



**SACRED HEART COLLEGE**  
Te Kāreti o Ngākau Tapu | Hearts and Minds in Harmony

# E Newsletter - Issue 4

**Kia ora, Talofa Lava, Malo e Lelei, Dia Duit,**

A video message from Mrs Neville-Foster



<https://sway.office.com/GRUdoZxQL5PHreCF#content=Po8YiqqihcuWcQ>

## **Covid -19 Update**

It is reassuring to hear how well our country has done at minimising the impacts of COVID-19. Alert Levels 4 and 3 have not been easy and I thank you for your ongoing support for the work we are doing.

On Thursday, the Prime Minister advised that in Alert Level 2 schools are safe environments for children, young people and staff and that additional public health control measures are in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing.

The good news is that when we are able to, we will be ready to welcome all students and staff back to our school site.

The key Public Health approach is to minimise the risk of someone getting infected in the first place, and second to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with an infected person.

As we have done in Alert Level 3, please be assured that at Alert Level 2 we will know who is at school, who our staff and students have been in close contact with and take appropriate measures to keep everyone safe.

Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. We do however know this is challenging in schools. Good hygiene practices and regular cleaning are now even more important. This includes staff and students coughing into their elbows, handwashing and drying, and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

Under Alert Level 2, we advise students and staff to stay at home if they are sick. We will send students and staff home immediately if any symptoms are shown.

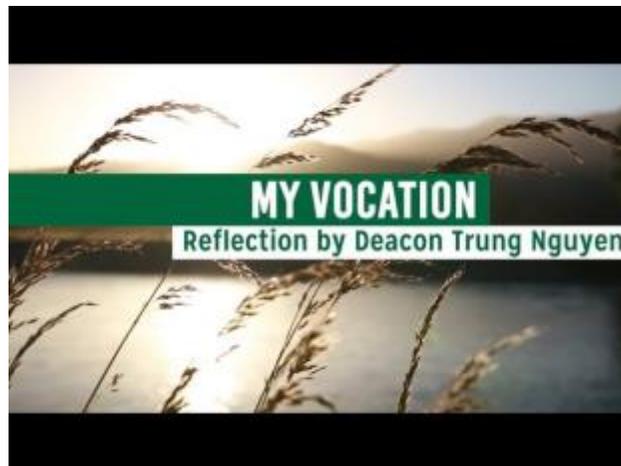
Our school has safe and sensible practices in place to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site. As described by Dr Payinda in his [NZ Herald article](#), "Covid's not measles or chickenpox, it doesn't hang in the air for hours waiting to infect passers-by. It travels on invisible drops of spit. You don't have to cross the street to avoid anyone. Just avoid getting in their 'moist breath' zone".

We all need to remember to have some breathing space at Alert Level 2! It is important that safe hygiene habits are practised by everyone at home as well as at school. This is essential to minimise the risk of someone getting infected with Covid-19.

For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the covid19.govt.nz website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

If you have any questions about our health and safety plan or have a child who might be vulnerable to serious illness and would like to discuss a plan for them, please contact Marysia Airey by emailing [mairey@sacredheartnapier.school.nz](mailto:mairey@sacredheartnapier.school.nz) or phone 06 8353761.

We will be in touch again soon to update you on our plans.



### **Good Shepherd Sunday**

Last Sunday was Good Shepherd Sunday. The Church asks us to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Attached is a video clip from Deacon Trung Nguyen. Trung has spent time in the parish of Hastings and hopes to return there once he is ordained. His ordination to the Priesthood was scheduled for Sunday 18 April but this was not possible due to Level 4 restrictions. Trung's story reminds us that vocations are nurtured from within the family. His extraordinary family of Mum and Dad and seven children has produced four vocations to priesthood and religious life. Please pray that many more young people like Trung will respond to God's invitation to them.



[View on our face book page](#)

### **Sacred Heart College students pray for essential workers in moving video**

Sacred Heart College student leaders have come together to produce a moving video rendition of the Prayers of the Faithful to encourage and inspire their school community. Speaking in their native languages including English, Maori, Tongan, Italian, Dutch and Samoan they pray for the unsung heroes of society during this trying time.

Head girl Lucy Dinneen came up with the concept which will be used as the focus for this week's online learning. 'I thought it would be nice for our girls, staff and the wider community to stay connected with their faith and to encourage the idea of staying connected to our sisterhood via prayers and religion'.

In the video they can be seen praying for God to watch over all essential workers and to help them realise they are 'truly appreciated by everyone'. 'My God, we ask that you watch over those working in hospitals during this pandemic. May they continue to have the energy to work hard and stay healthy'. They pray for those who are sick and those who are more at risk to fall ill than others. They also pray for those in Government making crucial decisions, as well as teachers, students and those who are working hard at this time.

It is the second video created by year 13 leaders at Sacred Heart College reinforcing the idea that although they may be isolated and apart from each other, together they are one. Principal Maria Neville-Foster said it is a 'beautiful prayer video'. 'It gave me goosebumps....What wonderful students we have to work with'. Last week, house leaders made a video to stay connected with one another and to remind the girls to stay strong in their faith and resilience.

Mrs Neville-Foster said it is more important than ever to ensure students are keeping their faith 'alive and connected' during this time. She is immensely proud of the way all students have adapted to this ever-changing environment. 'Once again it shows our girls' ingenuity and spirit'.



**1 May 2020**

**Statement for Catholic School Families in Response to the Challenges Encountered by Covid-19**

Kia ora koutou nga Whanau Katorika

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops have been mindful of the challenges many people in our community are facing during the Covid-19 crisis. We understand the anxiety for parents and caregivers created by a loss of employment or other challenges of caring for children at home during this lockdown.

Our schools offer strong pastoral care, which is the foundation of our Catholic faith and is particularly important in times of upheaval, such as when many educators and students are having to adjust to distance learning. We want to ensure all those currently enrolled in Catholic schools are able to remain at their school of choice.

The New Zealand Catholic Education Office and our Diocesan leadership teams have given Catholic school Proprietors an appraisal of the challenges parents are likely to face as a result of the impacts of Covid-19. They are looking at ways we can support the cost of attendance dues for parents who have a loss of income or other hardship. Work is being done to ensure that our community is supported during this period, and that students are not further challenged by a need to look for a new school as a result of financial hardship.

Families are encouraged to contact their diocese's schools/education office.

We remember Catholic school families, staff and communities in our prayers, and commend you all for your creative and faith-filled response during this time. We are inspired by how schools have worked to ensure the continued learning and spiritual formation of students. We look forward to continuing to support our community to remain part of the Catholic Education family.

God Bless,

✠ Patrick Dunn, Bishop of Auckland and NZCBC President

✠ John Dew, Cardinal Archbishop of Wellington, NZCBC Vice President

✠ Stephen Lowe, Bishop of Hamilton and NZCBC Secretary

✠ Paul Martin SM, Bishop of Christchurch

✠ Michael Dooley, Bishop of Dunedin

✠ Michael Gielen, Auxiliary Bishop of Auckland

Paul Ferris, Chief Executive, New Zealand Catholic Education Office