

St Joseph's Catholic School

Te Kura Katorika o Hato Hohepa

94 Seddon Street, Pukekohe 2120. **Postal:** PO Box 1292, Pukekohe 2340
Ph: 09 238 7745 • **Email:** stjoesoffice@stjosephs.co.nz • www.stjosephs.co.nz



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Dear Parent and Caregivers,

Here we are into Holy Week, a week we thought we would still be at school, our final week before Easter. Every year our students reenact Palm Sunday and the Stations of the Cross for our school. Both are very special liturgies that we will miss this year. Hopefully, you saw the clip Mrs Francis sent out regarding Palm Sunday and lots of our homes letterboxes were decorated in greenery to acknowledge this special day.

The Easter Story continues this week, today being Holy Thursday with the scene of The Last Supper and Jesus going to pray in the garden before his arrest. This is an amazing time and, as our world quietens around us, an opportunity to really reflect in our Lenten/Easter preparation. Remember to pray in your family and talk about Christ's story, our Christian story, our faith story.

This week I finding lots to do around my home, catching up on last year's spring cleaning! I'm hearing from teachers and parents about the precious time they are spending with heir children. But for some of our families, parents are still going to work or trying to work from home with their youngsters around them. We are very aware that the experience could be very different in different homes.

Right now we are in our second week of the school holiday break. The teachers have been amazing and have tried to get hold of all students/families. If we have not been able to contact your child or you, we will be ringing when the new term (next week) begins. Many children have already connected with their teachers. Hopefully, you replied to your child's teacher that you received their report. If not, please do so.

The Ministry of Education is moving towards getting devices/internet into homes and internet providers have lifted their internet limit usage. We hope all children can continue with their distance learning from next week. That does not mean their school day is fro 9-3! You are at home and that is not realistic.

If your children are accessing their learning through their school gmail account (Y3-Y8), remind them that we can monitor what they are accessing. Our Family Zone report this week was pretty interesting and individuals might be hearing from Mrs M!

If you haven't thought of a fitness programme for your younger children, take a look at [GoNoodle](#) fitness activities for kids at home. And here is a story online that you can enjoy with your children <http://www.oatthegoat.co.nz/> Oat the Goat is an online digital animated storybook which helps children see the surprising power of kindness.

Next week, we're back at school from Wednesday, and we will begin again to send out our fortnightly newsletters on Thursdays so look out for them.

I leave you with this thought/prayer from Judith Courtney (a past-teacher of St Joseph's School).

As Christians (and folk of other religions too I believe), we have great reason to be kind to people.

'Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to me.'

We believe in the Incarnate God, God who has entered creation and dwells within us.

God is everywhere present; my neighbour over the fence, the person next to me in the supermarket queue, the essential worker tired and overworked, the children out hunting the streets for teddy bears, the beautiful people (cats and dogs included) in my bubble.

See the face of Christ in everyone! Be kind to each other. We have good reason.

'Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to me.'

- Judith Courtney: Liturgy Coordinator, Adviser and Music Support
Catholic Diocese of Auckland NZ

Wishing you and your family bubble a happy and holy Easter weekend.

Stay well and God bless

Ursula Hall
Principal

