



Newsletter

10 May 2019
Term 2 Week 2

Message from the Principal

Kia ora koutou Te Kura O Hato Mere Whanau

As the sun shines upon the parish grounds we remember a 'Shining Star'. Father John Pearce is that star. He opened our eyes and ears to those around us, our community. He engaged and worked in all faith communities by making connections and working alongside each and every person. His presence was a present, a gift to us all.

Father John and Father Pat have blazed a pathway in to the future for our Parish. Numbers at mass have grown and the church is full, the wider community are becoming engaged with us, as are we with them. We have become a hub of acceptance and a welcoming presence in the community.

Father John was so much more than our Parish Priest. John was a leader, a father figure, a great communicator, a doer, had massive amounts of energy, was enthusiastic, believed in all people and in the knowledge that we are all children of God.

He was an integral and intimate part of our school and the preschool. His warm, nurturing nature drew you in to listen and be a part of something greater than you had realised. We all loved how he sang with great gusto each and every time we had a school mass or liturgy. The presence of God was in this man each and every day. He was a symbol of 'Christ's Light' in our school and wider community.

He was a colleague, a confidant, a friend and most of all a MATE to all.



Today at our prayer service it was great to see parishioners, parents and passed pupils all join us in our reflective celebration of Father John. The man we new and the friend we all loved.

In the reading today we heard how Jesus challenged the disciples when they were fishing. After a day of catching nothing they trusted in Jesus and placed the net back in the water. When the net was pulled from the water it was full to overflowing with fish, but did not break under the pressure and strain of the weight.

This symbol of trust in Jesus Christ and in God's will for all men reflects the work of Father John and Father Pat. The faith, trust and partnership they have inspired has grown this community to be a plentiful catch of difference, acceptance and faith.



Thank you Father John for being present in our community. For encompassing all aspects of the parish including the different churches in Moana Star of the Sea, the St Mary's Preschool and St Mary's Primary School. We are all blessed to have had Father John in our communities and reflect the hard work and struggles he has faced, to bring us together under one banner as a 'Catholic faith community'.

Thank you for taking time to get to know our children, our parents and our community. For opening your mind and our hearts. For supporting our faith journey's while building on your own. Your guidance and quiet words of wisdom along along the way. Your presence in our schools and at our community gatherings, also bringing a smile, a cheeky remark and a sense of calm, compassion and understanding.

We will all miss you, never forget you and forever be grateful for your time with us. Your work will continue long after you have left. Your influence will be everlasting. Go now in peace and love. Rest, raise your weary feet and take a load off as you to are a child of God.

God bless you mate

Father John's Funeral

The funeral will be at the **Convention Centre** at **11am**. **Parking** will be in the main car park but also at **Blenheim School** (A huge thank you to Denyse Healy and the Blenheim School community). **Please park on the concrete areas only.**

Cuppa Tea

A cuppa tea will follow in the Parish Hall straight after the service. Please come back enjoy a chat, share a story and meet some new people. We are one community after all.

In Christ's Light

Board Talk

The sudden passing of Father John Pearce has been a shock to our school and parish community. John arrived within our school in February 2017 and his leadership, energy, presence and faith have been a shining light within our school. He embraced our school community and has achieved an immense amount over his time with us. We need to now continue his work and build on his faith, inclusiveness, singing and prayer.

Father John embodied the passionist spirituality of being down to earth and practical in his instruction and apostolic preaching.

Our condolences to his family and Passionist order

We will miss Father John.

May he Rest In Peace.

God bless

Megan McKendry (Chairperson), Paddy Dowling, Joju Jose Kalan, Richard Vercoe, Kate Gaines, Jo Lane, Helen Sloan, Annie Thompson, Jacinda Thompson, Matt Franken

In Christ's Light **Mission Statement**

*St Mary's will be a vibrant and connected Catholic community,
providing all learners with opportunities to achieve personal excellence.
Our learners will encounter and reflect Christ's light, confidently sharing their gifts.*

School Values

St Mary's School Values are those Jesus proclaimed in the Gospel of St Matthew 5:3-10
**Humility, Compassion, Community, Faithfulness,
Forgiveness, Honesty, Patience, Courage**

Whakatauki

Kaitiakitanga

Watching over, taking care of, guarding, nurturing and protecting

Manaaki Whenua

Care for the land

Manaaki Tangata

Care for the people

Haere Whakamua

Go ahead

Election notices



2019 School trustee triennial elections - for more info please click [here](#)

Community News:

[Junior Badminton](#)

[PREC Newsletter Term 2 2019](#)

[Foster Parents](#)

[St Mary's Youth Group News](#)

[Term 2 courses REAP Marlborough](#)

[Phantom of the Opera](#)

[The Great Blenheim Bake Off](#)

In Christ's Light