



12th June 2018 (Vol. 17)



**Friday 29th June
School Closes at
1pm** NZEI Paid Union member

**B O T Meeting
Wednesday
20th June**

**Lunch Orders on
Wednesday
Sausage Sizzle
Fridays
\$2 Pre Order**

Whakataukī

Ma te Korero, ka mohio

Through discussion we become aware

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Catholic faith community committed to quality education

Focus for Term 2 is Respect

Luke 14:10

But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at table with you.

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time,

Year B Green 'What is God's kingdom like?'

Ezekiel 17: 22-24 Psalm 92 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10 Mark 4: 30-34

The seed in Sunday's parable does not rely on a gardener's constant attention – it is quite capable of growing wonderfully on its own, simply because it is a living seed. Whenever we sow the seed of God's love or God's Word in someone's heart, God will continue the work of growth there, using all the circumstances of that person's experience to develop the growing.

The greatness of the kingdom that Jesus and Ezekiel are talking about in Sunday's readings grows from a small beginning, its size can be compared to that of the mustard seed. It is for the benefit of all peoples; it is not the exclusive domain of any one flock. Compare the small beginnings of Jesus' ministry in Galilee with the spread of his message throughout the world and appreciate the vast growth that has taken place over the years. God's kingdom grows of its own accord, in its own way, often unseen, unrecognised, and undetected in the world. We cannot be complacent but we can save ourselves from feelings of pessimism, cynicism and despair. We can rejoice in God's work that welcomes and attracts so many different people, the kingdom that we are part of and which we seem to be sharing with so many strange birds.

The little seed of God's kingdom is someone opening themselves up to the possibility of God being real and active in their lives. Gradually it grows in them. Perhaps they ask more questions about God, or try to seek more meaning from the Bible, or come to church more often. Perhaps they begin to talk more to God in prayer or seek help from God with the questions in their lives. Perhaps a verse from scripture hits home with new and deeper meaning or perhaps there is a realisation that their life needs to change. Perhaps they receive some special kindness from someone in a time of difficulty or sorrow.

Where do you see yourself opening up more to God's Kingdom in your life?



Principal's Pen

Kia Ora,

Welcome to week seven, thank you to everyone who joined us on Sunday, it was a wonderful celebration. A special thank you to Debbie and the fourteen children and their families for making it so special. The singing was beautiful and all the children took part in the mass. Father Albert and Sister Paula thought you were all amazing.

This week I will be attending the New Zealand Catholic School Convention in Wellington. I hope to get a glimpse at the new curriculum. The 2018 Convention will bring together Catholic educators, Bishops, priests, school trustees and a range of others associated with our national Catholic education system.

Our Catholic schools make up 8.4% of the total schooling provision for New Zealand children. We educate some 66,000 children. It is a high achieving sector closely aligned with the mission of the Church. At the Convention we will have the opportunity to be strengthened by our sense of community and renewed in a sense of mission.

The theme of the Convention is Christ's Call: to love, to be, to do Ko Tā Te Karaiti
Karanga: kia aroha, kia tuturu, kia ora. International and national speakers will support and challenge us. Meeting and sharing with colleagues from other schools will complete the Convention experience.

Have a great week.

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

Geraldine Sumner ~ Principal.

St. Francis School Board of Trustees

Protected disclosure policy is up for review, we would like your feedback on this policy.

Go to stfrancis-thames.schooldocs.co.nz

Enter the community login details:

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

School Lunch Orders—Just a reminder that these yummy lunches will be available to order every Wednesday. Children's orders should be dropped off to the school office before 9am please. Putting the money in an envelope with the child's name and order on the outside would be helpful. The menu is available on our website under the Newsletter tab or at the school office. Thanks.

Sausage Sizzle Friday - \$2.00 Each Please remember to pre-order your sausage sizzle on Thursday. Thank you

St Francis Sacramental Programme ~ Calling all parents of baptised Catholic children who wish for their 7 years and older children to receive the Blessed Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion in 2018. We are now taking registration for our 2018 programme.

The programme will be organised :

Start with 8.30 Mass followed by morning tea and working from 10am—12pm

First session will be on 10th June covering Reconciliation

Next session 1st July covering 1st Eucharist

Final session 5th August covering confirmation

The Bishop will be in Thames on 12th August for the Celebration of the Sacraments.

Any one interested in Baptism, could they please contact Geraldine or Sister Paula.

Assembly ~ no assembly this week

Book Fair ~ We sold \$750.00 worth of books and stationary products, giving us \$60.00 worth of free books and a further \$225.00 to purchase books for the library for 2018. A huge thank you to Angie and Wendy for helping and you wonderful people for investing in your child's reading development.

Warehouse Stationery~

Just a reminder that if you are shopping at Warehouse Stationery, that St. Francis School is part of the school rebate scheme. Every time you make a purchase mention our school name and they donate 5% of the total purchase to our school.



Helping Kiwi parents reduce the cost of education

Every year thousands of parents don't claim back their school donations - you can now easily claim these back online at www.schoolrebates.co.nz

TIME IS TICKING TO MAKE A CLAIM
as the IRD close another tax year on the 31st of March every year

MAKE EDUCATION CHEAPER
by getting cash back in your pocket - if you've never claimed you can claim back 4 years
No dealing with IRD

CLAIMING IS QUICK AND EASY
and with your schools support they will provide us copies of missing receipts

1. Enter your details at Schoolrebates.co.nz
2. Request missing receipts from your school(s) via our website
3. We'll do the rest and let you know when to check your bank account

Already have receipts?
You can upload these as part of your claim

[SchoolRebates](https://www.facebook.com/SchoolRebates)
Help other Kiwi families by sharing this with them

Upcoming Events for Term 2

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 Thursday	Rm 5 will be going to Technology Training at Thames High School
Every Wednesday	School Lunch orders (from Food for Thought)
Every Monday and Wednesday	Runners Club 8.45—9.00 am
Wednesday 20th June	B.O.T. Meeting
FRIDAY 29th June	School Closes at 1pm for NZEI Paid Union



Dear Parents

You may be aware of the nationwide crisis in recruiting and retaining teachers. While there are many more children coming into the school system, there are not enough new teachers being trained. Urgent and significant changes are needed to ensure that the teaching profession can attract the people it needs and to ensure class sizes do not start to increase.

On **Friday 29th June** the teachers from this school will be attending a NZEI Te Riu Roa paid union meeting regarding the *Kua Tae Te Wā* - It's Time campaign. The campaign aims to free teachers to teach and principals to lead, by getting the additional support and staff that schools need. The meetings will allow our teachers to discuss how the Ministry of Education has responded to changes that the union is seeking.

Our teaching staff are members of NZEI and legally entitled to attend this meeting. The teachers will be leaving school on **Friday 29th June** to attend their paid union meeting which starts at 1:30pm.

I strongly encourage parents to make arrangements to pick their child(ren) up from school by 1.00pm on **at Friday 29th June**.

I appreciate that this creates some inconvenience for families. However, I encourage you to support your teachers as they strive to achieve the changes which will safeguard quality education for all children and ensure we make teaching an attractive profession for graduates. Anyone who may need help with arrangements should contact the school office.