

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2018, 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-18

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

The word of the Lord

Psalm: Isaiah 12

Second Reading Philippians 4:4-8

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord

"Gaudete, Rejoice"



Gospel Luke 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord

"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire"



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: 23 December 2018 Fourth Sunday of Advent
First Reading Micah 5:1-4, Psalm 79:2-3,15-16,18-19, Second Reading Hebrews 10:39-45, Gospel Luke 1:39-45

Te Kura Katorika o Hato Hohepa



Parish Priest
Father Joe Stack
Te Awamutu
07 8716109

Resident Priest
Fr. Matt McAuslin
Ph: 07 878 6417

St. George's Parish
Community Newsletter

Principal: Suzanne Downey
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26 Seddon St, Te Kuiti 3910

Panui 40 - 14 December 2018

Together we will provide a quality all round education, developing valuable contributors to society who reflect the teachings of Jesus Christ



- 1. Please come and join us for our final Assembly on Friday, 14 December 2018 at 10.00am - 12.00am.**
- 2. Please come and join the community Carols in the Park - at Brook Park Sunday 16th December 6pm.**
- 3. Christmas Mass is on Tuesday 25th December at 9.30 am. Bring the children along and hear and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Children love the nativity scene.**

WHAT ARE WE UP TO ?

DECEMBER

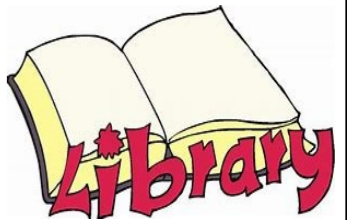
- 14: Final Assembly - 10 am
- 17: Last day for the busses, Thank you afternoon
- 18: Last day of Term

JANUARY 2019

- 29: School Office open - 9am to 1 pm
- 30: School Office open - 9am to 1 pm
- 31 First day of Term 1

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOKS

Year 8's and other students not returning to St Joseph's School in 2019, please ensure that you have handed in your school library books by Monday, 17 December 2018. Please don't leave our school without returning our library books as other students would like to read them too.

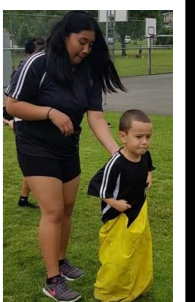


MRS. DOWNEY'S NOTES ...

Kia Ora Koutou te Whanau

This is our final newsletter for 2018. This newsletter has plenty of photos, that highlight the week, to peruse over.

We have had an amazing week and whilst the staff and students have been busy preparing events like End of Year Mass, Year 8 Dinner speeches, Nativity play, Carols in the Park nativity, End of Year Gift baskets, St Vincent de Paul paper bag appeal, Powerpoints, Amazing Races and End of Year Books etc., we have still made the time to have some fun at our team games day on Tuesday. This was a fantastic idea and the children loved kicking back and playing some of the good old simple games like egg and spoon with their team. Thank you Mrs Were for initiating this day.



MRS. DOWNEY'S NOTES (continue)...

This week the school was also informed that Mrs TuiSamoa will be leaving us. Joanna will be taking a position at Deanwell school in Hamilton. The move will mean Joanna now has a senior teacher role and can be closer to and travel with her family to school and work. We will miss Joanna as she has brought a special dynamic to our school, that of specialist in English Language Learning and cultural responsiveness. The year 7/8 teaching position has been advertised with the aim of having the position filled for February 2019. Please pray that the right person for our school comes forward.



We had our final whole school Mass on Wednesday. Thank you Father Matt for making this a special Mass for the school. Thank you to all the parents who turned up... it was amazing to have so many with us. Having our school whanau at Mass is always very special for me.



Our junior nativity play was again an amazing success and again we had a very 'full house' of parents, grandparents and parishioners. Those 5 year olds were remembering lengthy texts and confidence flowed as they had their special moment playing their 'part'. The narrators were excellent and ably supported by our 'choir' of students who sang the carols with gus.to at the appropriate place in the play. Mrs Pam Boroevich is to be complemented for the way she so calmly prepares these students and builds their confidence to perform gently. Thank you Pam.



The bi-annual trip to Wellington took place last week. This was a fabulous trip and followed two years of planning and fundraising. The 35 students and 8 parents that accompanied the trip along with myself and Mrs TuiSamoa, all had a fabulous time following quite an action packed timetable.



For your interest we visited fourteen different venues ranging from the Suzanne Aubert Heritage centre to the Trentham Police Dog display and Weta Workshop. The students were all excellent and we received some fine reports about the manners and friendliness of our students (I expect nothing less!).



Thank you to all the parents who came with us and Thank you also to all the parents for making this trip a reality for your children by saving and or fundraising with others. Awesome Work to you all!!



Thank you to you all for the way you have supported the teachers this year. Thank you for your honesty and open conversations about learning matters.

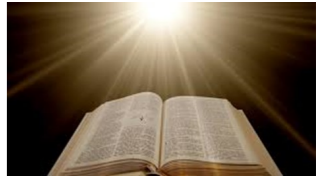
On behalf of the staff, I wish you all a very Blessed and Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Suzanne

PARISH NEWS

Scripture Discussion Group.

Come along and have a look at the readings for the forthcoming Sunday. Every **Monday** at **7pm** in the **Presbytery**. Any queries please contact Fr. Matt 027 3023154



Cup of tea after Mass

Last one this Sunday 16th December until next year.

Christmas Masses

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Otorohanga Monday 24th 5pm
St George's Te Kuiti Tuesday 25th 9.30am

DIOCESE SNIPPETS

MARCH FOR LIFE 2019 - EUTHANASIA AND ABORTION FREE AOTEAROA

We want to make the statement that all life, from conception to natural death, is precious and worth fighting for. Join the march on Sunday 10 March 2019 beginning at 1:00pm from Memorial Park in Hamilton.

#speakfortheweak marchforlife.org.nz

If you would like to help advertise please contact robertg@cdh.org.nz to be sent business cards and posters.

If you would like to volunteer please contact robertg@cdh.org.nz

RETURN TO CHRISTMAS INITIATIVES BY THE CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE

Attached on this link is a Catholic Enquiry Centre (CEC) initiative for this Christmas :

<https://goo.gl/3omW7k>

CEC thinks Christmas is a great time to help all of us in the parishes with some ideas how to make the best use of this time to reach out and evangelize.



SILVERION MEDIEVAL CATHOLIC CAMP 2019

Prepare to be thrilled as you enter into the realm of Silverion; a place for young men and women to explore the medieval world through adventure, mission and creativity.

We will explore the mystery of our Catholic Faith through the celebration of the Sacraments, missions, craft and inspiring talks given by courageous religious from around New Zealand.

Silverion is for young men and women aged 8-16. Held in Te Aroha from Friday 22 February - 24 February 2019.

Spaces are limited so secure your spot by emailing Briegé at silverioncamps.org or silverioncamps.org



SPORTS NEWS

REMINDER: SPORTS COMMITTEE MEETING

Term One, Week One - Wednesday at 5pm. Please pencil this into your diary. Everyone is welcome, new members are needed to help with the running of sports codes at St Joseph in 2019.

Sports Code Parent Leaders in 2018:

Rugby - Monique Needham

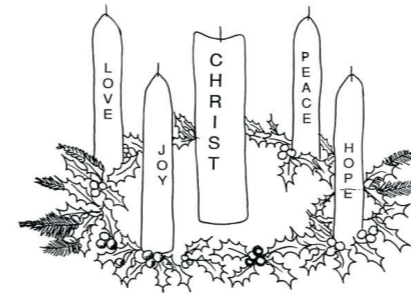
Football - Brendan Were

Hockey- Kylie Leineweber

Netball - Lizzie Rendall

Touch/Miniball - Nikki Taylor

Please let me know if you would like to help lead a code in 2019! Thank you, Pip Were.



Religious Education

Rejoice
IN THE *Lord* ALWAYS.
I WILL SAY IT AGAIN:
Rejoice!
-PHILIPPIANS 4:4

FROM FATHER MATT ...

The calling of John the Baptist to repent, convert and always be ready to meet the Lord is no less relevant to us today 2,000 years after he was teaching. And certainly a key theme of Advent is judgment. God wants us to be always ready to stand before him. When we meet the Lord we want it to go well. With this in mind I found some thought provoking commentary from Spanish spiritual writer Fr. Francis Fernandez. Here is an edited version of what he had to say.

Revelation teaches us that death is a step, a passage to eternal life. Between life here on earth and eternal life, the particular judgment of each one will take place. This will be carried out by Jesus Christ himself, when each one will be judged according to his works, for we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ so that each one may receive good or evil according to what he has done in the body. Nothing will fail to be presented to the Divine tribunal: thoughts, desires, words, actions and omissions. Each human act will acquire its true dimension – the dimension that it has before God, not that which it had before men. There will appear all the thoughts, imaginings and desires....all those internal weaknesses that perhaps it is difficult for us to recognise now. Jesus Christ will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. The words too that we have sometimes used to prop up our own excellence; and others as the instrument of lies; sometimes a lack of understanding, charity or justice. And our deeds. We will be judged too by our deeds. Christ will look at our lives examining how we have behaved. All the opportunities that we had to do something for other people will appear very clearly. Each of our days is full of possibilities for doing good, in whatever circumstances we may be. It would be sad if our life was a great avenue of wasted opportunities. All of this could happen through negligence and a lack of love creeping into us. However for those of us who are close to him throughout our lives Jesus Christ will not be a judge who is a stranger to us, because we try to serve him every day of our existence on earth. We can be intimate friend's of him who has to judge us. That friendship must increase each day that passes. And for those who love him that Judge will simply be Jesus.

Blessings
Fr. Matt



Final Mass

Yesterday we celebrated our final school Mass for the year. Thank you to all those who joined us to celebrate and give thanks to God for all the blessings we have received this year.

We also farewelled our Year 8's and they received a special blessing and a gift to remind them of their time at St Joseph's. We wish them well on their journeys and will continue to pray for them.

We pray that all families have a Happy and Holy Christmas, safe holidays and a very Blessed New Year!



Nativity Play

Room 3, led by Mrs Boroaveich, presented their Nativity Play yesterday after Mass. They did a fabulous job playing their parts and we were able to share the true meaning of Christmas with our community. They looked fabulous in their costumes and our chorus of singers (rest of the school) played their part too, sharing in the joy of Christmas carols.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



3rd Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday

This Sunday we celebrate Gaudete Sunday which is always the 3rd Sunday of Advent. Gaudete means 'rejoice' We are now over halfway through Advent and this is the Sunday of Joy. We light the pink candle and priests often wear rose coloured vestments. It is a reminder of the joy of the coming of Jesus.



Thank You Lord for the times of refreshment and opportunities to go away on a holiday – so that we may be renewed in body soul and spirit. And Lord, we particularly thank You for this lovely summer holiday time and pray that You would be with us as we spend time away from the hustle and bustle of the work/school week and take time to rest awhile.

Lord it was You who reminded Your own disciples that they needed to times of refreshment and from the stresses and strains of the day and we thank You for this opportunity to enjoy different and new experiences. May our time away be one of warmth and love and filled with fun and fellowship. May our hearts overflow with Your joy and peace and may we fill our lungs with laughter.

Watch over our journey as we travel and protect us from all difficulties and dangers. May we rest in You and return refreshed in body soul and spirit to Your praise and glory, in Jesus name we pray,

Amen

PLEASE TAKE NOTE!

End of Year Reports go home tomorrow Friday 14th of December. If you wish to see a teacher about them early next week is a good time. One request - please take the reports home to read with your family, rather than on the footpath outside school. These reports are professionally written and the staff would appreciate them respected in this way please.

The reports are a new format.

- There is one format for the Interim and Full reporting cycle now.
- There is a graph with ticks to illustrate where you child is sitting in relation to the National Curriculum Levels.
- The report, on the inside, is read across both inside pages for eg. the reading graph is opposite the reading comment and next steps the writing graph is opposite the writing comment and next steps
- The report has specific comments on curriculum areas other than literacy and numeracy.
- The key competencies have the child's self reflection and the teachers reflection about each capability.
- Those parents who are in Anne Barkers study group will have a 'science at home' insert in the envelope.

The staff will be looking for feedback about the report format. If you have any comments please email them to suzanne@stjosephk.school.nz.

Maniapoto Primary Schools' Māori Culture Festival 2018

Our Kapa Haka Group performed proudly at The Les Munro Centre, along with 10 other groups from the Maniapoto area. The Maniapoto Festival is an opportunity to celebrate Māori culture, language and learning as a community. Our group of nearly 60 performers was made up of both junior and senior students, including all of Room 2. This performance was the coming together of the learning our whole school has been involved in under the guidance of Matua Amai. Our Kapa Haka performing group was formed in Term 4. All students made a commitment to the many practises each week to perform a bracket of 6 items that gave the crowd goosebumps on the day. Some words that come to our minds after watching our performance were...passionate, learning journey, proud, school spirit, catholic character, courageous and commitment. Congratulations to our leaders - Bella Larsen, Christina Bio, Matthew Riley and Joel Rendall who lead waiata and haka and showed excellent leadership qualities throughout the term. Thank you to Matua Amai who has taught our students waiata and haka we can be proud to know and perform and for the other skills our Kapa Haka Group has given our students like confidence building, being part of a team, feeling valued, giving things a go, stepping out of our comfort zone and new knowledge of the Māori traditions and culture. We were very proud of our whole group and look forward to our Te Reo Māori learning and Kapa Haka in 2019.

Mrs Needham and Mrs Tui Samoa



ROAD PATROL REWARDS DAY

Last Thursday the Community Police put on a reward day for students who helped out with Road Patrol this year. As the Yr 7/8's were on camp, the Yr 6's went along for an awesome day! In the morning the students were involved in team building activities, then we had a delicious lunch of burgers and sausages. Finally we headed to the pools for fun with the inflatable. We all had a fantastic day!



Room 1's overnight camp

On 21st—22nd November Room 1 went on camp to Te Kauri Lodge. We had a fabulous trip exploring the outdoors and having fun together. We were scientists and took part in a stream study looking at the wildlife, the speed, the temperature, the pH and more!

We looked at trees and leaves closely and created a trail for another group to follow. One of the highlights for the students was the night activity—building huts out of newspaper. Each group presented their structure that could fit one or two students in it.

