

# St Mary's School

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER Term 3 2021

### OUR SPECIAL CHARACTER THEME FOR 2021 IS:

"LOVE and RESPONSIBILITY" ~ St Joseph.

Our Value for this Term is **Acceptance / Whakaaetanga**

During the first two weeks of this term the children will be continuing to look at how we can pray.

In Week 3 we will begin teaching the **Sacrament Strand**.

In **Years 1 & 2**, the children will be reminded of the *holiness* or *Tapu* of God through places, times, objects and *rituals*. They can discover God in the world which He created and gifted to people to care for and enjoy. The *Eucharist* is a time to gather in worship and praise of God who is Holy. The children learn about Baptism, the first of all Sacraments, being a time in which we encounter Christ in a special way.



In **Years 3 & 4**, the children are learning that the Sacrament of Reconciliation restores our friendship with God. It is an experience of forgiving and healing, of taking responsibility for personal sin and expressing sorrow. They are learning that the greatest signs of God's presence are the Sacraments whose symbols, rituals and celebrations paralleled those of daily life. Through the actions of the Holy Spirit, the Eucharist, bread and wine, becomes the body and blood of the Lord.

In **Years 5 & 6**, the children are learning that each Sacrament makes present its own special grace or gift from God. There are times in the lives of all people when they are in need of healing in body/soul. The Sacrament of Penance and the Anointing of the Sick, bring people the graces of reconciliation, healing, strength and peace. Catholics refer to signs or symbols of Christ's presence as Sacraments. As Jesus reveals God's presence most fully we can therefore speak of Jesus as the Sacrament of God. The seven Sacraments of the Church also reveal Christ's presence because they bring new life, healing, strength and love to people.

In **Years 7 & 8**, the children are learning that through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, bishops, priests and deacons are ordained for the services of the Church. The Sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Eucharist, strengthens God's people for the service of others and provides meaning and healing in the blessed and broken experiences of our lives. Marriage is a Sacrament of Commitment, and a vocation. There are rituals, symbols and rites in the Sacrament of Marriage. Other commitments people make is to respond to opportunities to live a Christian life.

### We can continue to support at home by :

- attending Sunday Mass regularly,
- talking about how your family shows love for each other,
- celebrating the sacraments when appropriate, praying together, and reading stories from the Bible.



### Some Dates:

- 15 Aug Feast of the Assumption (School Mass-Sunday)
- 15 Sept Benediction 2.30pm

God Bless,  
**Murray Debenham**  
Director of Religious Studies (DRS)

