

# News From St Patrick's Catholic School



**Faithful, Responsible, Life-Long Learners**  
**Te Kura Katorika o Hato Patariki**

**14 December 2017**

Newsletter No. 17-40

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## MESSAGE BOARD

### Week 9

Thu 14

Year 8 day out Rotorua  
 Year 8 dinner leavers' dinner  
 6pm

Fri 15

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR 2017**

Sat 16

Christmas Festival

### 2018

Term 1

Week 1

Thu Feb 1

BACK TO SCHOOL

## WEEKLY REFLECTION

Christmas is a commemoration of God's coming into the world. He came for all of us - believers and non-believers alike. His birth should bring us hope and triumph which will dispel the sadness from our lives. But after years of celebrating Christmas after Christmas many of us are yet to see that triumph in our lives and our hopes may be giving way to despair. Has the Messiah really come? If He has where is He? Amidst our celebrations this Christmas, let us pause a while to look around us to recognise Jesus who was born into the world two thousand years ago. He is among us in every person and in every trial and tribulation we encounter in our lives. Let us take a moment to look around to recognise Him in those who do not have joy and peace in their lives. <http://www.catholic.org>

Tihei mauri ora!

Nga mihi atu koutou katoa

Nga haere mai, nga haere mai Emanuera - o come, o come Immanuel

Nga haere mai, nga haere mai Emanuera

Ko te Atua ko i konei - God is with us

No evidence of our Heavenly Father's presence can be more evident in the greatest teacher of our students, you as parent, aunty, uncle, grandparent or elder family friend. The successes of this year have been attributed to your background drive of our families, in Christ's name.

I pay particular tribute to members of our team who have departed St Pat's in 2017. Firstly dear Sue Moore, who gave a life service as a wife, mother and teacher. Since her retirement at the end of term



**FAREWELL TO OUR DEAR YEAR 8 STUDENTS**  
**WE WILL MISS YOU!**

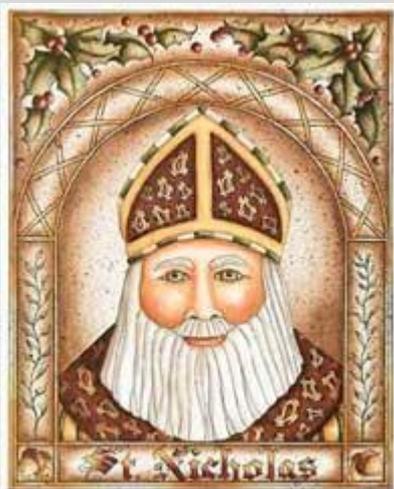
one we have missed her - evident in the absence of the Training Cafe Friday muffin treats or her call to calm. We hope her Christmas holiday in Dubai with her son is refreshing as she begins the next chapter of her life after the passing of Roger at the beginning of last term.

Secondly Denise Stevens. What more is there to say of a teacher who with only fifteen months' service in our senior area, making her affable personality felt throughout the school, was a crowd favourite. I thank her for her frankness, openness and importantly her example of forming trusting relationships with students that has endeared her to all the students at St Patrick's. Love and regards from all of us as you focus on your loving Dad and resettlement in Cambridge, our door is always open.

To our Year 8s, aroha atu ki to mahi ki tenei kura - thank you for your efforts at your school. Rilee, Kataraina, Renaysha, Zola, Tammy-Lee, Chloe, Liam, Shaquan and Anna we look forward to following your progress. It is important that you live the charism of St Mary MacKillop always: "See a need and do something about it, be empowered in Christ to do so."

A restful Merry Christmas everyone and a safe return on Thursday 1 February with a powhiri at 9.45am for all new students to our school

Nga mihi atu whanau ki te manaaki o Kerihimete  
Steve



### **CATHOLIC INQUIRY**

#### **St Nicholas – are you Father Christmas?**

**St Nicholas was born circa 280AD in Patara, Lycia, an area that is part of present day Turkey. He lost both of his parents as a young man and reportedly used his inheritance to help the poor and sick. A devout Christian, he later served as Bishop of Myra, a city that is now called Demre.**

**There are many legends about St Nicholas of Myra. One story tells how he helped three poor sisters. Their father did not have enough money to pay their dowries and thought of selling them into servitude. Three times, St Nicholas secretly went to their house at night and put a bag of money inside. The man used the money so that one of his daughters could marry. On the third visit, the man saw St Nicholas and thanked him for his kindness. He also**

**reportedly saved three men who were falsely imprisoned and sentenced to death.**

**Several sources state St Nicholas is believed to have died on December 6, 343.**

**Over the years, stories of his miracles and work for the poor spread to other parts of the world. He became known as the protector of children and sailors and was associated with gift-giving. He was a popular saint in Europe until the time of the Reformation in the 1500s, a religious movement that led to the creation of Protestantism, which turned away from the practice of honouring saints. St Nicholas, however, remained an important figure in Holland.**

**St Nicholas went through many transformations in America: Sinterklaas became Santa Claus, and instead of giving gifts on December 6, he became a part of the Christmas holiday. In the 1820 poem "An Account of a Visit from St Nicholas" by Clement Clarke Moore, he is described as a jolly, heavy man who comes down the chimney to leave presents for deserving children and drives a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer. The cartoonist Thomas Nast added to the St Nicholas legend with an 1881 drawing of Santa as wearing a red suit with white fur trim. Once a kind, charitable bishop, St. Nicholas had become the Santa Claus we know today.**

<https://www.biography.com/people/st-nicholas-204635>

**NO SAUSAGE SIZZLE TOMORROW  
EVERYONE CAN WEAR MUFTI – NO DONATION REQUIRED!**

# PRIZE GIVING MASS 2017

See more of Fiona Thomas's super photos of our prize giving on our Facebook page.



**AWARD WINNERS WEEK 8 and 9 TERM 4**

**Caught Being Good** Charlotte Houpapa, Renaysha Naidoo, Matisse Hosking, Grace Van Orden, Paige Bright, Sonny Hepi, Rimu Austin, Braxton Mahu, Seth Kerridge, Samantha McElroy, Bailee Fife

**Classroom Awards** Sonny Hepi, Karina Rihia, Chloe Porter, Shaniquae McElroy, Charlotte Houpapa, Isabel Mills, Trixie Thomas, Nadianna Phelan, Tia Cowlshaw, Chloe Porter, Zola Thomas

**Special Character Award** Zina Obi Okeoma, Phillip Spiers

**St Patrick's Awards** Grace Van Orden, Milla Coradine, Hana Coradine



**St Patrick's Award** Term 4 award winners enjoy fish and chips with Matua.

**END OF YEAR CHRISTMAS PICNIC**



**Parish of the Immaculate Conception Taumarunui**

Mass each weekday: Mon-Tues 9am, Wed-Thurs 9.30am, Fri 12 noon

Sunday 17 December 9.30am  
Third Sunday of Advent



**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

24 December – Christmas Eve – Carols 6.45pm, Mass 7.00pm

No midnight Mass

25 December – Christmas Day – Mass 9.30am



**Fr Lawrie Bishop 078968030 - Sister Win 078958532**