



POMPALLIER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Te Kāreti Katorika o Pomapārie

"Diligere Verum" "Love the Truth" "Arohatia te Whakapono"

Newsletter 4 : 22 March, 2024

Tēnā Koutou Katoa, Greetings to you,

A school of nuisances and nobodies.

Much is said about the success of Catholic education in New Zealand. There is without doubt much evidence of high academic achievement, inspirational sporting and cultural groups and individuals, and low levels of student disengagement. No matter what measure one might use, Catholic education in New Zealand looks rather impressive.

Success breeds success is an age-old adage. Parents want their children in Catholic education because it enables success for them. Over time, the school becomes a place that gives priority of enrollment to the children of former students and a virtuous cycle is now in place.

Somewhere in this school mix exists something called the Church. The very purpose of the school is to support the mission of the Church. According to Pope Benedict, the Catholic school needs to be a place where students and staff encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth.

When we bring Jesus into this mix we start to encounter some paradoxes. Possibly the most significant one was the reality that Jesus did not give his time to the successful members of society, but focused upon the fringes. Those who were considered nuisances and nobodies. The ones who struggled within a system that was essentially orientated towards supporting those who had ability and opportunity.

In the world of Jesus, these were the children that his disciples tried to keep away from Jesus. Orphaned and abandoned children were a constant presence in peasant societies. If their father had declined to lay his hands upon them (claim them as his own), the child was now rejected. In laying his hands upon them, Jesus shows that he claims them as his own. The rejects are one of the first to be invited into the world of Jesus.

In the world of Jesus, it is the poor, maimed, lame and blind who get invited to the wedding feast. By no measure would they be considered to be the successful of society. They were totally dependent upon others in a world that had no social security systems in place. They eat or starve at the whim of others. They are embarrassing to have around the place and ideally should not be too visible, as they convey a sense of systemic and personal failure in a world where success is valued highly. Jesus invites in the nuisances and nobodies.

Hoping to find Jesus in a successful school might be mission impossible, rather than the mission of the Church. In his time on earth, Jesus was not found in the rohe of the successful, but was found mixing with the rejects of society. This was the place where the message of God was most needed and most likely to bring about change.

In the context of our College, we certainly have students and families who do not have ready access to "success breeds success." For some students this may be a specific, or mix, of learning challenges that impeded their educational outcomes. For others, the way their brains are "wired" generates behaviour that can be considered unacceptable and give rise to calls to have them ejected from this place of success. Unfortunately, as soon as we eject or ignore such students and families, we lose sight of Jesus. He has now moved onto another school.

So how might our students find Jesus? One way is to go looking for him. Another way is to act like him towards the students who struggle and the people at the margins of society. St. Ignatius of Loyola gave us this prayer/instruction, "Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give, and not to count the cost, to fight, and not to heed the wounds, to toil, and not to seek for rest, to labor, and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we are doing your will."

In a similar manner, Saint Francis of Assisi in his prayer "Instrument of Peace" prays,

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek,
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Our students have taken this message to heart this year. We have a significant change in their inclination to be generous towards others. Caritas and Saint Vincent de Paul groups are undertaking acts of service and fundraising within the school and the community. Through the organisation [I have a Dream](#), our senior students are working with younger students in the wider community, supporting them in their educational aspirations. They are positive role models for these young people and engage with them in a way that brings them a sense of hope for the years ahead.

This weekend, you can also support our students participating in [Relay for life](#). They have raised almost \$17,000. Somewhere there will be Jesus walking around that track. See if you can find him.

Richard Stanton, PRINCIPAL

VISION STATEMENT

Pompallier Catholic College is a Catholic community with a Marist charism that challenges all students to excel in their endeavours. We promote Christian values, excellence in learning and quality relationships to enable students to be outstanding citizens. Our College shall be a place where all "...encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth".



UPCOMING EVENTS - Term 1

NOTE: All events are subject to confirmation.

MARCH

Sat 23 - Sun 24	Relay for Life	Trigg Stadium	
Mon 25 - Thu 28	Year 11 PE Camp	Whangarei Heads	
Wed 27	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations (Dose 1)	College Library	9.00am
Wed 27	Year 12 English Creative Writing Workshop	Kiwi North	9.45am - 2.45pm
Wed 27	Special Olympics Athletics Day	Trigg Stadium	9.00am - 2.30pm
Wed 27	International Students Farewell	College Staffroom	6.00pm
Thu 28	Stations of the Cross Liturgy	TBC	TBC
Thu 28	E-Mission Day		
Fri 29	GOOD FRIDAY	School closed for instruction	

APRIL

Mon 1 - Tue 2	EASTER MONDAY and EASTER TUESDAY	School closed for instruction	
Thu 4	Waikato University Liaison Visit	College Boardroom	10.15am - 11.15am
Thu 4	Parent / Teacher Interviews	College	3.30pm - 8.00pm
Fri 5	Kids Lit Quiz	Kerikeri	8.00am - 2.30pm
Fri 5	NorthTec Future Trades Day	Dyer Street Campus	9.00am - 2.30pm
Sat 6 - Sat 27	Europe Trip		
Wed 10 - Thu 11	Tai Tokerau Festival (Kapa Haka)	Okaihau College	
Fri 12	STAFF ONLY DAY (Last day of Term 1)	School closed for instruction	
Mon 29	First day of Term 2	School starts at 8.45am	

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS
(Year 7 - 13)

Thursday 4 April
3.30pm - 5.30pm and 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Our Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on the date above, for all year levels.

We will be offering in-person or online meetings.

We will send an email to families that morning with instructions on how to book, and the school code you will need to use.

This information will also be included in the Progress reports due to be emailed next week.

Please ensure the school has your current email address so you receive this information.

Thank you.

Pompallier Catholic College featured on the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Facebook page recently:

Yesterday Bishop Steve celebrated the 2024 Inaugural Mass at Pompallier Catholic College, Whangarei.

Following Mass he spoke to and presented the Year 13 leaders with bibles as part of their leadership induction.

We were grateful to have Bishop Steve and Fr Brian Brendeville join us for our Inaugural Mass at school on Thursday 14 March. It was a wonderful celebration.





SPORTS DEPARTMENT NEWS : Term 1, Week 8

UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION

Please keep an eye out in the school notices for when you need to come and collect your uniform for the upcoming season.

If you have not returned your uniform from last year, you WILL NOT be issued another.

STUDENT SUCCESSES

Tennis

Noah Jones (Year 8, pictured below left) competed in the Kiwi Clay Junior Championships at the start of the month. He came away with the U12 Boys title. Congratulations Noah!



FUTSAL

This term we entered 4 teams into the NSSSA Futsal tournaments. The Seniors had a tough draw but played their hardest. Our Year 9/10 boys team did very well and were just pipped in the final, losing to Kerikeri High School and coming in 2nd place.



NSSSA TRACK AND FIELD EVENT

A group of our best track and field athletes attended the NSSSA Track and Field event, held at Trigg Stadium last week. They competed against other secondary schools from across Northland.

They had an amazing day and competed so well! The students below came away with 1st Place Medals – congratulations and well done to all those who participated!

Flynn Cunis – Intermediate Boys

- 1st Long Jump, 5.39m

Ayla Johnson – Intermediate Girls

- 1st 400m Final, 60.03s
- 1st 800m Final 2, 39.00s

Malachy Smedley – Junior Boys

- 1st Hammer, 33.16m
- 1st Discus, 31.69m



KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH SPORTS AT POMPALLIER...

Term 1 is one of the busiest terms, so don't miss out on any upcoming opportunities!

[Add us on Facebook](#) for all sporting communication for PCC! Not on Facebook? – no worries – all important information will still be posted internally through email and school notices!

... continued page 4



Remember, if you have a student success you would like to share, email us at ...

newsletter@pompallier.school.nz



SPORTS... continued from page 3

UPCOMING EVENTS - TERM 1

All events entered are subject to student interest, parent help and organiser's changes.

- Tue 26 Mar Senior Volleyball Cup, Boys *Trigg Stadium*
- Wed 27 Mar Tennis Individual (Y9-13) *Thomas Neale Cts*
- Thu 28 Mar Senior Volleyball Cup, Girls *Trigg Stadium*
- Thu 4 Apr NSSSA Swim Champs *Whangarei Aquatic Ctr*
- Tues 9 Apr Equestrian Combined *Kaikohe*
- Thu 11 Apr Ultimate Frisbee (Y9-13) *Kensington Park*
- Fri 12 Apr Pickleball (Y7-13) *Te Ora Hau, Tikipunga*

Sam Page
SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR
 438 3950 Ext 219
sports@pompallier.school.nz

COMMUNITY OUTREACH ...

A new inter-denominational group from Whangarei churches has set up a Pregnancy Support op shop in Vine Street, to support this important outreach.

A group of students from the Manaakitanga rōpū at Pompallier (pictured below) are volunteering for an hour on a Tuesday afternoon, helping behind the scenes working with co-ordinator Mariana Leather.

We really appreciate them giving witness to the Gospel values that underpin Pompallier Catholic College and the Catholic social justice teachings.

If you do have any good quality clothes that you are able to donate, please drop them directly to the shop at 55 Vine Street.



STUDENTS NEW TO NCEA

By now, all students new to the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) should have had the rules and procedures explained to them by their teachers. It is vital they understand both their rights and responsibilities, so they can have a successful and productive year.

All Year 11 students have received a booklet explaining the new NCEA structure and how it works. For more information on the changes, please visit this [NZQA page](#).

Students should also have course overviews for all their subjects and keep a diary showing when assessments are due.

If students or parents would like more information about NCEA, please email the Principal's Nominee: monique.vanstokkum@pompallier.school.nz

TU'U MĀLOHI **tokotoko SOLUTIONS LIMITED**

HOLIDAY PROGRAM APRIL 2024
 Year 9 - Year 13

A holiday programme aimed to strengthen wellbeing support for Pacific learners in Years 9–13, their parents, families, communities, and schools.

Tuesday - Friday 16th -19th April 2024
 9am - 2.30pm

Click on the link to register or contact
admin@tokotosolutionsltd.co.nz

Enrolment Form

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU (CAB)

CAB has some exciting new resources for the youth of NZ, in the form of a new website specifically aimed for people under the age of 25: <https://youth.cab.org.nz/>. The site answers a lot of the common questions and issues young people ask CAB to help them with. It is a go-to online resource when young people have a question or need help with something, but don't know where to start.

The CAB service is free to all, with a variety of channels and ways for young people to access our free service:

- CAB freephone number: 0800 367 222.
- Drop in to their local CAB (no appointment needed) - contact details on our [website](#).
- [Youth Tool Kete website](#): information about rights and responsibilities regarding many of the key issues for rangatahi embarking on those 'firsts' in adult life.
- [CAB website](#)



YEAR 11 COMMUNITY SERVICE ...

This term, one of our Year 11 R.E classes and Mrs Perry have been visiting the Selwyn Park Rest Home and Hospital to spend time with the residents there.

During our visits, students participate in various activities with the residents; ranging from crafts, nail painting, singing, and this week we attended a 98th birthday party! Through these interactions, we were able to foster a deeper understanding of the importance of empathy and companionship, echoing the teachings of our Catholic faith. This experience not only brightens the day of the residents, but also leaves a lasting impact on our own lives. Our students are always eager to return.

Reflecting on our service, we are reminded of the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:40, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' We plan to continue visiting the residents throughout the year, and building on the special relationships we are creating with them.





13 March 2024

Statement from the Catholic Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand

Caritas Lent Appeal

Each year, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand runs the Bishops' Lent Appeal to support their work to aid and empower the most poor and vulnerable in our society. The Caritas mission, as the Catholic agency for justice, peace, and development, is of vital importance to us all, especially the vulnerable communities they work with across the Pacific and beyond.

The Bishops' Lent Appeal is the most direct way of providing the resources Caritas depends on to continue this vital work.

For our Catholic community, Caritas is the means by which we help our brothers and sisters in need – upholding their human dignity through partnerships grounded in Catholic social teaching.

Over the last couple of years there has been a drop in giving to Caritas, putting pressure on their ability to fund programmes that serve those most in need. We ask that during this time of preparation and almsgiving, you make a special gift to the Bishops' Lent Appeal 2024 online at www.caritas.org.nz using the envelopes provided at Mass. This act represents the giving of alms and will mean so much to those that Caritas helps.

Yours in faith,

- ✠ Stephen Lowe, Bishop of Auckland
- ✠ Richard Laurensen, Bishop of Hamilton
- ✠ John Adams, Bishop of Palmerston North
- ✠ Paul Martin SM, Archbishop of Wellington
- ✠ Michael Gielen, Bishop of Christchurch
- ✠ Michael Dooley, Bishop of Dunedin