



Term 1 2019

PRIMARY SCHOOLS E-NEWSLETTER

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Catholic Schools Education Services

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Greeting

Ngā mihi o te Tau Hou ki a koutou katoa!

Warm summer greetings to you all! Hopefully your summer break has been all that you wished and needed it to be - time with loved ones, travel, laughter, joy, whatever you needed to fill up the tank and recover from the busy-ness of last year. I hope too that the start of this new school year finds you refreshed and full of energy, ready for all the excitement and action that lies in wait within your learning communities!

I've been privileged in the last couple of weeks to work with staff from several of our ADW Catholic Primary Schools whānau preparing for the start of another school year. It's been a great reminder of the importance and the value of prayer: "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." (Mark 6:31)

As I look ahead to the 2019 school year and consider what might make this year a success for me, I'm drawn to consider my goals for the year and more importantly the needs of those I am called to serve. I'm really excited about our ADW Catholic Schools Commissioning Masses in March. These Masses will be celebrated in 2 different venues this year - the **South Island Commissioning Mass** will be celebrated at **St Mary's Church in Blenheim** on **Friday 1 March** starting at **5:30pm**, and the **North Island Commissioning Mass** will be celebrated at **Ss Peter and Paul Church in Lower Hutt** on **Tuesday 5 March**, also starting at **5:30pm**. These details are different from other years and have changed since they were initially advertised in November last year. Please check that you have entered these dates, times and venues correctly in your school calendar. I'm excited too about the Servant Leaders in Catholic Schools (SLiCS) workshops this term. We've moved the workshops out of the central city because the Cathedral is not available due to the earthquake risk. This change of location allows us to hold workshops closer to our schools and to explore more of our local churches throughout the Archdiocese. Registrations for these workshops have been coming in thick and fast but there are still some spaces. Please send your registration details to Ginny as outlined later in this newsletter and check that you are registering for a workshop near you. I'm also really excited about our Cluster meetings for 2019 - Deacon Danny Karatea-Goddard presenting on Māori Catholic Spirituality in May and Chris Duthie-Jung presenting on *Gaudete et Exsultate* in August. Cardinal John continues to encourage us to engage with the writings of Pope Francis and in particular with *Gaudete et Exsultate* and Chris has proven time and again that he can facilitate this engagement for teachers expertly. For details on all courses, seminars and workshops available to Catholic Primary Schools in the Archdiocese of Wellington through CSES in 2019, please see our [CSES 2019 Professional Development Brochure](#).

I pray that you will again be filled with the Holy Spirit as you begin the 2019 school year, and that you and your whole school community will continue to encounter God's loving presence in one another. I look forward to continuing to walk alongside you.

Mā te Atua koutou e manaaki, e tiaki hoki.

Alan

The ways of God are not always our own; His designs are inscrutable, but are full of mercy and love.

Suzanne Aubert

If we have more things to do than we can find time for, let us consider the time at our disposal, and let us employ it without losing a minute, beginning by the most important things, and not troubling about those which we cannot perform.

Suzanne Aubert

To love God above all things, to love all people as oneself, to give one's heart and soul, one's mind and strength in order to make people better and happier; that is life, that is the law, that is happiness, justice and truth.

Suzanne Aubert

Do all you can and trust firmly in God who will do the rest Himself in His own ways, and you will marvel at the results.

Suzanne Aubert

When you feel the prickling of the thorns remember that roses grow also on the same bush.

Suzanne Aubert

Professional Development Programme 2019

Details of the Catholic Schools Education Services (CSES) Professional Development programme for 2019 are available in the [Collaborative Sharing Centre on Google Drive](#).

I'd like to highlight 4 components of the PD programme in particular:

1. **The Role of the DRS Workshop (March)**

The purpose of this workshop is to explore the role of the Director of Religious Studies in a Catholic Primary School. The workshop is designed for those new to the role of DRS and for those aspiring to the role or who would like to learn more about the role. I'd encourage you to approach teachers in your schools who you think have potential for leadership as a DRS in our Catholic schools to suggest that they attend this workshop. This workshop provides an opportunity for us to grow leadership in the schools of the Archdiocese of Wellington.

2. **Cluster Meetings (May and August)**

This year we will present 2 Cluster Meetings - the first in May and the second in August. Each Cluster Meeting will be available in 4 different venues. The May Cluster Meetings will be led by Deacon Danny Karatea-Goddard, ADW Vicar for Māori. Danny will share insights and information to build understanding around Māori Catholic Spirituality. The August Cluster Meetings will be led by Dr Chris Duthie-Jung (Director of the ADW Families and Young Church Ministries Vicariate) who will provide an overview of *Gaudete et Exsultate*, the 2018 Apostolic Exhortation from Pope Francis on the call to holiness in today's world.

3. **Curriculum Workshops (September)**

These workshops provide an opportunity to take a closer look at *Gaudete et Exsultate* and how it works alongside the RE Curriculum. These Curriculum-levelled workshops will run as they did in 2018 from 9am till 12pm and from 1pm till 4pm in a variety of locations (in response to feedback received through consultation) which should result in more convenience and less cost for schools. Please make sure that you know which workshop you are registering for.

4. **DRS Conference (June)**

The DRS Conference is an opportunity for the Directors of Religious Studies from all 37 Catholic Primary Schools in the Archdiocese of Wellington to meet together for collaboration, companionship, nourishment and enrichment. A key component of the conference is the ongoing exploration of material critical to the function of the DRS - including the Religious Education Curriculum, the Religious Education Bridging Document, leadership, "The Catholic Education of School-Age Children" and Catholic Character.

The Religious Education Bridging Document

[The Religious Education Bridging Document for Catholic Schools Teaching Year 1-8 Children in Aotearoa New Zealand](#) was distributed to schools by NCRS on 24 January 2018 and has been very well received. The REBD revisits context and gives guidance for teaching RE today. The REBD sits beside the Bishops' mandated Primary RE Curriculum - together they inform our practice for teaching and learning in Religious Education. It's important to note that the REBD does provide a new set of Achievement Objectives, rewritten in particular to shift the objectives from Year levels to Curriculum levels consistent with the New Zealand Curriculum.

When NCRS distributed the REBD they asked that schools engage with it during 2018 in order that they are using the REBD from Term 1 2019 - please get in touch if you would like any support in implementing the REBD at your school.

Whakatauki

*Ko te reo te mauri o te mana
Māori.*

*The language is the heart
and soul of the mana of all
Māori.*

*Nau te rourou, naku te
rourou, ka ora ai te
manuhiri.*

*With your food basket and
my food basket, the guests
will have enough.*

*He oranga ngākau, he
pikinga waiora.*

*Positive feelings in your
heart will raise your sense of
self-worth.*

*Poipoia te kakano kia
puawai.*

*Nurture the seed and it will
blossom.*

*Ma mua ka kite a muri, ma
muri ka ora a mua.*

*Those who lead give sight to
those who follow, those
behind give life to those
ahead.*

Certification - Professional Development Records

Ginny McCarty, CSES Administrator, last year distributed the staff Certification records to all schools. You are very welcome to email Ginny (cses@wn.catholic.org.nz) or to phone her (04 496 1710) if you have any concerns or questions in relation to Certification. Ginny and I are both happy to help you in completing the applications required for the various levels of Certification (including endorsement) - please get in touch if there's anything that we can do to help. Remember that all applications are due to Ginny by Friday 15 February 2019.

Having Life to the Full John 10:10 (formerly Understanding Sexuality)

The purpose of this course is to explore Catholic teaching in the area of human sexuality including how this fits in the primary and secondary school classroom. The feedback we receive from participants consistently highlights the value of this course for both personal formation and professional development. The course content includes 'The Nature of Christian Love', 'Virtues and Values' and 'Morality and Conscience' before spending time exploring Church teaching in relation to some specific issues of human sexuality such as 'Gender', 'Homosexuality' and 'Marriage'.

In 2019 we will present the new "Having Life to the Full John 10:10" course in the Archdiocese of Wellington for the first time. I strongly encourage school leaders to consider this course within your plans for professional development for 2019. Sessions will be held at St Bernard's College in Lower Hutt between June and October - [details are available here](#) including information for registration.

This course supports teachers as they meet the Ministry of Education requirement to teach Sexuality Education: **"Sexuality education is one of seven key areas of learning in the health and physical education learning area of *The New Zealand Curriculum*. It must be included in teaching programmes at both primary and secondary school levels, using the strands and achievement objectives outlined in the curriculum."** Teaching Sexuality Education is required from Level 1 of *The New Zealand Curriculum*. This course provides teachers with formation and resources to ensure that their teaching is consistent with the Special Catholic Character of our schools.

Collaborative Sharing Centre - Google Drive

In November 2017 I launched the [CSES-ADW Primary Schools Collaborative Sharing Centre](#). This initiative came about in response to requests from schools as well as discussion at the ADW Synod in September to more effectively facilitate collaboration - supporting one another by sharing our hard work!

I strongly encourage you to make good use of this living resource centre - which will no doubt continue to grow! Contribute your work and benefit from the work of others. There are folders for sharing plans for Masses and Liturgies and for sharing plans for teaching and learning. Lots of you will have prepared Masses and liturgies throughout last year ranging from beginning year Masses to Holy Week and Easter celebrations to Pōwhiri for new students and families to Feast Days - add them to the Sharing Centre and let others share your great work in a spirit of collaboration and whanaungatanga!

It is intended that this sharing centre ultimately makes life easier for you and exposes you to fresh ideas which have worked for others in the Archdiocesan Catholic Primary Schools whānau. I ask that DRSs please dedicate some time to adding content to the sharing centre before we meet in March at the DRS seminars.

Dates of Note

Term 1 2019

Servant Leaders in Catholic Schools Workshops

19, 20, 22, 26, 27, 28 Feb

Commissioning Masses

1 and 5 Mar

Beginning Teachers and Teachers New to Catholic Schools Seminars

5 and 13 Mar

Ash Wednesday

6 Mar

DRS Seminars

12 and 15 Mar

Role of the DRS Workshop

28 Mar

DP/AP Network Meetings

3, 4, 11 Apr

Last Day Term 1

12 Apr

Palm Sunday

14 Apr

Good Friday

19 Apr

Easter Sunday

21 Apr

Servant Leaders in Catholic Schools (SLiCS) Workshops

This very popular workshop (formerly Catholic Young Leaders) is designed to build student leadership in Catholic Character with a particular focus on liturgy. Students explore ideas about leadership and examine some servant leader role models, including Jesus himself: "...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve." (Matthew 20:28) These workshops have previously been held at Connolly Hall in Thorndon and have included a visit to the Sacred Heart Cathedral. Sadly, the Cathedral is currently closed because of concerns about how it might behave in an earthquake. This closure has presented us with an opportunity to move the workshops to locations throughout the Archdiocese. Where possible the workshops will include a visit to the local church. Please see the details below and select a location close to you:

Tuesday 19 February, 9am till 2pm - St Francis de Sales School, **Island Bay**

Wednesday 20 February, 9am till 2pm - St Theresa's School, **Plimmerton**

Friday 22 February, 9:45am till 2pm - St Peter Chanel School, **Motueka**

Tuesday 26 February, 9am till 2pm - St Teresa's School, **Featherston**

Wednesday 27 February, 9am till 2pm - St Peter and Paul School, **Lower Hutt**

Thursday 28 February, 9am till 2pm - St Thomas More Church, **Wilton**

To register for a SLiCS workshop, please email Ginny McCarty (cses@wn.catholic.org.nz) with the relevant details.

Caritas - Lent 2019 Resources

Caritas again has some amazing resource material for schools in their 2019 education resource series titled *Peace, Love and Life: Hope and Challenges in South Sudan*. Find more information on [the Caritas website](#). The resources overview (available on the [Caritas Lent in Schools Key Resources page](#)) is excellent!

National Centre for Religious Studies

The National Centre for Religious Studies is the organisation which, as part of The Catholic Institute of Aotearoa New Zealand, is responsible for the Religious Education Curriculum (for primary and secondary schools). Colin MacLeod and Anne Kennedy are the key NCRS staff with regards to the Primary RE Curriculum. I'd like to briefly alert you to a recent development from NCRS in relation to developing a new RE Curriculum:

This year NCRS is seeking from schools examples of 'effective practice' in RE. Having released the RE Bridging Document (REBD) and received many positive comments and suggestions we are wanting to gather a bank of 'great stuff' that we know is happening in schools and classrooms which will further inform our journey towards a new curriculum.

What? Examples of engaging, creative, meaningful and perhaps even fun lessons and/or activities which are grounded in the current Aotearoa New Zealand Primary RE Curriculum (ideally, but not necessarily, in the refreshed context of the REBD.)

Why? We are wanting to look at this material as an NCRS team and use it in discussion with national RE advisors and possibly other RE teachers in the future. NCRS policy is to know ourselves where things have come from, so we can follow up and learn more, but to not publish names and sources when we share content. Experience shows that this tends to 'free up' teachers, safe in the knowledge that we are very grateful for their work and skill, but their name, or school name, won't be plastered across the country (no fear of embarrassment).

Later in Term 1 I will send the full letter from NCRS with more information.

Dates of Note Term 2 2019

First Day Term 2
29 Apr

DP/AP Network Meetings
15, 16, 31 May

Schools Cluster Meetings
21, 22, 29, 30 May

Catholic Schools Day
28 May

Ascension Sunday
2 Jun

Queen's Birthday
3 Jun

Pentecost Sunday
9 Jun

ADW DRS Conference
12-14 Jun

Having Life to the Full (1a)
12 Jun

RE501 Seminar (day 2)
25 Jun

Having Life to the Full (1b)
27 Jun

Last Day Term 2
5 Jul

ADW Catholic Schools Commissioning Masses 2019

The Archdiocese of Wellington Catholic Schools Commissioning Masses will be celebrated in Lower Hutt and Blenheim in March 2019, presided by Cardinal John Dew. The Commissioning Mass is a chance to come together and celebrate with the Catholic Education community of the Archdiocese and to be blessed in our ministry. It is for **all** staff and Board members from **all** Catholic Secondary **and** Primary Schools in the Archdiocese of Wellington. It is worth noting that every school will receive a candle which will be blessed by Cardinal John during the Mass. Please note the new venues - St Mary's Church in Blenheim and Ss Peter and Paul Church in Lower Hutt.

South Island Commissioning Mass (Blenheim) - Friday 1 March, 5:30pm
North Island Commissioning Mass (Lower Hutt) - Tuesday 5 March, 5:30pm

Catholic Schools Education Services

Catholic Schools Education Services is a committed team of qualified education professionals working to provide high quality support and assistance to the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Wellington, in the ongoing promotion and strengthening of Catholic Character and development of theologically and spiritually formed teachers.

This is our Mission statement and outlines the purpose of our team.

We are:

Ginny McCarty, Administrator - g.mccarty@wn.catholic.org.nz

Frank Wafer, Leadership Consultant - f.wafer@wn.catholic.org.nz

David Sullivan, Consultant in Secondary and Adult Education - d.sullivan@wn.catholic.org.nz

Alan Grant, Consultant in Primary Religious Education - a.grant@wn.catholic.org.nz

In January 2018 we welcomed Ginny McCarty to the CSES Team. After 12 months in the role Ginny is quickly learning the jargon and the complexities of the role of CSES Administrator.

Please get in touch with us if there's anything that we can do to support you.

Greeting

In closing, I wish you the very best for Term 1 and the beginning of another school year. I pray that you will be richly blessed by the grace of God.

Please do make contact with me at any time if you'd like to discuss support that I might provide to you within your school community.

E: a.grant@wn.catholic.org.nz T: 04 496 1335 M: 021 544 564

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou!

Alan Grant

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