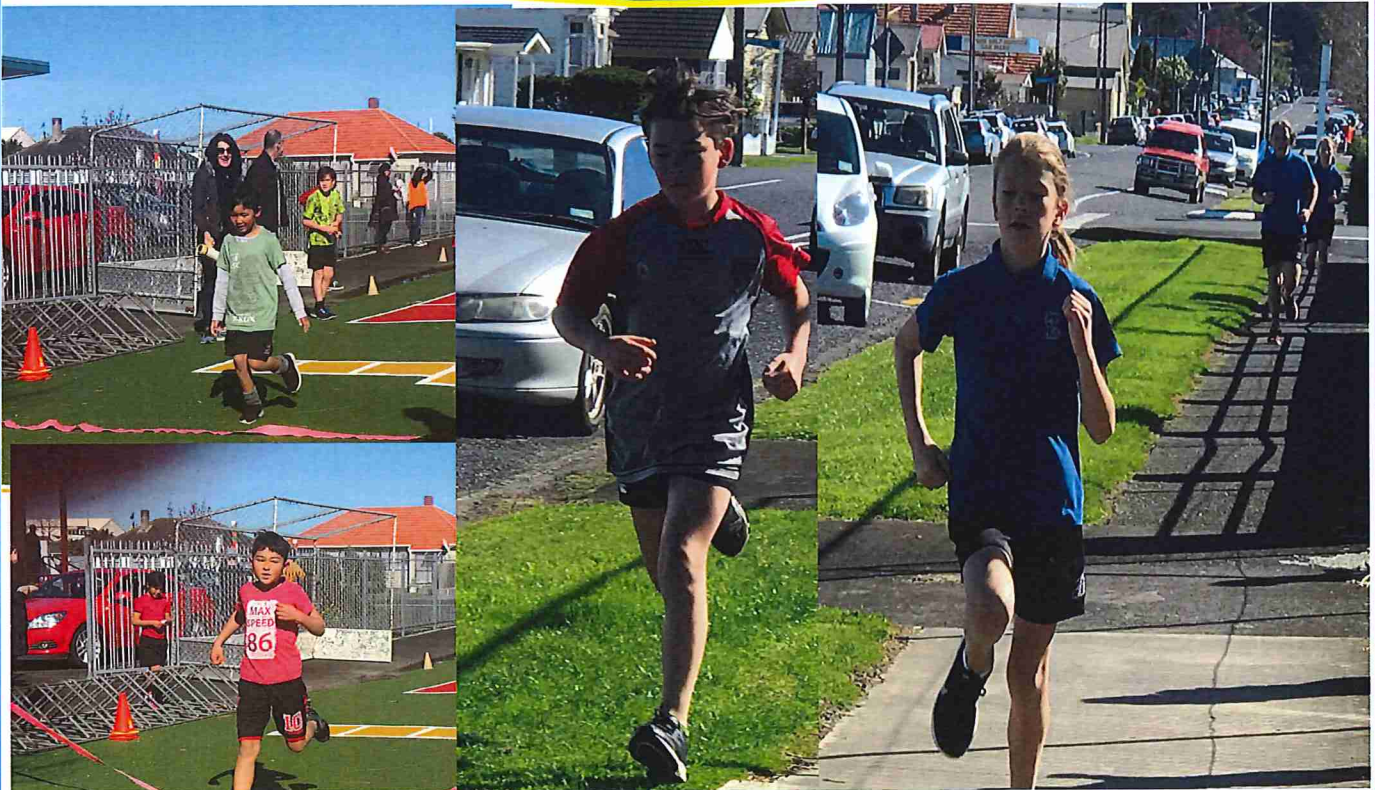


3rd September 2018 (Vol.27)

St Francis Cross Country

**Lunch Orders  
on  
Wednesday**

**Thames Valley Athletics Day  
On 6th September ~ Well done to Parker  
and Jonathon for qualifying.  
Good Luck**



The Darrah's would like to thank you all for your kind and generous donations, words and prayers. We will be forever grateful for all the love and support you have given us through our journey.

**Whakatauki**

**He rau ringa e oti ai ~ Many hands make light work**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

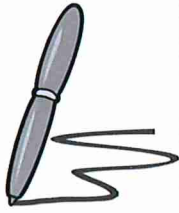
We are a Catholic faith community committed to quality education



## Focus for Term 3

**Honesty ~ faitotonú** - *Proverbs 12:22 Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight. We all make mistakes, but the Lord teaches us forgiveness, therefore we are forgiven, but only if we are truly sorry and speak the truth.*

### Principal's Pen



Kia Ora whānau,

This week we have our Thames Valley Cross Country at Ngatea, well done to Jonathan and Parker for qualifying, this is a huge achievement. Good luck to you both, you are already winners in our eyes. Thank you to all those people who came on Tuesday to support the children at Puriri School, all the children did really well, we are very proud of them all.

We are having family prayer every Wednesday in Room 4 at 9am. This is being organised by Sr. Paula to give people an opportunity to come together and pray for our school. Everyone is welcome.

We would really like to get our PTA up and running again and really need people to come forward to establish a core team of about four people. It would be good to get some events organised for term 4. If you would like to join us then please contact either Julie Burchell, Fiona Webster or myself, so we can organise a AGM.

Have a wonderful week.

Kia te wairua tapu ki runga ki a koutou katoa. ~ May the Holy Spirit be upon you all.  
Geraldine Sumner ~ Principal.

### Twenty third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B Green

**'Everything he does is good!'**

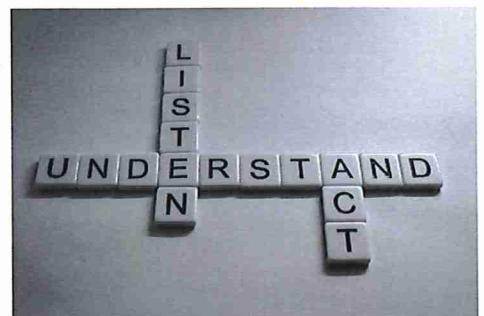
**Isaiah 35: 4-7a Psalm 146 James 2:1-5 Mark 7: 31-37**

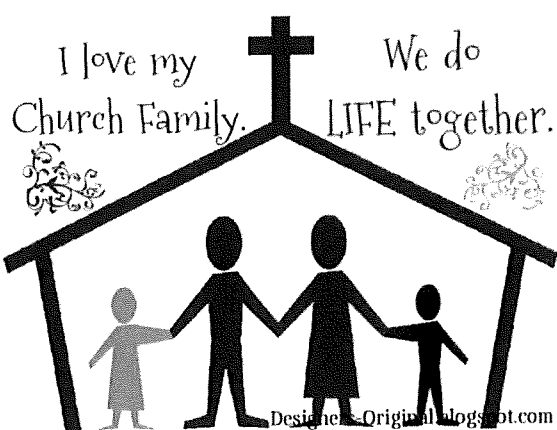
Unless we know someone who is deaf, we take the gift of hearing for granted. We never stop to imagine how different our lives would be if we could not hear. On Sunday we hear how one deaf man's world would never be the same again.

Sunday's Gospel story is a miracle of liberation as one man is set free to hear and proclaim the mercy of God. Jesus' mission is to be of service to all, the handicapped and disabled he welcomes – no one is rejected because of their difference. We are encouraged to be open to the influence and needs of all as well – there is no place for prejudice. We must take people as we find them, God's people, and God has touched each one. There are other forms of deafness; we can refuse to listen to what Jesus wants us to hear; we can be so tied up in our own world and how busy we are, that we can neglect to hear what people say to us. Is Jesus calling us to bless others with our full attention? What new possibilities might open up to us as we meet and hear the words Jesus has for us? What comfortable aspects of our life might we need to relinquish, or what new demands might be made on us?

Spend time this week

being attentive to the way we use gestures and touch – either to include or exclude others.





Family Prayer circle ~ Room 4 every Wednesday at 9am. Please join Sr. Paula together our prayers are stronger and we can ask for God's grace to bless our school and community. Everyone is welcome.

## St. Francis School Board of Trustees

Complaints and behaviour management policies are up for review, we would like your feedback on both of these policies. Go to [stfrancis-thames.schooldocs.co.nz](http://stfrancis-thames.schooldocs.co.nz) Enter the community login details:

**Username:** stfrancis-thames  
**Password:** mackay

We have a parent trustee vacancy are you interested in supporting the governance of St. Francis School? Do you want to have a say on the future of our school? Do you want to make a difference for all our children? Can you spare a couple of hours a month? Then please contact Eric Hamilton or the office for further details.

## Parish AGM

This will be held in the Church after Mass on Sunday 9th September. This will be followed by morning tea and then you are invited to join with parishioners to review parish goals from the last 3 years and set goals for the next 2-3 years. All welcome and we would value the input from our younger parish members.  
Fr Vally

## PTA News ~

Your PTA needs you, please come and join the PTA and take an active role in supporting the education of our children. Speak to Fiona Webster or Julie Burchell if you are interested.  
Thank you

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DUES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support with the payment of attendance dues for preference students attending Catholic schools in Auckland Diocese, both primary and secondary. Families facing financial difficulties can contact their school office, their Parish Priest or the Revenue Manager at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland for further information.

Application forms for the Hardship Scheme are available from school and parish offices, or can be downloaded from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Website :

[www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools/](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools/) (go to Catholic Schools in Auckland / Attendance Dues and Special Character Contributions)



## Upcoming Events for Term 3

Please remember to watch the weekly newsletter as sometimes we do need to change dates.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday	Sharyn Clark will be in for Piano Lessons Call Sharyn for any possible vacancies 027 4485089
Every Tuesday	Clive hosting free brass instrument lessons from 2.30—3.45
Every Monday	Mandarin Language/culture lessons
Three Days a Week	Cross Country Training in School
Every Tuesday	Robotics Club
Every Thursday	Rm 5 will be going to Technology Training at Thames High School
Every Wednesday	Gather in room 4 for Family Prayer with Sr. Paula.
28th September	End of Term 3
14th October	ST Francis Feast Day Mass 8.30 in Church
15th October	Start of Term 4

I hope you have heard of Pick It Up Now here in Thames, but if not, Pick It Up Now is a sustainability project in The Coromandel about influencing a culture change to get people to pick up rubbish rather than walk past it...however it stands for so much more including ways to reduce plastic usage and reducing rubbish.

The concept is in it's infancy, however we hope to help grow it into something more significant.

We have got some key players in the tourism industry and local businesses involved and keen, and are in the process of getting other businesses and more key players in the tourism industry on board as well. Exciting times.

On September 15th we are joining in with the national Keep NZ Beautiful campaign week and are organising a huge clean up in Thames town. Our last 2 pick ups have been at the beach, but thought it would be great to get the entire town cleaned up with many, many willing helpers.

What I want is for as many local schools, organisations, businesses, clubs and early childhood centres to get involved and organise a group to help pick up rubbish in our town. If you are unable to participate because of work, could you spare 5 mins on a break and pick up litter where you are?

There are going to be some GOLDEN TICKETS ( gold numbered stones ) 'dropped' around town that some lucky people will find and will win a prize.

Bags and gloves are supplied and it will be a great morning!

**When: Saturday Sept 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Where: Band Rotunda Victoria Park Crn Albert St and Beach Rd**

**Time: 10.00am – 12.00pm**

If you have any questions, please phone me on 0220503005.

Please share this on your facebook pages, and tell EVERYONE about it.

Lets make this the clean up of the century. 😊 😊 😊

