



Term 1 2020

PRIMARY SCHOOLS E-NEWSLETTER

Alan Grant

Te Ratonga Mātauranga ki nga Kura Katorika

Headlines

[CSES PD Programme](#)

[2019 - p2](#)

[Caritas Lent 2020](#)

[Resources - p2](#)

[Human Sexuality](#)

[Education - p3](#)

[SLiCS - p4](#)

[Collaborative Sharing](#)

[Centre \(Drive\) - p4](#)

[Term 1 Dates - p4](#)

[Commissioning](#)

[Masses - p5](#)

[Term 2 Dates - p5](#)

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 your bucket 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 of beginning in love: "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." (Colossians 3:14)

As I look ahead to the 2020 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 whom I am called to serve. I'm very excited about "**A Day with David Wells**" in September! David is an inspirational speaker whom some of you will remember from the NZCEO National Education Convention in 2018. David offers theological reflection in an accessible and entertaining way, speaking with humour and using stories from his 25+ years as a speaker, teacher, catechist and author as well as stories from his experience as a husband and father. David will echo the call of Pope Francis that we be people of joy and hope, inviting us to rediscover our 'why' and to be courageous. We hope that David will speak to everyone in our school whānau - please consider making arrangements for all staff and Board members to attend (**David will speak in Nelson on Monday 7 September and in Wellington on Wednesday 9 September**). Further details will follow in due course but for now please lock in those dates! I'm also really excited about our Cluster meetings for 2020 - Dr John Kleinsman presenting on Bioethics and the "End of Life" Bill in May and Deacon Danny Karatea-Goddard presenting on Māori Catholic Spirituality in August, continuing from last year's meetings and taking us further. Of course, the DRS Conference from 20 till 22 May holds great promise too and will undoubtedly be a highlight. We have 37 Catholic primary schools in the Archdiocese of Wellington as well as 3 colleges with students in Years 7 and 8 - I would love to see every one of those schools and colleges represented at the DRS Conference this year! Cardinal John is looking forward to spending some time with us at Conference and to celebrating the Conference Mass with us. For details on all courses, seminars and workshops available to Catholic Primary Schools in the Archdiocese of Wellington through CSES in 2020, please see our [CSES 2020 Professional Development Brochure](#).

I pray that you will again be filled with the Holy Spirit as you begin the 2020 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 seeing you soon at the Commissioning Masses.

Kia tau te rangimārie o te Atua ki a koutou katoa.

Alan

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

⁴⁰ The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25:35-36, 40

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Luke 4:18-19

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord[a] has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Colossians 3:12-14

Professional Development Programme 2020

Details of the Catholic Schools Education Services (CSES) Professional Development programme for 2020 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 and September)**

The purpose of this workshop, offered first in March and then repeated in September, 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 5 different venues. The May Cluster Meetings will be led by Dr John Kleinsman (Director of *The Nathaniel Centre*, the New Zealand Catholic Bioethics Centre) who will provide an interesting insight into bioethics and a Catholic perspective on the "End of Life" Bill. The August Cluster Meetings will be led by Deacon Danny Karatea-Goddard, ADW Vicar for Māori. Danny will share insights and information to deepen our understanding around Māori Catholic Spirituality, responding to some of the key questions faced in classrooms in our Aotearoa New Zealand Catholic schools.

3. **Curriculum Workshops (August)**

These workshops provide an opportunity to take a look at *The Reign of God* and what this looks like in the primary RE Curriculum. These Curriculum-levelled workshops will run as they did in 2019 from 9:30am till 12:30pm 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 (May)**

The DRS Conference is an opportunity for the Directors of Religious Studies from all 37 Catholic Primary Schools (and our 3 colleges with students in Years 7 and 8) 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.

Caritas - Lent 2020 Resources

Caritas again has some amazing resource material for schools in their 2020 education resource series titled *Caritas in Action: Restoring Hope and Spreading Love*. Find more information [on the Caritas website](#). The resources overview (available on the [Caritas Lent in Schools Key Resources page](#)) is excellent!

In recent years some of our primary schools have taken up the *Caritas Challenge*, standing in solidarity with and raising funds for those most in need, and of course raising awareness of social justice. If you're interested in learning more or registering, please contact either [Michael Stewart](#) or [Teresa Shanks](#) at Caritas.

Archbishop Oscar Romero: A Step Along the Way

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us. No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the Church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own. Amen

Human Sexuality Education

Having Life to the Full

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

The purpose of this course (formerly *Understanding Sexuality*) 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', 'Marriage' and 'Consent'.

I strongly encourage school leaders to consider this course within your plans for professional development for 2020. Sessions will be held at Our Lady's Home of Compassion in Island Bay between June and July - [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.

Framing Document - Human Sexuality Education: A Guide for Catholic Communities in Aotearoa New Zealand

In November 2019 NCRS released and distributed the [Framing Document](#), a reference and resource for Catholic communities in the area of human sexuality education and the development of the human person.

"He Anga Whakamārama, Te Mātauranga Hōkakatanga: He puka ārahi mā ngā hapori Katorika o Aotearoa provides a considerable level of detail and thoughtfulness to support human sexuality education in Aotearoa. It is grounded in rich Catholic understanding and gives practical and constructive guidance for educators working in this field, particularly for those in Catholic schools." (*Framing Document*, p2)

The *Framing Document* draws on the work of Pope Francis in *Amoris Laetitia* (2016): "Moral formation should always take place with active methods and a dialogue that teaches through sensitivity and by using language that children can understand. It should also take place inductively, so that children can learn for themselves the importance of certain values, principles and norms, rather than by imposing these as absolute and unquestionable truths" (*Framing Document*, p4)

CSES intends to support schools as they engage with this new tool in the next couple of years. It is an excellent resource which schools have been asking for and complements the 'Having Life to the Full' course for teachers.

In his foreword Bishop Patrick Dunn says, "The Catholic Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand wish to commend this document as a guide for human sexuality education in this land, and to assure educators and whānau of their prayerful support." (*Framing Document*, p2)

Dates of Note

Term 1 2020

Servant Leaders in Catholic Schools Workshops

18, 19, 21, 27, 28 Feb
6 Mar

Commissioning Masses

21 and 25 Feb

Ash Wednesday

26 Feb

Beginning Teachers and Teachers New to Catholic Schools Seminars

3 and 11 Mar

DRS Seminars

10 and 13 Mar

ADW Mission Expo

14 and 21 Mar

Role of the DRS Workshop

26 Mar

Palm Sunday

5 Apr

Last Day Term 1

9 Apr

Good Friday

10 Apr

Easter Sunday

12 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 18 February, 9:15am till 2pm - St Francis de Sales School, **Island Bay**

Wednesday 19 February, 9:15am till 2pm - St Theresa's Parish Hall, **Plimmerton**

Friday 21 February, 9:45am till 2pm - St Peter Chanel School, **Motueka**

Thursday 27 February, 9:15am till 2pm - Ss Peter and Paul Church Hall, **Lower Hutt**

Friday 28 February, 9:15am till 2pm - St Thomas More Church, **Wilton**

Friday 6 March, 9:45am till 2pm - St Teresa's School, **Featherston**

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

I am also presenting the SLiCS workshop in a small number of schools where a school has decided to register a bigger cohort of leaders (for example all of their Year 7 and Year 8 students). If you would like to have this workshop personalised for your school and delivered to a bigger cohort of students, please get in touch with me.

Collaborative Sharing Centre - Google Drive

"Hi Alan, do you know where I could look to find Masses or Liturgies - particularly back to school/valentine's day and Ash Wednesday? Please and thanks."

I received this email recently from a principal. The answer was simple - absolutely I know where to look: the Collaborative Sharing Centre!

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 that year 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 hopefully 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.

Please email me if you're having difficulty accessing this folder or its content.

Dates of Note

Term 2 2020

First Day Term 2
28 Apr

Schools Cluster Meetings
6, 7, 12, 13, 14 May

ADW DRS Conference
20-22 May

Ascension Sunday
24 May

Pentecost Sunday
31 May

**Memorial of the Blessed
Virgin Mary, Mother of
the Church**
1 Jun

Teacher Kōrero - Liturgy
10 Jun

RE501 Seminar (day 2)
23 Jun

*Teacher Kōrero - Music in
the Mass*
24 Jun

*Having Life to the Full
(days 1 and 2)*
25 and 26 Jun

Last Day Term 2
3 Jul

ADW Catholic Schools Commissioning Masses 2020

The Archdiocese of Wellington Catholic Schools Commissioning Masses will be celebrated in Nelson and Petone in February 2020, 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 and that those who have attained a new Certification level will be recognised and celebrated.

South Island Commissioning Mass (Nelson) - Friday 21 February, 5:30pm
North Island Commissioning Mass (Petone) - Tuesday 25 February, 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

Kelly Ross, Consultant in Secondary Religious Education/TCI Lecturer - k.ross@wn.catholic.org.nz

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

In September 2019 we welcomed Kelly Ross to the CSES Team. Having worked in both primary (St Theresa's Plimmerton) and secondary (Bishop Viard Porirua) Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Wellington, Kelly is looking forward to supporting you, particularly with regards to CTC (formerly TCI) qualifications and papers in schools.

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

Consultant in Religious Education for Catholic Primary Schools
Catholic Schools Education Services
Archdiocese of Wellington