

## **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH SCHOOL CHAPLAIN SYNOD REPORT 2022**

- The Parish and School are forging through developing a new relationship after the passing of the statute last Synod. The Chaplain and Principal and teachers of the school have a good relationship working together.
- After Alternating Junior and Senior chapel on Monday mornings with COVID restrictions we are now able to have the whole school together again with restrictions being lifted.
- This year a new initiative from the Principal and Chaplain, called Faith Journey Time, is being undertaken with the children by Year in 2-4 week bursts. It is not religious education, but – as the title describes – working with the children on how and what their faith journey has been and will be. First Faith Journey Time with Years 1-3 now finished for this half of the year. They were brought over to the church to make them feel more at home in the building when they come over for services. They loved the font and pulpit and were fascinated by the candles to light for prayer. We looked all around and with Years 2-3 went through what all the windows were. Quite successful with some interesting questions from young minds! Now onto block with Years 7-8. Started with touring the church, but then some classroom time too to discuss faith in God and understanding what it really means to be a Christian.
- The Chaplain continues to liaise with Junior and Senior RE curriculum teachers so we don't overlap or so that we complement each other with themes kids having in class and church.
- From April 1-7 the School had four services covering the days of Easter (School broke up for holidays on the eve of Holy Week). We did Palm Sunday with Juniors and Seniors separately as it was the Friday before group limits increased to 200. Maundy Thursday Foot washing/Last Supper, Good Friday and Easter Day were done as whole school services as the limited was raised to 200. This was the first time we have been together in the church all together for a long time and was really special. The services are pretty short trying to fit everyone in and engage children fully for the whole service, but I and the RE teachers had been covering these days in chapel and class as well, which helped.
- Year 8 school Friday Mass servers have done their out of Mass training and now are learning "on the job" in Junior and Senior Masses. Two teams of five, which is encouraging. The majority are taking it very seriously, which is hopeful and helpful.

- We have two school servers from last year who have asked to come back and serve on Sundays, which is wonderfully encouraging and have interest from current school pupils to join us on Sundays too.
- School service on Friday afternoon has been adapted. Now the pattern is a Junior service, Senior service, Junior Mass, Senior Mass – sorts out number restrictions (when they apply) and also is much, much better for talking to and teaching the children when their development level can more closely align with what is being said (that is, simpler for the Juniors, which would bore the Seniors). Is working well and going by the sound of rustling in the pews seems to be working too! The little ones, benefit especially, as they now have a better grasp of what is happening in the Mass.
- I think these are really great developments in the chaplain's role and am very happy with the relationships being developed in this role.

A huge thank you to all who make this ministry not only possible, but a joy.

In peace,  
Mother Meg Harvey



# St Michael's Church School

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2021

Despite the interruptions, restrictions and many cancellations of events during the year due to Covid-19, the St Michael's School Family remained in good heart.

### Roll

School roll growth has continued to rise from the post-quake low point of 42 pupils in January 2018. Word-of-mouth is the major marketing driver. The opening roll in January 2021 was 116 pupils, building to 138 at the end of the school year. Due to demand at the intermediate level, a second class was opened at Year 7, and with Year 1 full at mid-year, a Year 0 class was opening in July.

### Staffing

Principal	Miss Penny Tattershaw
Y8 Class Teacher, Science	Mrs Jo Eason
Y7 Class Teacher	Mrs Julie Lee
Y6 Class Teacher, Spanish	Mr Ben Smith
Y5 Class Teacher, RE	Mr David Faulkner
Y4 Class Teacher, IT	Miss Stephanie Innes
Y3 Class Teacher, Junior Art	Mrs Anne Tucker
Y2 Class Teacher	Mrs Brigid Ladley
Y1 Class Teacher	Ms Emma Mahoney
Y0 Class Teacher	Ms Tracey Steel – <i>from Term 3</i>
Y7&8 Extension English	Mrs Gill Perkins
Y5-8 Music	Miss Jillian Kerr
Learning Support / Y2-4 Music	Ms Sarah Mahoney
Bursar	Mrs Jocelyn Richards
Office Administrator	Mrs Anthea Kitson
Registrar & Senior Art	Mrs Bec Hitchcock
Teacher Aide & After School Care	Miss Maddie Lindsay
Teacher Aide	Mrs Angela Rattray-Searell
Teacher Aide	Mrs Penny Caldwell
Teacher Aide	Miss Kelly Fraser
Fr Chris Orczy	Vicar
Rev Meg Harvey	Chaplain – <i>from Term 3</i>

During the 2021 lockdown, the staff was again outstanding, swinging into online teaching again with enthusiasm and energy – and catering for and managing not only our pupils' education but also their pastoral care and socialization with their classmates. It takes a great deal more energy to teach a class of children on a screen than in a classroom, and I wish to formally record my thanks and admiration for the professionalism, empathy, care and kindness our teachers again showed, and the hours of work undertaken, both on- and off-line to complete their very successful At-home learning programmes.

## Board of Governors

*Prof Spencer Beasley (Chairman), Bishop Peter Carrell (Warden), Rev Lynette Lightfoot, Mrs Jocelyn Richards (Secretary), Mrs Anne Tucker, Mrs Rachel Watson, Mr Michael Graveston (Church Warden), Mr Stephen Harteveld, Fr Christopher Orczy, Mr Richard Peters, Mr Matthew Slater (Finance Chairman)*

The Board's major focus was redrafting the school's **Trust Deed** in time for presentation to Synod, and this led to many robust and serious conversations. Prof Beasley and Mr Slater joined the parish representatives, Mr Graveston and Ms Jane Evans, on the School-Parish Working Group, led by Bishop Peter and assisted in the later stages by Diocesan Chancellor Maurice Walker. The redraft was a significant undertaking, and I wish to record the school's immense gratitude for the long hours the Working Group members dedicated to creating a new governance document fit for purpose and the future, for both school and parish.

Mr Richard Peters stepped down from the board mid-year, having returned to the Parish Trust Board. Mr Steven Harteveld stepped down as an adviser at the end of the year.

## Happy Anniversary

Founded in 1851, St Michael's Church School is the oldest preparatory school in New Zealand by 30 years, and a highlight of the year was our **170<sup>th</sup> Founders' Day Service** on Sunday 13 June. With the roll standing at 127 on the day, the church was packed with pupils past and present, parents and parishioners. Together with a fabulous choral performance by the school's choirs and the sun shining, there was much to celebrate and for which to be thankful. There was also a great deal of cake!

A new school hymn was commissioned for the celebrations, and I wish to record our thanks to Marnie Barrell for her time and generosity in writing these perfect words to accompany the tune *Everton*:

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| <p>1. Michael and the angels keep us:<br/>parish, school, community.<br/>Through the years you form and shape us,<br/>all we were, are now, will be.<br/>God abundantly providing,<br/>here we strive for Jesus' sake,<br/>angels fostering and guiding<br/>all the work we undertake.</p> | <p>2. Church and school together founded<br/>in this new Pacific land.<br/>In tradition firmly grounded,<br/>finding here a place to stand.<br/>Here new chances are unfolding,<br/>Christian faith and love to share.<br/>Gospel light and truth upholding,<br/>trusting in God's constant care.</p> |
| <p>3. Serving neighbours, serving nation<br/>with the treasures we receive,<br/>in each rising generation<br/>Jesus help us to believe.<br/>Keep our faith alive and growing<br/>in these ever-changing days,<br/>seeds for God's great harvest sowing,<br/>giving God eternal praise.</p> |   |

A celebratory badge, donated by the PTFA, was presented to each child. Designed by our registrar and senior art teacher, Mrs Bec Hitchcock, the badge was inspired by the shape of the church's east window and the school's blue front door. It records *170 years*, and our Latin motto: *in hoc signo vinces* – *in this sign, you shall conquer*.



*Miss Penny Tattershaw  
Principal*