

November 2020

Education & Property News

Education and upbringing, concern for others, a well-integrated view of life and spiritual growth: all of these are essential for quality human relationships

Pope Francis

Frattelli Tutti 2020

Changes to Attendance Dues

One of our key tasks this year has been to review our Attendance Dues operation. A letter will be coming out to families shortly explaining what this entails. Our key focus has been around simplifying the payment options and looking at how we can work more closely with the schools to support those families most in need. We hope that these changes will make it easier for our families to budget as well as making it slightly clearer for everyone concerned.

Time to Reflect

Kia ora koutou Catholic Whanau.

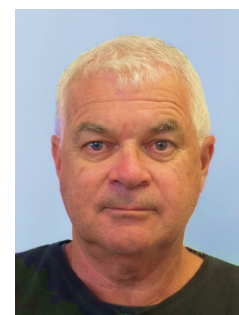
Over the past couple of weeks, I have had the privilege of attending both the St Peter's and St Kevin's leavers Masses. It struck me listening to the Head Students and Principals, just what a crazy year this has been. It has been one filled with disruption, challenge and the need for outside the square thinking, but shining through this chaos was a sense of hope.

I am inspired by the way in which staff in our schools have shown flexibility in order to serve our communities and by the resilience our students have shown to achieve, despite the curve ball they were thrown. There was a real sense of hope and optimism among the graduate's present, that they would seize opportunities in front of them. The new normal they are faced with is what it is, and I didn't get the feeling that it would hold them back in any way.

It also emphasized the importance of relationships and of being a part of something bigger. No child walks out the gate alone; as a graduate from our Catholic schools, they take with them the friendships they have made, the support and expectations of parents and school staff and most importantly an understanding that whatever may come they have the love of God. This sense of unconditional love and acceptance will, I am sure, ground these young people in faith and allow them to be the face of Christ to others, through their actions, their words and by using their God given talents to make the world a better place.

Thanks Peter – 25 Years of Service

Having spent 25 years at the helm of Sacred Heart School Waikiwi, Peter Forde has seen it all in education. He has been through the high and lows, though through it all he retained his wonderful sense of humour, the respect of his colleagues and his sense of purpose in supporting others.



At the heart of it all Peter said, he still saw himself first and foremost as a teacher and it is this ethos that drove him to keep children always at the front of his thoughts and actions.

Donations Making a Difference

We would like to thank all of the many people who paid the donation this year that went out alongside our attendance dues. This small per family amount has made a real difference to our ability to operate as the Education arm of the Diocese. It allowed us to provide continued support for our schools, their staff and Boards of Trustees.

Decision Made in Oamaru

Following extensive consultation with the Oamaru Parish and Schooling Communities, plus advice and guidance from his Consultors and the Diocesan Finance Committee, Bishop Michael announced this week that the decision to renovate St Joseph's on its current site was the preferred option moving forward.

In a letter to the community he thanked them for their input and acknowledged work of the Project Advisory Group. As we move forward with this major piece of work Bishop Michael asked that we pray for the ongoing wellbeing of Catholic education in North Otago and that we all work together for the common good.

Peter has been a wonderful leader both in the Catholic setting and the wider Southland schooling network and his wisdom and support will be greatly missed. On behalf of the Diocese we thank him for his wonderful service, and we wish him and Jan all the very best.

Sacred Heart Reunion – A Wonderful Weekend

At Labour weekend Sacred Heart School took a trip down memory lane when they celebrated the 125th anniversary of the school. Founded by the Dominican Order in 1895, the school has been serving Catholic families in North East Valley ever since, so it was great to be able to celebrate this event in what has been an uncertain year.



journey the school had taken over that time.

The children had spent time learning about the school's history and even had their own dress-up day and the chance to bury a time capsule for future generations to discover.

Over the course of the weekend former students had the chance to visit the school, share in a wonderful jubilee dinner and finished the weekend by celebrating Mass with Bishop Michael. It was the coming together of a lot of hard work and all in all a real team effort.



Introducing Vanessa Williams

Congratulations to Vanessa Williams who has recently been appointed to the role of Principal at Sacred Heart School in Invercargill. Vanessa comes into the role from the fortunate position of being a teacher in the school for the past 15 years. She is looking forward to working alongside staff, students and the community to ensure that the school continues in a positive direction and to allow every child to achieve to their full potential. Vanessa said, 'I am honoured to have the opportunity to lead the school in the coming years.' We wish her all the very best!

All Finished at St Joseph's, Balclutha

The Parish and School are now utilising Block B following its recent refurbishment. This jointly funded project includes new verandah, accessible ramp access and new double-glazed windows and sliding doors. The project was documented by McCoy & Wixon, Architects and the contractor was Calder Stewart.



St Joseph's School Balclutha: Block B

Fun in the Sun!



The Invercargill Catholic Schools had a fantastic day recently of running, jumping and throwing at the All Saints Athletics day.

From the Property Desk

Kia ora koutou,

Here is an update on a selection of school and parish projects.

Hei konā mai

Bill, Craig, Kahurangi & Linea

The Property Team

Work to Main Block Well Advanced

The contractor, Jones & Cooper Ltd, are well advanced with the main block classroom extension and reconfiguration work at St Thomas's Winton. The verandah extension is largely complete. New double-glazed windows and doors will be fitted next.



St Thomas's, Winton: Main Block

Priests Retirement Units Under Construction

Two priest's retirement units are currently under construction at Holy Cross in Mosgiel. The co-joined flats are positioned immediately adjacent existing units and will share driveway and services etc. Windows have recently been installed and work continues with fit-out of internal linings etc





High Winds Cause Tiles to Fall

Recent high winds caused tiles to dislodge and fall from the corner tower at Redcastle, St Kevin College, Oamaru. Immediate health and safety protocols were put in place to ensure site safety and whilst a temporary roof repair is in place the Property Group is working with the College to provide a permanent fix to the apparent deterioration of the original French made clay tiles.



Redcastle, St Kevin's College, Oamaru

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Demolished Fence Frustrates

Our teachers arriving to work at Sacred School Heart North East Valley, Dunedin were disappointed to find a portion of perimeter fence demolished. Police and Insurance are liaising with the owner of the vehicle whose license plate was left behind following the incident. In the meantime, the fence has been repaired.



Sacred Heart NEV: Demolished Fence & Vehicle License Plate