

# Good & News

# The News

March 2011  
Volume Twenty Nine

## Broadsheet of Good Practice in Integrated Schools

### Editorial

The Christchurch community will remain in shock for a considerable time, as a result of the earthquake on 22 February 2011. The whole of New Zealand has responded to this event with an outpouring of love and support. As the Catholic education community we feel deeply for the staff, students, Boards and families of our schools, and we acknowledge the instant response of our schools and communities throughout the country to the needs of those suffering in Christchurch.

At the time of writing, St Mary's School Manchester Street is being relocated to St Teresa's School, Riccarton; St Paul's School, Dallington which had been relocated after the September earthquake to the grounds of Catholic Cathedral College, is being relocated again, this time to a former school in Champion Street; Catholic Cathedral College itself is being relocated to St Thomas of Canterbury College; Marian College is being relocated to St Bede's College; and five classrooms of Christ the King School

are being relocated to Merrin School.

The work of gradual recovery has revealed a huge spirit of loving kindness, co-operation and creativity in finding solutions that is truly humbling, and breath taking. Everyone is to be congratulated, and special thanks go to Mike Nolan, Manager of the Catholic Education Office, who, with all his staff, is working from home as the Office is unable to be entered. Mike has worked tirelessly with principals, Boards, the Ministry of Education and contractors, and his daily updates to principals have been filled with encouragement, love and spiritual energy. The Minister of Education, the Secretary for Education and Ministry staff are thanked for wonderful their responsiveness to the needs of children and families: they have been effective and flexible, with human need being the focus for all they do.

We are blessed by the way in which the grieving community of Christchurch, and the whole of New Zealand, stand

alongside each other as family. The Christchurch community can be assured that our prayers and assistance will continue.

The NZCEO website, [www.nzceo.org.nz](http://www.nzceo.org.nz), has a message about donating for Christchurch schools, for those who would like to use this method. The Manager of the Catholic Education Office, Mike Nolan, has indicated that this is the best way for donors to ensure that support will get to those schools that need it most.

As for the articles in this edition – we congratulate schools on their excellent programmes for students preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation. Innovation is showcased in school buildings and in classroom support. Thank you to our writers.

We congratulate you all for the many ways you make education the best it can possibly be in our Catholic schools.

Susan Apáthy

## Former Principals Provide Support for Our Lady of the Rosary School

Kathleen Daly, Principal, Our Lady of the Rosary School, Waiwhetu, Lower Hutt

Our Lady of the Rosary School in Lower Hutt has been fortunate in recent years to be able to draw on a valuable resource bank of expertise from the local area. This resource bank consists of a number of principals from the state or state integrated system who have opted for a life after principalship.

In the past three or four years, the school has engaged the services of at least six former principals who have worked in a variety of capacities including library teacher aide, special needs teacher,

classroom release, tennis coach, part time teacher.

This is a win/win situation for both parties. The school recognises and values the wealth of experience and knowledge it is able to call on. The ex principals enjoy getting back to the grass roots of education without the stress and multi-tasking nature of the role of principal. Most work part time, and as one leaves each Thursday afternoon the staff wish him a happy Easter. Stretching from Friday to Wednesday, every weekend is Easter for him!

# Innovations in School Building Practices and Design

Schools and proprietors will be familiar with the work that the Ministry of Education has done on modern learning environments, and have probably seen the Modern Learning Environments School Assessment Tool on the Ministry of Education website. While many schools may not be able to make major changes to their buildings, management and Boards may find the questions in the tool very stimulating for thinking about how things might be done differently or better within the school.

Some lateral thinking in our schools is reported below.

St Joseph's School Nelson opened new facilities in mid 2010. The new building has been jointly funded by the Proprietor and the parish, and is the most innovative and exciting new parish-school development to date. The building contains meeting rooms, a kitchen and other facilities, a joint reception area and offices for the principal and the parish priest. There is also a hall. Neither parish nor school could have provided these facilities without the support of the other.

Only the appropriate parts of the building are integrated, and protocols have been established to apportion costs.

In the Wellington and Palmerston North dioceses a CAPS scheme (Communities Assisting Proprietors' Schools) has seen a significant number of communities contributing funds to the Proprietor to enable a range of extensions and upgrading to be undertaken. The projects were all under the category of capital maintenance and modernisation work.

Another interesting use of buildings has occurred at Roncalli College, Timaru. An agreement has been signed with Sacred Heart Parish to lease the Presbytery Annex, which contained five bedrooms and a toilet. Council approval for the use of the space was given, and the PTA have refurbished the rooms. The area is not integrated and cannot be used as a teaching space, but meets the requirements for itinerant music teachers. It will be used as a cultural centre, with practice rooms and some itinerant music teachers based there. Five rooms are

now available for performance, practice and composition work.



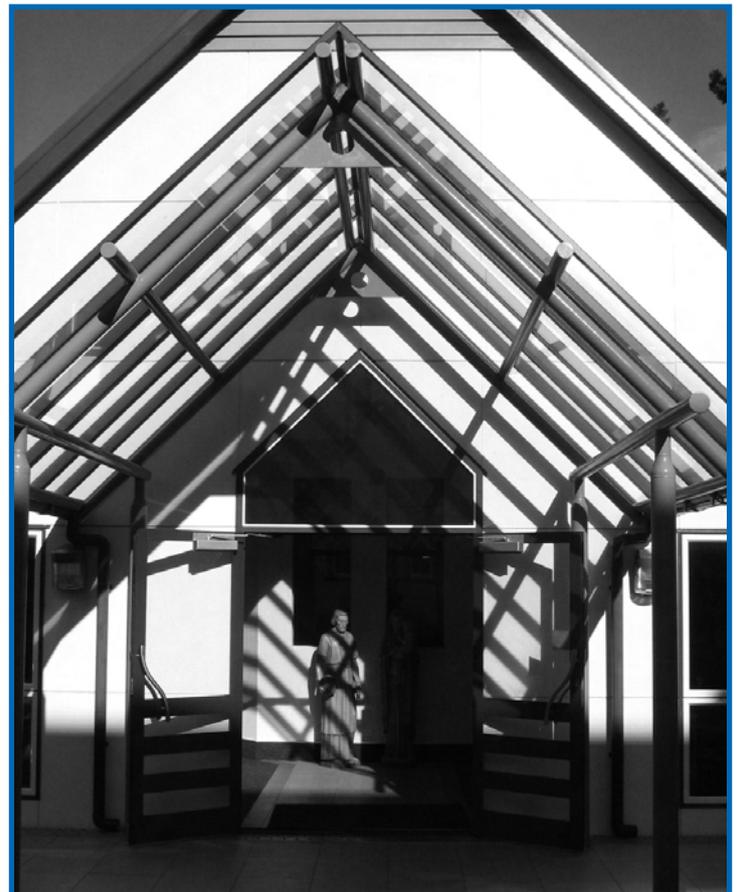
▲ *Joint St Joseph's School and St Mary's parish facilities in Nelson. l. to r: Hall (with statue of St Mary, originally from Redwood College), students' entrance, principal's office, entrance foyer (with statue of St Joseph). Beyond the entrance foyer are the parish office, priest's office and parish meeting room.*



▲ *l. to r. entrance foyer, priest's office, parish meeting room.*



▲ *Students working in the music annex of Roncalli College, Timaru.*



▲ *Entrance foyer with statue of St Joseph.*

# Sacraments of Initiation at St Patrick's College, Silverstream

Chanel Wright, Chaplain, St Patrick's College, Silverstream

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It is always exciting when there is a new member added to the family. In 2010 it was wonderful to have students from all year levels hear God's call to them and respond.

## Beginning the 'outreach' or promotion of the Sacramental Programme

A group of senior students and I get creative in how they might like to present the programme at our whole school assembly. In 2009 we had a drama and musical rap. In 2010 a group of students each shared what baptism, first Eucharist and Confirmation meant to them, and extended their support to anyone who was interested in signing up.

## Our first session

There is a BIG emphasis on congratulating the students who have chosen to receive any or all of the sacraments. We have a shared lunch provided by Chaplaincy. Each chaplaincy member expresses their congratulations, and a group photo is taken. Letters for parents are handed out, with meeting times and Mass times etc.

## Structure of Meetings

Depending on the size and feel of the group we need to meet on average six times. For each meeting we begin with a short liturgy and involve as many of the students as possible – singing, reading, lighting the candle, arranging the chairs. Then I share a reflection on the reading in the liturgy, focusing on its relevance to the programme. We follow that with some discussion, questions and answers. At the end of every session students receive a reflection hand out with what we have been through that day, and a simple activity to do that night. For example, "write down three ways God has intervened in your life, or write and read a prayer for someone you care about."

We go through a process of understanding the sacraments and their meanings. We may go off site together at least once.

I ask seniors to share their experiences of parish life, and what parish means. I ask Fr John Greally to share his wisdom with students, and what Catholic Community means to him in a sense of vocation also.

## Midway through the Sessions

We talk about Catholic support networks, parishes and so on. This brings us to the support of godparents.

All information for certificates is collated – names, godparents etc.

## Final Session

We spend at least half a day together building up to the Mass. This allows us to feel confident, calm and excited! As well, the boys are able to be involved in setting up for the Mass. We have Reconciliation with Fr John, we pray for each other, and then we have a break.

All involved, godparents and students, meet to have a walk through together, then everyone spends some quiet time before the Mass begins. We warmly welcome all parents, friends and family to be with us well before the Mass begins, so they are comfortable and prepared.

## The Benefits of our Process

The advantage of the college environment is that follow up with individuals is made easy. I make sure to check up with students and hear how they are going on their faith journey. I talk, listen to them, and hear about their family life also. They know the chaplaincy team is there to guide them with continued support, and of course the team is always willing to foster their development within the Church, by slowly giving them more responsibility, e.g. altar serving, Eucharistic Ministers, readers, greeters etc.

# The Baptism Programme at St John's College, Hastings

Margaret von Hartitzsch, Youth Minister, St John's College, Hastings and Sacred Heart College, Napier

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St John's College, Hastings is running a simple and effective Baptism programme. The programme is the joint responsibility of the Youth Minister (myself) and David Sullivan, the DRS of the school. The steps involved are:

1. A request is put out to students and families through newsletters and through asking for expressions of interest from students in Religious Education classes.
2. A meeting is held with students, and a letter is sent home to parents/caregivers telling them of the student's decision to take part in the Baptism programme.
3. A series of three meetings is held with the students. The programme includes power point material, time spent on building understanding of the Creed, and time for questions to be answered.
4. A meeting is held with parents, to answer their questions and to go over the practical procedures of the Baptism ceremony.
5. Students meet the priest who will officiate at their Baptism, to go over the procedures. Parents are also invited to attend this meeting.

6. Students are recognised at the school assembly as an example of acknowledging their faith.
7. Follow up is done with students, to encourage them to be confirmed and become an active member of the school Catholic Character team.

The Parish Priest is advised of the programme, and if time is available will attend any of the sessions.

The programme is growing, with students now coming to me asking when the programme is to begin for this year.

Last year five students went through the Baptism programme. The big focus last year was on the Confirmation programme. Thirty one students were confirmed.

The focus for the first and second terms this year will be on encouraging those already baptised to make their First Holy Communion and Reconciliation, so they will be ready for Confirmation later in the year. As our target will be the senior school (Years 11, 12 and 13), this will provide the junior school with an example of students moving along in their faith journey.

The same programme is run at Sacred Heart College, Napier, as I am also Youth Minister there. My week is split between the two schools.

# The Baptism Programme at St Mary's School, Christchurch

David O'Neill, Principal.

St Mary's School is a small multicultural decile 4 school, in Christchurch's inner city. With a growing roll of 120 pupils it provides a unique Catholic education in a small family-like atmosphere.

The school is lucky to have a fantastic parish priest, Fr Carl Telford sm. Fr Carl and the other Marist priests and brothers who live next door to the school play an integral role in everything we do. Every Thursday morning Fr Carl visits each classroom for ten minutes to share an aspect of our Catholic faith or to reinforce what is taught in the classroom Religious Education programmes. He is frequently in the playground before and after school talking to parents and students. He provides excellent pastoral support for the whole school community – staff, students and parents.

The teaching and support staff at St Mary's are all committed to upholding the Special Character of our school and display a genuine interest in each student and their well-being,

both at school and at home. Maria McDonald, our Director of Religious Studies, co-ordinates the First Communion programme each year with Fr Carl, and together we all assist the children's parents in the formation of their child's faith and the receiving of the Sacraments. Each child feels valued and cared for, and in turn shows respect for the teachers and adults at school.

Over the year many non-preference students and some parents have decided to become Catholic and have been received into the Church through Baptism. I believe it is their exposure to the wonderful Catholic community at St Mary's, in both the school and parish, which leads them to want to become full members of the Church. The school and parish share a close bond and this is evident throughout daily relationships. The school community has supported many families in times of crisis and as Catholics we believe we are continuing the mission of Jesus in doing so.

I am proud to be a member of this wonderful community and feel privileged to be trusted with the task of leading the school. My philosophy is as simple as the old Māori whakataukī:

He ahate mea nui?

He tangata

He tangata

He tangata.

What is the most important thing? It is people it is people, it is people.



▲ St Mary's College, Wellington, Leadership Mass, February 2011.



▲ St Thomas of Canterbury College, Christchurch, students with the Governor General Sir Anand Satyanand, receiving the National Young Enterprise Award 2010.

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