

THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

Even though it may not be fashionable to show mercy, from time to time illustrations of mercy and forgiveness jump out at us, as if to remind us that for believers mercy is a fundamental Christian virtue. The gunning down of good people in Charleston Church in South Carolina in October 2015, and what followed as the gunman was quickly forgiven, illustrates the power of God's grace being delivered through the action of mercy.

Shakespeare wrote in *The Merchant of Venice*, "The quality of mercy is not strained – it droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath. It is twice blessed; it blesses him that gives and him that takes."

It is worth reminding ourselves just what the Corporal Works of Mercy actually are, i.e.

- To feed the hungry
- To give drink to the thirsty
- To clothe the naked
- To shelter the homeless
- To visit the sick
- To bury the dead

At the height of the European refugee crisis in the last quarter of 2015, it was the leaders of the countries that demonstrated practical mercy in taking in refugees who gained the plaudits of the world community.

Pope Francis's statement that all humanity are daughters and sons of our Heavenly Father, is all the more reason to make us compassionate. Yes, we all need to help ourselves as best we can, but many individuals need a merciful hand-up when they are downtrodden and this is where we all come into the equation.

As a result of Pope Francis's leadership the world is a somewhat better place for the flag of mercy to proudly fly. During the Holy Year of Mercy may we all continue to spread the quality of mercy so our society and world become better places for every human being.

As I leave the CEO role at NZCEO I simply wish to express my personal gratitude to you for the inspiration you have brought to the development of our national Catholic Education system over the 20+ years that I have been in the role. It has been a wonderful journey and a great honour to have been able to work alongside you.

May the Good Lord richly bless you. THANK YOU!

Best wishes for the year ahead.

He aha te taonga, koha nui rānei kaho atu tātou ki te tangata? He akoranga, he akoranga, he akoranga.

Catholic Schools Day 16th May 2016

Please mark this date in your diaries and choose the day(s) you wish to celebrate during this week. Information and posters have been sent out.

Congratulations to Principals New to Leadership in a Catholic School

James Bentley, St Peter's College, Epsom
 Simon Stack, St Bernard's College, Lower Hutt
 Teresa Jarvis, St Thomas School, Winton
 Steve Autagavaia, St Patrick's Catholic School, Taumarunui
 Caroline Gilligan, St Joseph's School, Levin
 Donna McDonald, St Theresa's School, Plimmerton
 Leonie McEwan, St Joseph's School, Wairoa
 Helen West, Hato Hohepa te Kamura, Waitaruke
 Shaun Emms, St Paul's School, Ngaruawahia
 Nenah Kelemete, St Joseph's School, Dannevirke

A New Catholic School in Christchurch

Congratulations from the Catholic education community to principal Jo Earl and her staff, on the opening of St Francis of Assisi School, Christchurch.

Consider This

New Zealand Catholic schools play a vital role in both modelling and witnessing Catholic values. They are increasingly assuming responsibility for the spiritual formation of students where parents are unable or unwilling to give the lead.

Fr James Lyons

Congratulations

- NZCEO Chairman, Geoff Ricketts, who was accorded a Doctor of Laws Degree (Honoris Causa) by the University of Auckland. Geoff has been the Chairman of the University of Auckland Foundation since its inception.
- Christopher Oleva-Tanuvasa, Head Boy of St Peter's College, Epsom, who has been chosen by Su'a William Sio, MP for Māngere, to represent Māngere in this year's Youth Parliament.

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand

Caritas is congratulated on its 2016 Lenten resource pack for schools - Hear the Cry of the Earth and the Poor.

A Reminder of Publications Available from NZCEO

Publications can be viewed, ordered or downloaded at http://nzceo.catholic.org.nz/pages/print_order.html

- Being a Staff Member in a New Zealand Catholic School

"We are not permitted to choose the frame of our destiny but what we put into it is our own."

Dag Hammarskjöld

- Virtues and Values in New Zealand Catholic Schools
- New Zealand Catholic Schools Today
- The Declaration of NZ Catholic Schools Proprietors – Characteristics of an Authentic Catholic School
- NZ Catholic School Teacher Certification
- Choose a Career as a Catholic School Teacher
- New Zealand Catholic Schools Heritage Brochure
- New Zealand Catholic Schools Location Guide Poster
- Code of Ethics for Staff and Boards of Trustees of New Zealand Catholic Schools
- 2020 Beacon Plan Goals

Websites to Visit

www.delasalle.org.nz

See 'Monthly PD' for a range of interesting articles.

www.netsafe.org.nz

Useful guidelines and information on internet safety.

Migration: Beyond the Metropolises – Asian Dimension Grows in Small Cities

'Migration: Beyond the Metropolises – Asian Dimension Grows in Small Cities' is a recent report from the Asia New Zealand Foundation which provides an overview of demographic change in each of our six main cities and in more rural areas throughout NZ. Asia New Zealand Foundation Executive Director Simon Draper says the report shows that the influence of Asian cultures is being felt well beyond Auckland. You will find the full report at www.asianz.org.nz

Education System Performance Improvement Framework (ES PIF) Initiative

The Ministry of Education has joined forces with Careers New Zealand, Tertiary Education Commission, New Zealand Qualifications Authority, Education Review Office, Education New Zealand, Education Council and State Services Commission to take a good look at themselves. They want to work together as a group of agencies to provide the best possible stewardship for New Zealand's Education system.

Any questions or comments, please email EducationSystem.PIF@education.govt.nz

Modern / Flexible / Innovative Learning Environments

From Modern (MLEs) to Flexible (FLEs) to Innovative (ILEs): the key to these classroom designs is flexibility of space, grouping of students, learning styles and flexibility in how teachers share their expertise. Mark Osborne speaks about the value of Modern Learning Environments www.edtalks.org/video/considering-modern-learning-environments.

Cultural trip to Thailand

Holly Malcolm, a St Kevin's College pupil, was one of nine selected to spend four weeks in Thailand at the beginning of the school year to promote people-to-people links between Thailand and New Zealand and to enhance the English language proficiency of Thai secondary school pupils.

"Anywhere is paradise; it's up to you!"

Annoymous

Launch of Central Plateau Community of Catholic Schools

Congratulations to schools in the Community of Catholic Schools launched on 11th February: John Paul College, Rotorua; Aquinas College, Tauranga; Bishop Edward Gaines School, Tokoroa; St Joseph's School, Opotiki; St Mary's School, Putaruru; St Mary's School, Tauranga; St Thomas More School, Mt Maunganui; St Mary's School, Rotorua; St Michael's School, Rotorua.

Gospel Resources

www.pgbs.com.au is a multimedia website connecting faith, liturgy and life, for the Catholic community, including primary and secondary schools, based on the four key components: gather, proclaim, break and send.

More from Pope Francis

"You can say today we are not living in an era of change but a change of era.

"Before the problems of the church it is not useful to search for solutions in conservatism or fundamentalism, in the restoration of obsolete conduct and forms that no longer have the capacity of being significant culturally.

"Christian dogma is not a closed system incapable of generating questions, doubts, interrogatives – but is alive, knows being unsettled, enlivened. It has a face that is not rigid, it has a body that moves and grows, it has a soft flesh: it is called Jesus Christ.

"The reform of the church then, and the church is semper reformanda... does not end in the umpteenth plan to change structures. It means instead grafting yourself to and rooting yourself in Christ, leaving yourself to be guided by the Spirit – so that all will be possible with genius and creativity."

Engendering Support for the School Community

Well done St Patrick's Catholic School, Te Awamutu. The school organised 72 sponsors for its 'Big Night Out' and then provided school parents with a list to refer to so they can support local services in return when they buy a product or seek a service.

The Year of Mercy 2016

"Ko te atawhai... tā mātou Kaupapa matua. Mercy – the business of our lives" – Catherine McAuley

"From the heart of the Trinity, from the depths of the mystery of God, the great river of mercy wells up and overflows unceasingly" – Misericordiae Vultus 25



KONICA MINOLTA

Kia kaha, Kia māia, Kia ū!

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