

**BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL**

In the last few months the world has witnessed the sadness of the refugee boat people in the Mediterranean Sea area and in the Andaman Sea off the coast of South East Asia. These tragic events, plus what is happening in other refugee hot spots in the world, are complex to sort out. However, at rock bottom we are called to exercise the virtue of mercy.

The late Brother Roger, of the Taizé Community in France, once said, "Mercy is the only climate in which we meet God."

As educators we are charged with influencing our students in a myriad of ways so they grow into well-developed adults who are able to contribute to the wellbeing of their local national and global communities. A consideration of the significance of the virtue of mercy is worth undertaking. After all, as Christians are called to practise the Corporal Works of Mercy, which are: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned and bury the dead. Sometimes these practices are not high on people's radar.

One of Pope Francis's refrains is, "We are all sons and daughters of the one Father." Therefore we ought to use this lens in our decision making, and urge others to do so. Thus mercy can come to the fore in our lives.

Maybe in our hurried lives it is easy to let slip the importance of mercy in the way we interact with others. All worth thinking about as we move towards the Church's 'Year of Mercy' – December 8th 2015 until 20th November 2016. (Acknowledgements to Cardinal John Dew's column in Wel-Com, June 2015.)



*"Study hard, dear. As soon as you learn to read, I'll start texting you."*

**Greetings**

**Kia tau te rangimarie.**

**We trust all is well with you as we all work through the winter into spring.**

**A Date for Your Diaries**

Catholic Schools Day will be held on 16th May, 2016. Material will be sent to schools in early 2016.

**Queen's Birthday Honours 2015 – Members of the Order of New Zealand**

Congratulations are extended to Paul Daley, founding Principal Sancta Maria College, Flat Bush; Elizabeth Horgan, Principal St Joseph's School, Onehunga; and Anne Miles, Principal, McAuley High School, Otahuhu, all of whom received the MNZM for services to education.

**NZ Catholic Education Convention 10-12 June 2015 – Thank You**

Our warmest thanks to everyone who attended NZ Catholic Education Convention - your presence made it a great success. A particular thank you to those who generously presented seminars - your willingness to share with your colleagues exemplifies what Catholic education is all about. Keynote addresses are on the portal and at [www.nzceo.org.nz](http://www.nzceo.org.nz). Thanks to TCI and Caritas for their wonderful input. We are now setting the date for the next convention in 2018, so start planning to attend now!

**New School to Start in 2017**

Government has approved funding to enable work to begin on Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School, Takanini.

**Catholic Schools Online Portal**

If there are any questions about accessing the portal contact [m.condliffe@nzceo.org.nz](mailto:m.condliffe@nzceo.org.nz). The portal provides links to Faithcentral, Faithalive, TCI and the national site for the NZ Catholic Church. A roundup of the convention is currently on the portal.

**NCEC Conference, Perth 19-22 June 2016 – Faith to Lead, Lead to Faith**

Information about the Australian National Catholic Education Commission conference is available at [www.ncec2016.com](http://www.ncec2016.com). Calls for abstracts close in October 2015. Registrations open in December 2015.

**New Catholic School for Christchurch**

As a result of the red-zoning of St Paul's School, Dallington, a new Catholic primary school will open at the start of 2016 on the site of the current Our Lady of Fatima School. Our Lady of Fatima and St Paul's School Dallington will close, and the new school will meet the ongoing requirements of Catholic primary schooling in the St Francis of Assisi parish.

**Cafod (Caritas International England-Wales) Praised in Education Gazette**

The 29 June 2015 edition of the Education Gazette contains an article on School Fundraising in the Digital Age. In it Cafod is recommended for its A-Z fundraising ideas! You can read the ideas at [www.bit.ly/1FJNuH8](http://www.bit.ly/1FJNuH8).

*"I love therefore I am."*

Kathleen Raine

## Congratulations to Principals New to Leadership in a Catholic School

Tania Savage, Principal, Cardinal McKeefry School, Wilton, Wellington.

Dallas Wichman, Principal, St Anne's School, Woolston, Christchurch.

## Excellence in Catholic Education – Thoughts to Ponder

We need to strive always for excellence in Catholic schools – perhaps it is worth remembering that this is based on being the best that each person can be, developing and using one's gifts and talents fully in order to be able to help others. St Ignatius wrote to King Phillip II of Spain, "The wellbeing of Christianity and of the whole world depends on the proper education of youth." On 3 January 2014 in a homily at the church of the Gesu, Rome, Pope Francis said, "Do we have great visions and dash? Are we daring? Does our dream fly high? Does zeal devour us?"

## Holy Year of Mercy Begins on 8 December

The Pope has announced an Extraordinary Jubilee Year in the life of the Church. The organisation of the year is being undertaken by the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelisation.

## Vocations Tour Nov-Dec 2015

A group of eight seminarians and a priest from Holy Cross seminary are biking the length of New Zealand later this year, to promote and pray for vocations to the priesthood. Find out more at [www.vocationstour.org.nz](http://www.vocationstour.org.nz) or [www.facebook.com/vocationstour](https://www.facebook.com/vocationstour).

## Parihaka Resource Launched

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is congratulated on its latest schools resource, Parihaka o neherā, o nāianeī, Parihaka – past and present. The resource was launched at the NZ Catholic Education Convention.

## Worth Checking Out

[www.vaughanpublishing.com.au](http://www.vaughanpublishing.com.au) is a joint venture of The Broken Bay Institute and Garratt Publishing. Its 'Mission and Education' Series is well worth finding out about. Therese and Jim D'Orsa's latest book, 'New Ways of Living the Gospel: Spiritual Tradition in Catholic Schools' and their important book on Catholic Curriculum, 'Leading for Mission: Integrating Life, Culture and Faith in Catholic Education', can be ordered from there, or through Pleroma Books.

## A Marist Son

William Malone gained his education in Marist schools in London and France. He emigrated to NZ, and led his battalion in the Sari Bar offensive at Gallipoli. He then refused to take his men into the Chunuk Bair offensive on the grounds that it was suicide. He led his battalion to further outstanding military achievements but was killed by NZ artillery fire. There were efforts to make him a scapegoat for the loss of Chunuk Bair, but his reputation was later exonerated. He is commemorated by a Malone Memorial Gate in Stratford, and a plaque in Parliament. A group from Sacred Heart College Auckland recently placed a wreath below the plaque.

## St Thomas Aquinas School Winton's Hall of Fame

As old boys, Hon Bill English and Bishop Len Boyle were both recently inducted into the school's Hall of Fame.

*"It is not every question that deserves an answer."*

Publilius Syrus

## Comments from Our Bishops on Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si – Praise Be to You.

Cardinal John Dew: "We are humbled to have been quoted (in para 95). Pope Francis echoes our comments that the environment is a collective good and the responsibility of us all, and the overconsumption of resources by the rich robs poor nations and future generations of what they need to survive... It is a consistent message about life – the whole planet and all that inhabits the earth... Hope is a theme throughout, reminding us all is not lost, as humanity is capable of transformation and creating the necessary solutions to these challenges."

Bishop Charles Drennan: "Pope Francis has taken a very holistic approach to describing the immense and urgent challenges facing the planet and all its inhabitants... [We have] a duty to care for future generations. For us here in Aotearoa New Zealand we often ask ourselves what of worth will be left for our mokopuna... Mother Earth is to humanity what the womb is to the baby." (Quotes from Wel-Com July 2015.)

## Pope Francis' Encyclical

The Redemptorists have put together an interactive digital resource kit. Find it at [www.cssr.org.au/news\\_and\\_events/fx-articles.cfm?loadref=209&id=161](http://www.cssr.org.au/news_and_events/fx-articles.cfm?loadref=209&id=161).

## A Website You May Wish to Join

If you do not already receive the free weekly newsletter from Cath News NZ and Pacific you might find it worthwhile. Go to <http://cathnews.co.nz/newsletter/> to place yourself on the mailing list.



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