

E te whānau a te Karaiti, tēnā koutou



Tūrangawaewae Catholic Schools a Place to Stand

As a new CEO in 2020, I remember reading that Australian Catholic schools were celebrating 200 years of Catholic education in 2021 and this set me off on a piece of research regarding our history in Aotearoa. It appears that 2021 coincides with 180 years since the first Catholic school in Aotearoa was opened by lay people in Auckland in 1841. This is a wonderful achievement and the beauty of our network of Catholic schools is they came about as the result of the hard work, and generous contributions of many religious and lay people in Catholic parishes and communities across the country. Our Catholic schools are the outward sign of a long commitment from both the Church and parents of Catholic children in *“helping form Christ in the lives of others”*.

Catholic Schools Day 2021 provides another wonderful opportunity to celebrate and showcase our unique identity to both our communities and our wider nation. There are several links to resources provided with this letter that you are most welcome to use in celebrating Catholic Schools Day on Wednesday 29th September 2021. Celebrations may happen at any stage during that week to suit your school or region.

National publicity about the day will be organised by the New Zealand Catholic Education Office. Rosalie Connors has taken management responsibility for this event and she would appreciate hearing from you in advance with your plans. Rosalie can be contacted via email r.connors@nzceo.org.nz and she would appreciate this information by the 20th September 2021.

The team at NZCEO hope that Catholic Schools Day 2021 will be a time of celebration, aroha and hope for the future. Thank you for your efforts in participating and supporting Catholic education in Aotearoa.

Kia tau ngā manaakitanga o te Ariki ki runga i a koutou

Kevin Shore, CEO
New Zealand Catholic Education Office