD Flippaball (great attack)

**Mason Eksteen** – POD Flippaball (resilience)

---

## PARISH NEWS



***This week the ANGEL AWARD goes to... Fr. Alejandro, this week he CELEBRATES ONE YEAR HERE IN EAST COAST BAYS***

**HELP PLEASE:** we are desperate for Computer operators at all Masses. This is not a difficult ministry and training will be given. Please contact the parish office or speak to an existing operator for details.

**Passover Meal:** Reconnect with our community & experience the roots of Jesus' faith as we share a Passover Seder connecting the Last Supper & the Mass we share today. Cost is \$5 per adult or \$15 per family & includes a Lamb dinner. **30 March at 7.00pm in the St John's School hall.** Please register your interest with the Parish Office to reserve a ticket as seats are limited. Tickets will be on sale after Mass this weekend.

**Job Opportunity.** The Diocese is seeking a full-time person for a 1-year fixed term contract for a new role of Care for the Poor Advocate. This role will promote, drive and enable the elimination of Child Poverty through Caring for the Poor initiatives and advocacy; lead food security discussions and initiatives and lobby government on Caring for the Poor and eliminating Child Poverty and Food Security. Applications close 26 March, 2021. For more details, and a full position description, please visit the Diocesan website <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies>

**School Attendance Dues Financial Assistance.** Financial assistance is available to assist families with the payment of Attendance Dues for preference students attending Catholic schools in the Auckland Diocese. Families facing financial difficulties can contact their Parish Priest or the Revenue Manager on 09-360-3069 at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland for further information. Application forms are available from the parish office, or can be downloaded from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Website: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/acfl-attendance-dues-financial-assistance/>

**Foodbank items:** St Vincent de Paul are most grateful for all the generous donations from our Parishioners. This week we are in need of: **tinned spaghetti, chick peas & noodles.** Please leave items in the basket in the church foyer.



---

## PĀNUI Ā HĀPORI - COMMUNITY NOTICES

Torbay Plunket will be holding their Nearly New Sale on Saturday, 27th March 10am – 12pm at East Coast Bays Leisure Centre, 12 Bute Road, Browns Bay. Come along, grab a bargain and support a fantastic cause. Entry fee for shoppers is a gold coin donation with the proceeds going to Torbay Plunket to continue the great work they do in our local community.



# SWIMMING SPORTS DAY

We were blessed with another fine and sunny day for our Swimming Sports last Wednesday.

It was good to see so many of you on the bank watching and we hope you enjoyed the swimming below.

Congratulations to Pierce House for winning the Nicola Jack Memorial Cup.

A special thanks to Mrs Dorrington who organised the sports, to all the teachers who prepared the children and to all the staff who officiated on the day.



**CONGRATULATIONS  
Pierce House!**

