



Term 2 2019

PRIMARY SCHOOLS E-NEWSLETTER

Alan Grant

Catholic Schools Education Services

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Greeting

Ngā mihi o te Aranga ki a koutou katoa!

Joyful Easter greetings to you all! I hope that during the school holidays you were able to enjoy a slower pace and to find some time to replenish your stocks. I hope too that the new term has found you focused, energised and ready to go!

I would like to begin this term's newsletter with a piece from Pope Francis' Easter message: *On this morning of Easter, the perennial youth of the Church and of humanity as a whole, I would like to address each of you in the opening words of my recent Apostolic Exhortation devoted especially to young people:*

"Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world. Everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive, and he wants you to be alive! He is in you, he is with you and he never abandons you. However far you may wander, he is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and he waits for you to return to him and start over again. When you feel you are growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure, he will always be there to restore your strength and your hope" (Christus Vivit, 1-2).

As I reflect on Term 1, I am immediately drawn to the memory of the Commissioning Masses in March and to the SLiCS (Servant Leaders in Catholic Schools) Workshops throughout February and March. A key theme in both celebrations was connectedness. It was only a couple of weeks after those Commissioning Masses that we were shocked by the events of March 15 in Christchurch. In the days and weeks that have followed we have seen and heard wonderful stories of connectedness, of aroha and manaakitanga, and of hope. We are continuing to heal and to build that connectedness, and with messages like "They are us" and "I am hope" it's a pretty special time to be alive in the Risen Christ!

I'm really excited too as I look ahead to all that lies in wait for us in Term 2. The main events through this term of course are the Cluster Meetings on Māori Catholic Spirituality with Deacon Danny Karatea-Goddard in May and the ADW Primary DRS Conference in June. There's more information over the next few pages in relation to both of these professional development opportunities. The momentum is building towards the DRS Conference in June. The conference theme is "How beautiful are the footsteps of those who bring good news." It sets a very interesting tone for the conference, particularly around discipleship and witness. I'm looking forward to reflecting on that theme and celebrating our connectedness over the course of the 3 days of the conference.

I conclude with another piece from Pope Francis' Easter message:

Dear brothers and sisters, Christ is alive! He is hope and youth for each of us and for the entire world. May we let ourselves be renewed by him! Happy Easter!

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

Alan

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3:12

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:12

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:2-3

The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

1 John 4:21

Cluster Meetings (Māori Catholic Spirituality)

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 meetings are from **4pm till 6pm** as follows:

Tuesday 21 May - Cardinal McKeefry School, Wilton

Wednesday 22 May - Our Lady of Kāpiti School, Paraparaumu

Wednesday 29 May - St Bernard's College, Lower Hutt

Thursday 30 May - St Mary's School, Carterton

Please select the date and venue that is most convenient for you. These meetings are open to all staff and members of Boards of Trustees from the Catholic schools and colleges in the Archdiocese of Wellington. A contribution of **\$15 per person** will be asked of schools in order to cover presentation costs. Schools will be invoiced after the workshop. In order to help with the organisation for each meeting (including refreshments for afternoon tea) we ask that you **please register - send an email to Ginny McCarty (cses@wn.catholic.org.nz)** by **Friday 17 May 2019** with:

- ✓ Date of Cluster Meeting
- ✓ School Name
- ✓ Numbers attending (and names if possible)

Teachers who attend will be awarded 2 credit-hours (spirituality) towards certification - please make sure that everyone signs an attendance sheet at the meeting they attend.

ADW Primary DRS Conference

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. The conference will be held at the Copthorne Hotel and Resort Solway Park in Masterton from Wednesday 12 till Friday 14 June. The conference will begin at 10am on Wednesday (open for registration from 9:30am). The conference will conclude with lunch (12:15pm - 1:15pm) on Friday. 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.

Anne Kennedy, Associate Director of NCRS, will lead us in retreat and will present a couple of sessions - on children's spirituality and on the journey to a new RE Curriculum. Fr Cirilo Barlis from Te Awakairangi Parish will join us for Mass on Wednesday afternoon. The ADW Primary DRS Mentoring Programme will be launched at the conference. Please complete and return a Registration Form (available here on Google Forms: <https://forms.gle/Ai3fHgnQ7bLe7a3j7>) by Friday 10 May 2019.

Further information about the conference (including the registration form) are available here: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1rTmPgyH650fxphX5j5EFYgK6AENX6GR> Thanks to those who have already registered.

We only hold this conference twice every 3 years. It's the only time that we ask all ADW Primary DRSs to come together - please make every effort to be there. It promises to again be a really rewarding experience, a great balance of professional development and personal formation (with a generous helping of 'connectedness'/kotahitanga).

Whakataukī

*Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te
tūohu koe me he maunga
teitei*

*Seek the treasure you value
most dearly: if you bow your
head, let it be to a lofty
mountain*

*Whatungarongaro te
tangata toitū te whenua
As man disappears from
sight, the land remains*

*He tangata takahi manuhiri,
he marae puehu
A person who mistreats his
guest has a dusty Marae*

*Ma whero ma pango ka oti
ai te mahi
With red and black the work
will be complete*

*Kāore te kumara e kōrero
mō tōna ake reka
The kumara does not say
how sweet it is*

Certification - Professional Development Records

Following feedback from the March DRS Seminars and subsequent consultation we have decided to trial a new timeframe for the process of applying for Certification in the ADW Catholic Primary Schools.

The process begins with Ginny (CSES Administrator) printing the professional development record for each teacher (current at 31 March). Ginny and I then spend time looking at each record to identify teachers who we believe should apply for a particular level of Certification. This information is highlighted on each individual record and is collated in a school summary sheet. On 31 May Ginny will send to each school their teacher professional development records, summary sheets and application documentation. Schools have until 30 June (1 month) to send in any updates/alterations to individual records - during this time we imagine that DRSs will distribute records to teachers who will check them and return them to their DRS, either confirming that the record is accurate or identifying appropriate professional development which has not been included in their record. Where a record needs to be updated this will be actioned by Ginny and an updated record will be sent to the school. Schools have until 31 September (a further 3 months) to complete the application process - this includes Principal recommendations and RE lesson observations. All applications must be received by CSES before 1 October 2019. Ginny will then process the applications and complete the CSES applications for NCRS. All ADW applications for Certification for 2019 will be presented to NCRS by 31 October 2019.

As you can see, this is a significant process with many steps involving many people. The completion of this process will not change (at this stage anyway) the way that certificates are distributed i.e. all 2019 certificates be distributed at the 2020 Commissioning Masses. Naturally, being a trial, we are very keen to receive your feedback and would welcome such thoughts at any time throughout the process (please send it to us in an email so that we have a record of all feedback). We will most likely send out an electronic evaluation form at the end of the process to formally collect your feedback before making a decision moving beyond 2019.

We appreciate your patient support and understanding as we try to better meet your needs throughout the Certification process.

Catholic Schools Day - Tuesday 28 May 2019

[Extending Christ's Call: to love, to be, to do]

Catholic Schools throughout the country are encouraged to celebrate the Special Catholic Character of our schools in a special way on this day (or in this week). In a spirit of kotahitanga a number of schools in the Archdiocese of Wellington seem to be looking for ways to celebrate the day with the other Catholic schools (both primary and secondary) in their parish and/or pastoral area. Ka pai tō mahi!

The NZCEO website has some resource material (<https://www.nzceo.org.nz/catholic-schools-day-2019/>) which includes a very good PowerPoint slideshow and a letter from Cardinal John sharing his wishes for Catholic Schools Day:

We always speak of "Celebrating" Catholic Schools Day. Please make this year a special celebration, a day on which we can remember all the things that are done in the name of Jesus and for which we can be grateful. This should be a real celebration. Let's make it a great day, a day to give thanks and to be part of "Extending Christ's call to love, to be, to do."

Dates of Note

Term 2 2019

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

**Memorial to the Blessed
Virgin Mary, Mother of
the Church**
10 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

Having Life to the Full

A Catholic Course in Human Sexuality (grounded in John 10:10)

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 'Pornography'.

In 2019 we will present the new "Having Life to the Full" 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.

Evaluations and Feedback

Your feedback is vitally important in the life and work of CSES. When you complete a course evaluation, we read it, collate it and present it in summary form to Jenny Gordon (Vicar for Education) who in turn shares it with Cardinal John. Your feedback tells Cardinal John (and the rest of us on the way) how we are or are not meeting your needs. Please look at the evaluation as a key element of all CSES professional development sessions and encourage your staff to do so too. Please continue to be as honest and informative as you can when completing evaluation forms. We really are interested in what you have to say.

Targeted Schoolwide Professional Development

If there is a need among your staff for some personalised or targeted schoolwide professional development in Religious Education or Catholic Character, please give me a call or send me an email. I really enjoy working in partnership with DRSs and Principals to prepare and deliver a programme of professional development (perhaps a series of staff meetings) to support our teachers.

You may like to analyse your teacher professional development records once they are distributed at the end of this month to identify any opportunities for staff development, or your ideas may be informed by your annual internal evaluation. I'm also really happy to work with you to address areas which are identified through the external review process.

Dates of Note

Term 3 2019

Having Life to the Full (2)
19 Jul

First Day Term 3
22 Jul

RE501 Seminar (day 3)
30 Jul

Schools Cluster Meetings
13, 14, 15, 21 Aug

**Feast of the Assumption
of Mary**
15 Aug

*DP/AP Network Meeting
(Primary and Secondary)*
21 Aug

Curriculum Workshops
3, 4, 5, 6 Sep

Curriculum Workshops
10, 11, 12, 13 Sep

Having Life to the Full (3a)
11 Sep

Having Life to the Full (3b)
18 Sep

Last Day Term 3
27 Sep

Liturgical Year - June 'Feasts'

June this year seems to be laden with Church feasts and celebrations! I thought it would be helpful to list those for you:

Sunday 2 June: Ascension Sunday

Sunday 9 June: Pentecost Sunday

Monday 10 June: Memorial to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mother of the Church

Sunday 23 June: Feast of Corpus Christi

Friday 28 June: Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Please make sure that your teachers are aware of these celebrations and are making plans to 'celebrate' them, supporting our children and young people in their cognitive and affective growth but also in their spiritual growth and development - encountering the Risen Christ, growing in knowledge of the Risen Christ, and living as a witness to the Risen Christ. Some resource material for teaching and learning is available in the Liturgical Year module and you may find some good ideas in the [collaborative sharing centre](#).

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

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 2 and pray that God's abundant blessing rain down on you.

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

Dear brothers and sisters, Christ is alive! He is hope and youth for each of us and for the entire world. May we let ourselves be renewed by him! Happy Easter!

Pope Francis

Alan Grant

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