

St. Joseph's School

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Kia ora e te whānau,

A very warm welcome back to Term 3! I hope the holidays provided your whānau with time to rest, reconnect, and recharge. We return to another exciting term of learning, growing, and walking together in faith.

This term promises to be filled with rich opportunities for our tamariki — both in the classroom and beyond. As always, we remain committed to nurturing the whole child, supporting each learner spiritually, academically, socially, and emotionally.

Our Inquiry focus for this term is *Living the Josephite Way*. This will centre on deepening our understanding of our Catholic identity, the Josephite charism inspired by Saint Mary MacKillop, and how this connects with our school values — TAHI: Tamariki will explore what it means to live out these values in their daily lives, in service to others, and as part of our faith community.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in your child's learning journey. Let's make this term a positive, faith-filled, and joyful one!

Ngā mihi nui,

Angela Muncaster
Principal

Inquiry Kaupapa

Our Katorikatanga – Living the Josephite Way

At St Joseph's School Pātea, our learning this term is centred around our Catholic identity, the Josephite charism, and weaving through our school values — TAHI:

Our TAHI values shape the way we learn, act, and care for one another. The "T" stands for Taking Responsibility — being someone who notices when help is needed and chooses to respond with kindness, courage, and care.

Saint Mary MacKillop, who founded the Josephite order, taught us:
"Never see a need without doing something about it."

Mary MacKillop lived her life by this principle, always helping those in need — just as Jesus did. Jesus showed love and compassion to people who were sick, lonely, or hurting. When we take responsibility, we follow their example by being kind, helpful, and generous — at school, at home, and in our community.

*Jesus, help me to see when someone needs support.
Give me a kind and open heart, just like yours.
Amen.*

School Board Elections – We Need You!

We're on the lookout for three parent representatives to join our School Board. This is a wonderful opportunity to be actively involved in shaping the future of our kura and supporting the learning, wellbeing, and success of all our tamariki.

The election date is Tuesday 10 September, and we encourage whānau who are passionate about education, community, and our Catholic special character to consider standing.

More information about nominations and the election process will be shared soon. If you've ever thought about making a difference at a governance level, now is the time!

Let's work together to keep St Joseph's School Pātea a place where faith, learning, and whanaungatanga thrive.

School Closures – Term 3

A reminder that school will be closed on **Friday 1st August** as all teaching staff will be attending a Ministry of Education Mathematics Professional Learning and Development (PLD) Day, coordinated by our Kāhui Ako and also again on **Monday 25th August** as all staff will be attending a Catholic School Teachers Professional Development Day.

Please make alternative arrangements for your child's care on these days, as school will be closed.

Attendance Matters – Let's Keep Up the Momentum

It's been wonderful to see such strong attendance in our first week back at school — ngā mihi nui to all our whānau for making this a priority. Our tamariki have returned settled, smiling, and ready to learn!

As we continue through 2025, attendance remains a key focus. Every day at school counts. Even small absences can add up over time — missing just one day every two weeks can result in a full year of lost learning by the time a child turns 16.

Regular attendance helps tamariki build routines, stay connected with their peers and teachers, and make steady progress in their learning.

Please remember:

If your child is unwell or needs to be away for an important reason (e.g. tangihanga, medical appointment), let us know as soon as you can.

Absences for holidays or non-school-related activities are not considered justified under Ministry of Education guidelines.

If you're finding it hard getting your child to school, reach out to us — we are here to support you and your whānau.

Together, we can continue building strong attendance habits that support the success and wellbeing of every learner in our kura.

Celebrating the Assumption of Mary



On August 15, we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day in the Catholic Church. This special feast reminds us that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was taken into heaven—body and soul—at the end of her earthly life. It is a celebration of her unwavering faith, her deep love for God, and her honoured place in our Church.

Mary is a model of hope, joy, and holiness. To honour her, our school will hold a Liturgy of the Word — more details will be shared closer to the date. Together, we will reflect on Mary's example and give thanks for her presence in our faith journey.

How fitting that our Colour Run, originally scheduled for last term but postponed due to illness, will now take place on August 15 — the same day we celebrate Mary's Assumption! As part of the day's festivities, the Colour Run will be a joyful and vibrant event, reminding us of the light, love, and joy that Mary brings into the world. The colours symbolise the happiness we feel as we live out our faith with energy, kindness, and fun.

Cross Country & Paint Run – New Date!

We're excited to share that our Cross Country and Paint Run with Pātea Area School has been rescheduled for Friday 15th August and will take place on the back fields of Patea Area School. The Cross Country will begin at 1:00pm, allowing time for whānau to come along and support — and you're welcome to take your tamaiti home afterwards if you wish.

This fun event is all about movement, participation, and school spirit! Our tamariki will be running through bursts of colour and water, thanks to the awesome support of the local Fire Brigade — so they will get wet!

What to bring:

- A white or light-coloured T-shirt to wear during the Paint Run (to make the colours stand out)
- Comfortable running clothes and footwear
- A towel and change of clothes for afterwards
- Optional: sunglasses or protective eyewear

Let's get ready for a colourful day full of fun, fitness, and community!

Student Reflections: Learning About Mary MacKillop

Who Was Mary MacKillop?

Mary MacKillop was Australia's first saint and a very special person in our Catholic faith. She cared deeply for children and the poor, and she believed that everyone should have the chance to learn.

What Our Ākonga Say:

"Mary MacKillop is good, she helps the children." – **Khaleesi**

"Mary MacKillop taught the children writing and reading. She helped the poor." – **Amirah**

"Mary MacKillop opened a school in a stable. She had a stroke." – **Aaria-Rose**

"Mary was caring and kind, she opened schools and hospitals." – **Punawai**

"Mary MacKillop died from a stroke. She opened hospitals and schools and the first school was in Australia." – **Taniora**

"She opened the schools in New Zealand and Australia. She looked after the poor." – **Khalifa**

"Mary helped the children at school." – **Kitana**

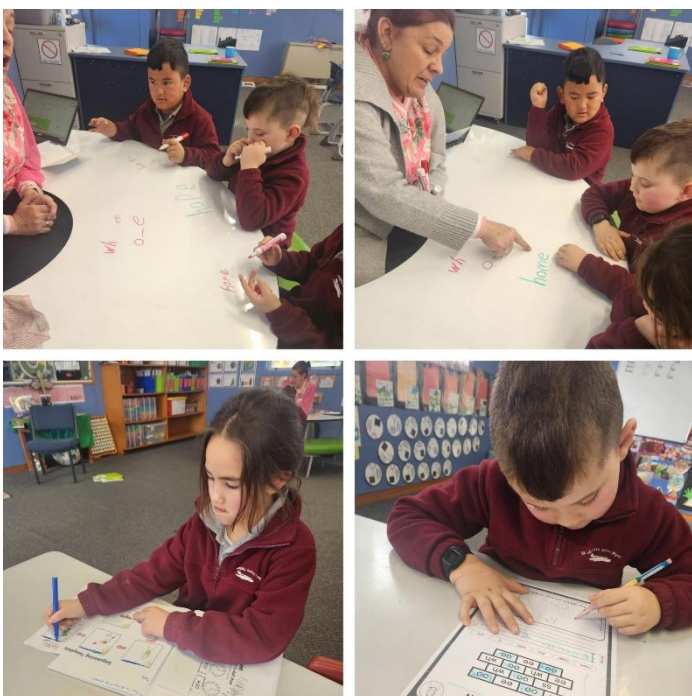
"Mary MacKillop taught the kids about writing. She died from a stroke. Her first school was in a stable." – **Poppy**



Why We Remember Mary

Mary MacKillop showed us how to live with **kindness, courage, and faith**. She believed in helping others and making sure every child had the chance to learn. We are proud to follow her example in our school today.

Reading Lesson with Whaea Justine



Rock painting with Whaea Jemaima



Kia Noho Hahi Being Church



The themes in our Religious Education programme are broad categories of knowledge and learning that overlap, weave together and build upon each other.

Kia Noho Hahi Being Church focuses on how we should live our best life, one which is built on the Good News of Jesus' teachings. Children will begin to develop an understanding of Catholic Tradition and teaching as well as God's call in their life - having the chance to reflect on the direction of their life, their own choices and the impact those choices may have. Where possible the young people will be given the chance to serve others in practical ways - to put their learning into practice.

SET B' WHĀNAU CONNECTION PAGE

I Belong

How do I belong?

I am in God's Catholic Community

"Let us go to the house of the Lord"

Psalm 122

Kia ora e te whānau,

In Religious Education we are learning:

- that God our Father created everyone, so we are brothers and sisters.
- what rituals are and how they are part of our everyday life.
- that our Church has rituals that we use when we pray.
- that Baptisms are holy celebrations we call Sacraments that all of God's Catholic family participate in so they can be part of the Catholic Church.
- that a special holy time God's family gathers in the Church is when we give God thanks and praise together.
- what we mean by holy times and what we can do to be part of them.
- that when we pray our prayer joins with that of the whole Church - especially at Eucharist.



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Here are some ways you can support your child's learning at home:

Routines and Rituals are made up of smaller tasks we do that we can call habits. Talk about some habits you have at home (picking up toys when we are finished with them, putting things in the recycle bin, saying prayers at the end of the day etc.)

As a family, choose a habit each you would like to get better at and work on it. It can take lots of time to build a habit so check in on each other and encourage everyone.

Game time

Some of the rituals and special things we do in our homes and Catholic schools stem from our Catholic Church. Talk about some of the ways you pray at home, school and church that are part of our Catholic traditions. Next, talk about things you might see, hear and feel when you go to church.

Play this version of the shopping list game, renaming it 'Pope Francis went to church'. Begin with saying "Pope Francis went to church, and he saw an altar". The next person continues the game, saying "Pope Francis went to church. He saw an altar and heard people saying 'Amen'". The next person adds to the list with something such as, "Pope Francis went to church. He saw an altar; he heard people saying 'Amen' and he saw a Priest".

Add things you see/hear/feel at church and see who can remember the longest list!

Holy times

Holy times are special seasons or feast days in the Church's year.

They are times when we pray. They are times when we stop doing other things and we pay attention to feeling that God is present with us, and we talk to God, and holy times are when we are happy, having fun, being kind and sharing God's love with each other.

Talk about these different types of holy times. Plan a special way to celebrate a feast day in your family to make it holy. Remember, holiness and happiness belong together!



Talk about how you can be holy people in your family and spend some time praying about this together.



Barnaby's Baptism
- A story.



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