

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. George's Church

Parish Priest

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Community Newsletter

Term 2, Week 5
18 - 22 May 2026

Principal:

Suzanne Downey

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IMPORTANT DATES 2026

Friday, 22 May 2026

Interschool Cross Country - Rangitoto

Sunday, 24 May 2026

Whole School and Parish Mass & morning tea

Please bring a plate to share with St Raphael

School Representatives from Tahiti

Thursday, 04 June 2026

St Joseph's Orienteering

Friday, 19 June 2026

Interschools Orienteering - Aria

Monday, 22 June 2026

Photolife - Individual Portraits, Sibling, Class and Sports Team photos to be taken this day.

Friday, 03 July 2026

Last day of Term 2.

Monday, 20 July 2026

First day of Term 3

UNIFORMS: SOCKS FOR SALE

Our latest order of the **grey school socks** have arrived and are for sale at **\$14.50 a pair**.

Please email the office if you would like to purchase some socks. Elmarie needs the shoe size of the student and the number of pairs you would like.

We also have the **black sports socks** with the white stripes in the foldover for sale at the school office at **\$18.00 a pair**.

The school will send an invoice for the cost.

Please make payment into the school bank account:

St Joseph's School Board of Trustees

03 - 0449 - 0107422 - 00

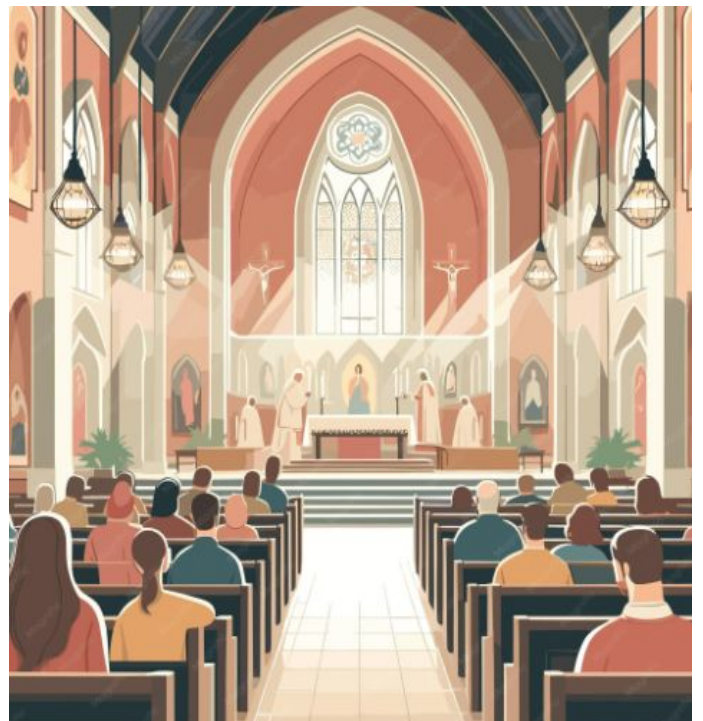
REMINDER: WHOLE SCHOOL AND PARISH MASS - SUNDAY, 24 MAY 2026

This is a reminder of the Whole School and Parish Mass to be held on Sunday, 24 May at 9:30 am at St George's Parish.

We have students from St. Raphael based in Tahiti attending Mass on Sunday. They arrived in New Zealand on Tuesday this week.

Please bring a plate for morning tea afterwards. It is always lovely to catch up and get to know the parents of the students who share the classroom with your child.

We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you



FROM MRS. DOWNEY'S DESK THIS WEEK

Tena Koutou Tena Koutou Tena Koutou Katoa,
Nau mai, Haere mai e te whanau

Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he showed them his hands and side. The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his greeting, "Peace to you." Then he took a deep breath and breathed on them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. (John 20: 20 - 22)

In a world full of noise, pressure and uncertainty, the words of Jesus feel incredibly relevant for Catholic schools today: "Peace be with you." Before giving the disciples a mission, Jesus gives them peace. Before asking them to go out into the world, he breathes the Holy Spirit upon them.

That is the heart of Pentecost.

For educators, Pentecost is more than a story about flames and wind. It is about God working through ordinary people to bring hope, courage and compassion to others. **Every day in Catholic schools, that Spirit is present in small but powerful ways. In patient conversations, in moments of encouragement, in welcoming students who are struggling and in staff who continue to lead with care even when the work is demanding.** Young people today are growing up in a fast-moving world shaped by constant comparison, social media pressure and uncertainty about the future. Many arrive at school carrying worries that are unseen by others. In that environment, **Catholic educators do far more than teach curriculum.** They create places of safety, belonging and dignity where students can experience genuine care and connection. That witness matters deeply.

Perhaps Pentecost in our schools is not found in dramatic moments, but in the daily decision to bring peace, kindness and courage into the lives of young people. **Through the work of Catholic educators and staff, the Spirit of Christ continues to breathe life into our communities every single day.**

Let us come together this Pentecost Sunday and have morning tea together with the students from St Raphael School on Mangareva Island in French Polynesia. I went to Oparure to their powhiri this week and was quite overwhelmed by the hospitality and opportunity for culture exchange that Te Kura o Maniapoto offered. We need to show our manaaki also. Thank you Allana for organising this morning. All families please bring a small plate of food to share.

A couple of links.

[This is Pentecost](#) and [The Bulletin from the Hamilton Diocese](#)

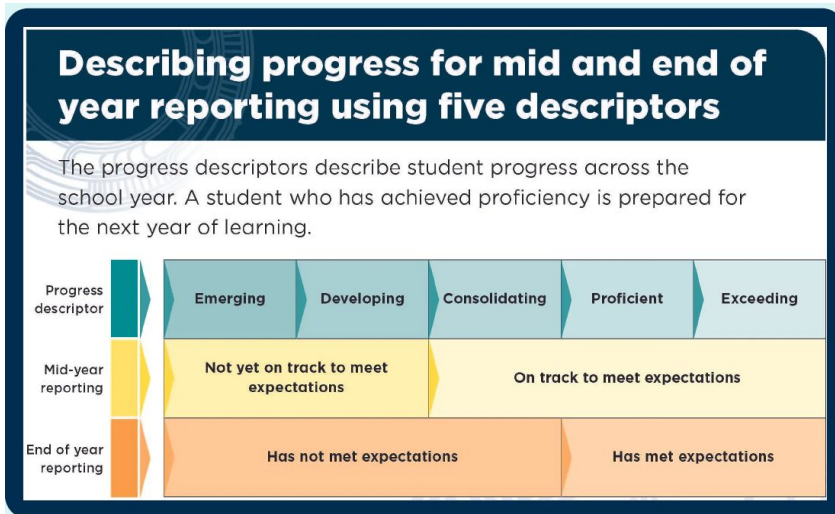
The Education Review Office (E.R.O) will be in the school on Tuesday 26th of May

The reviewer will visit each classroom for observations using a new observation framework. E.R.O do not expect parent meetings now, but do encourage any parent/caregiver if they would like to share their story about their children's learning at St Joseph's to come along on Tuesday 26th May at 3.pm in the Library. Please let the office know if you are coming so we can timetable the meeting accordingly. Thank you. An information sheet about the ERO new reports (yes we are one of the firsts!) is attached to this newsletter.

See you Sunday - Ma Te Wa - Suzanne Downey (Principal)



The Five Progress Descriptors in the reports:



Mid-Year Descriptors for a child on track to meet the expectations of their learning at the end of the year, the mid descriptors need to be Consolidating, Proficient or Exceeding

Note: The Descriptors change for the end of year reporting.

..more next week!

Emerging	Students require support to meet curriculum expectations for their year level and/or goals as described in their personalised learning plan.
Developing	Students are making some progress towards curriculum expectations for their year level.
Consolidating	Students are meeting many curriculum expectations for their year level and are steadily strengthening their understanding across learning areas.
Proficient	Students are meeting curriculum expectations for their year level.
Exceeding	Students are exceeding curriculum expectations for their year level.

☰ MENU

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

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PENTECOST CHARISMATIC MASS
 St Columba Catholic Church, Rifle Range Rd, Hamilton
 Sunday 24th May 2026, 5:00 pm
 Celebrant: Msgr Frank Eggleton
 Soup and buns afterwards. You are also welcome to bring a small plate to share.
 Current of Grace, Hamilton Helen ph 027 294 1270

Current of Grace Hamilton Events

(Contact Helen 027 294 1270)

Pentecost Mass - Sunday 24th May 5pm, **St Columba Church**, Rifle Range Rd, Hamilton. Soup and buns afterwards - You are welcome to bring a small plate to share

Come and be Encouraged with Sr Katherine Stone (MGL) Sharing her Experience of **God's Mercy**- Sunday 31st May 7pm, St Peter Chanel School Hall, 5 Vardon Road, Hamilton. Starting with tea/coffee - a small plate appreciated but not essential.



be with you.
As the Father has sent me,
so I send you."

Religious Education

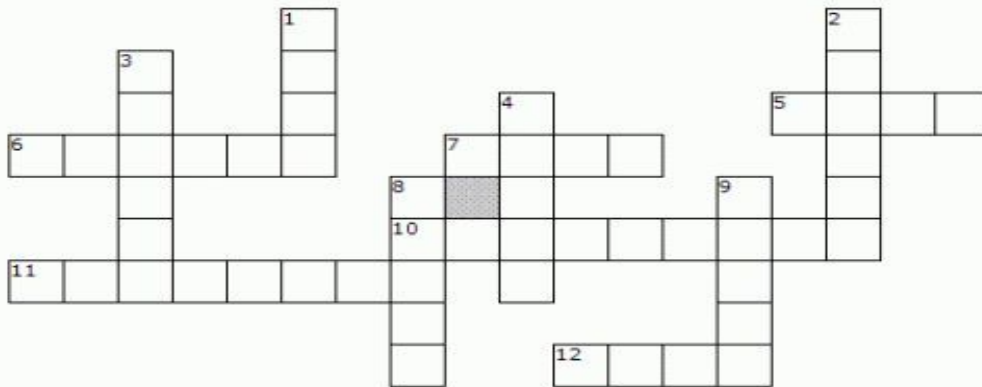
24th May 2026 - Pentecost

Pentecost Sunday is a major Christian festival celebrated 50 days after Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ, an event that empowered them to spread the gospel and is widely considered the "birthday of the Christian Church".

Filled with the Holy Spirit

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Based on Acts 2:1-21 (NIV)



ACROSS

- 5. Make something to be full
- 6. To be totally surprised
- 7. Something that is pure and good, such as God's Word
- 10. The day the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles
- 11. Means of communication used by the people of a particular country
- 12. A destructive burning

DOWN

- 1. Blowing air, especially that which would move the leaves on a tree
- 2. A being that cannot be seen, like a ghost
- 3. The place where God lives
- 4. Something that can be heard
- 8. To say words, to use the voice
- 9. A building which people live in

HEAVEN	SPIRIT	FIRE	HOLY
WIND	PENTECOST	LANGUAGE	SPEAK
SOUND	FILL	HOUSE	AMAZED

PARISH NEWS

CURRENT OF GRACE HAMILTON

Now have a Facebook page.

MASS TIMES

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday 9.30am

Saturday Vigil 6pm

MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY



WELL DONE EVERYONE!

Lucy, Charlotte and Peata did very well at the interschool swimming sports last term and were awarded certificates for the events they placed in across all Waitomo schools.



Well done to our Cross Country runners!



ERO School Reports: Parent and Whānau Explainer



What are ERO School Reports?

ERO is the Education Review Office. We are the government agency that reviews the quality of education in schools across New Zealand.

After we review your child's school, we publish a report. Our reports show how well your child's school is doing in the areas that matter most – things like student progress and achievement, attendance, student engagement and belonging, quality of teaching and leadership, and health and safety.

Are ERO's School Reports useful for parents and whānau?

We have updated our school reports to make them more useful for parents and whānau. Your child's school report will set out how well the school is doing on 14 different areas. For each of these areas, there is a clear judgement on a four-point scale. The report lets you see what is going well and where improvements are needed. This will help you to make choices about your child's school and to talk to teachers and leaders there. You can also compare how schools are doing on different areas.

What is included in ERO's School Reports?

The reports have quick information at the front and more detail at the back. We use clear language and visuals to make things easy to understand. Here is an example:

Judgement	Number of areas
Excelling	8
Doing well	4
Working towards	3
Improvement required	0
Student Health and Safety	Meets expectation. This school is taking reasonable steps to ensure student health and safety.



PLEASE TAKE NOTE

SCHOOL LUNCHES

We offer school lunches at \$5.00 per lunch, Monday to Friday.

Please use the link to indicate which day/s you wish to order a lunch/es for: [Lunch Orders](#).

The link is also available on our website: [Website: Lunch Orders](#)

Please make payment into the Friends of St Joseph's bank account:

Friends of St Joseph's

03 - 0449 - 0123772 - 00

Your reference is Lunch and your student's name.



Lunch orders and payment need to be received by **Friday, 22 May at 11am**, in order to send it to the canteen in a timely manner. Lunch orders are for the week following the date stated above.

Thank you

PHOTO FUNDRAISER: ICON PHOTOGRAPHY

Please ensure to book your slot to have your family's photo taken around 21 June. Please contact the office or Allana Grainger for a form to book a time to have a photo taken of your family.

Thank you



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH ATTENDANCE DUES

Support for payment of Attendance Dues is available from the Diocese.

We encourage **all parents** to apply for financial assistance in the current economic climate.

The forms can be emailed to you upon request, picked up from the office or printed off from the website - under the Our School - Enrolment tab. Support can be from 25% to 100%.

Once completed, send it back to the school to be processed.

This is handled in the strictest confidence.

Father Richard or Suzanne Downey can endorse the forms for you.



ATTENDANCE

Thank you very much for contacting the school in the case of your child being absent. Please continue to do so **IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT GOING TO BE AT SCHOOL FOR ANY REASON, PLEASE CALL 878 8190 AND CHOOSE FROM THE AVAILABLE OPTIONS** - please leave a message, email the office **OR** send through an absence notice from the website or the Kiwishools App.

The following guide is provided by ERO and explains the importance of regular school attendance and offers insights on how parents can support their child's school experience. [Please read this](#)

STUDENTS NOT ON THE BUS FOR THE AFTERNOON TRIP?

Please contact us, during the school day if your student is not going to use the bus as transport home, for the afternoon trip.

If you're at school to pick them up, please inform the office and staff member managing the bus students for the afternoon.

Thank you





First Reading

Acts 2: 1-11

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The word of the Lord

Psalm 103(104):1,24,29-31,34

R: Lord, send out your spirit, and renew the face of the earth

'Receive the Holy Spirit.'



Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12: 3-7,12-13

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

The word of the Lord

Gospel

John 20: 19-23

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Readings for next week: 31st May The Most Holy Trinity

First reading Exodus 34: 4-6,8-9

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Daniel 3: 52-56

Gospel John 3:16-18

