



Term 3 2019

# PRIMARY SCHOOLS E-NEWSLETTER

Alan Grant

Catholic Schools Education Services

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The Beatitudes are like a Christian's identity card. We have to do, each in our own way, what Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount.



## Greeting

Ka nui ngā mihi ki a koutou!

Warm wintry greetings to you all! I hope that during the school holidays you were able to stay warm, to enjoy a slower pace and to find some time for nourishment. I hope too that the new term finds you refreshed and ready to go!

It's hard to believe that we're already looking back on the first half of 2019 and looking ahead to 2020 - sure enough though, we find ourselves on the downhill slide towards Christmas (only 153 sleeps to go)!

As I look back over Term 2, my first thoughts are of the wonderful 3 days of the ADW Primary DRS Conference in Masterton. 26 Directors of Religious Studies from the Catholic primary schools of the Archdiocese of Wellington gathered together at the Copthorne Solway and spent time together in prayer and community exploring various matters related to their work and to their own spiritual and faith journeys. We were expertly led in retreat and in learning by Anne Kennedy, Associate Director of NCRS, who travelled up from Dunedin to be with us for the first 2 days. Anne also led us on a very interesting exploration of the development of the RE Curriculum in Aotearoa New Zealand from the mid-90s to today and into the future. My sincere thanks to all of you who came and contributed so positively over the course of the conference - I can't wait for the 2020 conference!!

On 19 March 2018, in the sixth year of his pontificate, Pope Francis gave us *Gaudete et Exsultate*, an apostolic exhortation "on the call to holiness in today's world". In the opening paragraphs of that exhortation Pope Francis tells us that Jesus "wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence". He tells us that Jesus "offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created". Pope Francis says that, through *Gaudete et Exsultate*, his "modest goal is to repropose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges and opportunities". The main events through this term of course are the Cluster Meetings and the Curriculum Workshops, both of which will give us a chance to further explore *Gaudete et Exsultate*. In August, Chris Duthie-Jung will present Cluster Meetings throughout the Archdiocese, unpacking the big ideas presented by Pope Francis on the personal call to holiness. The Curriculum Workshops in September will give us a chance to work with *Gaudete et Exsultate* and the primary RE Curriculum (and REBD) to explore opportunities for teaching and learning around holiness and witness.

I conclude with this piece from Pope Francis towards the end of *Gaudete et Exsultate*:

*Let us ask the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us a fervent longing to be saints for God's greater glory, and let us encourage one another in this effort. In this way, we will share a happiness that the world will not be able to take from us.*

*Gaudete et Exsultate (#177)*

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

Alan

## ***Gaudete et Exsultate***

### **“In the light of the Master”**

*Being poor of heart: that is holiness.*

*Reacting with meekness and humility: that is holiness.*

*Knowing how to mourn with others: that is holiness.*

*Hungering and thirsting for righteousness: that is holiness.*

*Seeing and acting with mercy: that is holiness.*

*Keeping a heart free of all that tarnishes love: that is holiness.*

*Sowing peace all around us: that is holiness.*

*Accepting daily the path of the Gospel, even though it may cause us problems: that is holiness.*

## **Cluster Meetings (*Gaudete et Exsultate*)**

The August Cluster Meetings will be led by Dr Chris Duthie-Jung, Director of the Marriage, Family and Young Church Ministries Vicariate of the Archdiocese. Chris will share insights and information as together we begin to explore and unpack *Gaudete et Exsultate*, the apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis from March 2018. The meetings are from **4pm till 6pm** as follows:

**Tuesday 13 August** - Cardinal McKeefry School, Wilton

**Wednesday 14 August** - Our Lady of Kāpiti School, Paraparaumu

**Thursday 15 August** - St Mary's School, Carterton

**Wednesday 21 August** - St Bernard's College, Lower Hutt

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 9 August 2019** with:

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

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

## **Curriculum Workshops**

Curriculum Workshops provide teachers with an opportunity for in-depth exploration of an element of the RE Curriculum specific to their Curriculum level. This year the workshops will focus on Holiness and Witness (these workshops will complement the second Cluster Meeting for 2019 and will lead on from there exploring *Gaudete et Exsultate* and the Primary RE Curriculum - it would be useful for teachers to attend the Cluster Meeting and then the Curriculum Workshop). It is important to note that the Curriculum Workshops in 2019 have again been planned by Curriculum level and will again be held locally. Please note that the morning workshops will start later than originally advertised - now **9:30am till 12:30pm**.

*2019 Curriculum Workshops - Holiness and Witness*

**Level 1 Workshops, 9:30am till 12:30pm; Level 2 Workshops, 1pm till 4pm**

**Tuesday 3 September** - Cardinal McKeefry School, Wilton

**Wednesday 4 September** - Our Lady of Kāpiti School, Paraparaumu

**Thursday 5 September** - St Teresa's School, Featherston

**Friday 6 September** - St Michael's School, Taita

**Level 3 Workshops, 9:30am till 12:30pm; Level 4 Workshops, 1pm till 4pm**

**Tuesday 10 September** - Cardinal McKeefry School, Wilton

**Wednesday 11 September** - Our Lady of Kāpiti School, Paraparaumu

**Thursday 12 September** - St Teresa's School, Featherston

**Friday 13 September** - St Michael's School, Taita

## Dates of Note

### Term 3 2019

*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

*Workshop for Leaders  
(Primary and Secondary)*  
21 Aug

*Curriculum Workshops  
(Levels 1 and 2)*  
3, 4, 5, 6 Sep

*Curriculum Workshops  
(Levels 3 and 4)*  
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

*Certification Applications  
due*  
30 Sep

## Certification - Professional Development Records

As previously advised, 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 began with Ginny (CSES Administrator) printing the professional development record for each teacher (current at 31 March). Ginny and I then spent time looking at each record to identify teachers who we believe should apply for a particular level of Certification. This information was highlighted on each individual record and was collated in a school summary sheet. In early June Ginny sent to each school their teacher professional development records, summary sheets and application documentation. Schools had until 19 July (1 month) to send in any updates/alterations to individual records - during this time we imagined that DRSs would distribute records to teachers who would 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 30 September (a further 2 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.

## TCI Qualifications and Courses in Schools

For some years now in the Archdiocese of Wellington schools have been engaging teaching staff in the papers and courses available through TCI - professional development towards qualification in Religious Education. David Sullivan has been the site coordinator for schools in the Archdiocese with regards to TCI courses. With David's recent resignation and departure, Dr Chris Longhurst, TCI Wellington Site Coordinator, intends to ring Principals in the next few weeks to make plans for 2020. Several schools have indicated their preference to complete a paper every alternate year and David has passed his notes and recommendations to Chris!

Congratulations to those teaching staff who have completed (or will complete) TCI papers this year.

You are very welcome to contact Dr Chris Longhurst at any time if you are interested in exploring possibilities around TCI papers (and qualifications) for your school or for yourself. Contact Chris by email ([c.longhurst@tci.ac.nz](mailto:c.longhurst@tci.ac.nz)) or by phone (04 6502970).

## Dates of Note

### Term 4 2019

*Having Life to the Full (4)*

11 Oct

*First Day Term 4*

14 Oct

Labour Day

28 Oct

**All Saints Day**

1 Nov

*DP/AP Network Meetings*

6, 7, 15 Nov

*DRS Seminars*

8 Nov (Nelson)

12 Nov (Wellington)

**Feast of Christ the King**

24 Nov

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

1 Dec

**Feast of the Immaculate  
Conception**

9 Dec

*Last Possible Day Term 4*

20 Dec

## 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](mailto:g.mccarty@wn.catholic.org.nz)

**Frank Wafer**, Leadership Consultant - [f.wafer@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:f.wafer@wn.catholic.org.nz)

**Alan Grant**, Consultant in Primary Religious Education - [a.grant@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto: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 3 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.

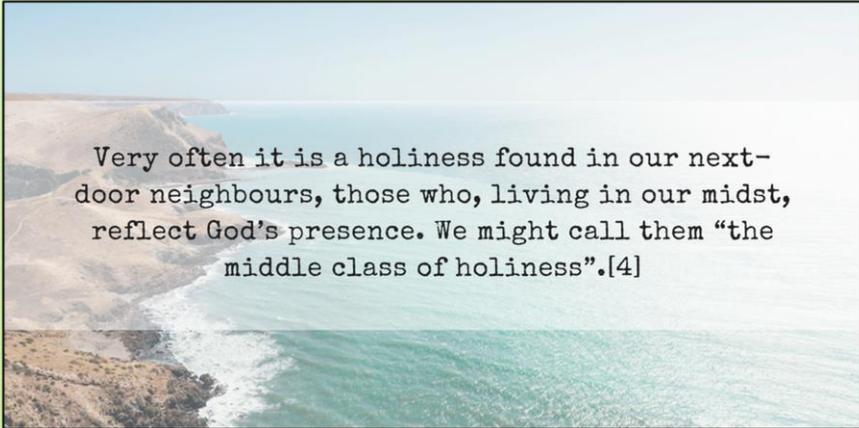
E: [a.grant@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:a.grant@wn.catholic.org.nz) T: 04 496 1335 M: 021 544 564

*Let us ask the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us a fervent longing to be saints for God's greater glory, and let us encourage one another in this effort. In this way, we will share a happiness that the world will not be able to take from us.*

*Pope Francis, Gaudete et Exsultate (#177)*

*Alan Grant*

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Catholic Schools Education Services  
Archdiocese of Wellington



Very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbours, those who, living in our midst, reflect God's presence. We might call them "the middle class of holiness".[4]