



GOSPEL CONNECTIONS



Returning to God

The homing instinct which many birds possess is an almost miraculous thing. With some it seems to be an in-built thing. But others, such as pigeons, have to be trained. The basic requirement of training is to keep them in good health so that they are capable of sustained flight. Fog, snow, rain and adverse winds are some of the obstacles they have to overcome.

We too have a homing instinct. God has not left us rudderless. God has put a homing instinct in us. This is a very subtle and fragile thing, since God will never take away our freedom. It takes the form of an inner restlessness and discontent. This restlessness, this discontent, this longing, far from being a curse, is a blessing.

Just as the homing instinct doesn't save the birds from the necessity of having to struggle against the wind and the rain, so faith doesn't shield us from the hard knocks of life and death. But what it does is give us bearings. It enables us to live in a topsy-turvy world without getting lost or giving in to despair. It assures us that we have a home to go to, and points us in that direction.

The way to God has confused and baffled many. Some have got hopelessly confused; others have got lost. When Thomas asked Jesus, "Show us God". Jesus didn't give him a lot of complicated directions. Instead he said, "I am the Way". What he was saying in effect was: "Follow me and I'll show you the way". Rules Aren't All Bad

PROPERTY

IMPORTANT NOTICE

St Joseph's School is in need of people who would be dedicated to helping with the general upkeep and maintenance of the

school property.

It is vital for the children's and the staff's safety that the school environment and facilities functions well.

This would involve meeting once a month to have a walk through inspection of the school and to discuss anything that requires attention with a view to completing small tasks as required and maybe holding a working bee if needed.

If this sounds like something you could help with and you feel like doing your bit for the school, please come to a short meeting in the school staffroom on Tuesday the 16th at 5.30p.m.

If you would like to help but cannot make the meeting please notify the school office.

Thank you, Glen Higginson

COMING UP EVENTS

TERM 2

May	Sunday 14	SCHOOL MASS MOTHER'S DAY
	Monday 15	Vision and Hearing
	Tuesday 16	Caritas Gold Coin Mafti day
	Thursday 18	Board meeting
	Wednesday 24	DHS Open evening
June	Monday 5	QUEENS BIRTHDAY
	Tuesday 6	Scripture reading Competition
	Tuesday 13	St Joseph's Cross Country (Pp day Friday 16)
	Wednesday 14	7 Aside Tournament
	Monday 26	Inter-school Cross Country (Pp Wednesday 28)
	Friday 30	End of term 2

ATTENDANCE DUES

Attendance Dues statements have this week been sent out requesting payment of the 2nd instalment, plus any arrears from the 1st instalment and/or previous years by 31st May 2017, unless a payment arrangement is already in place. The instalment amount is \$111.75 for each primary student (Year 0-8). If you have any questions or concerns about payment or would like to set up a regular payment plan, please contact Marcy, Susan or Mark at Attendance Dues on 0800 200 208 or by email dues@pndiocese.org.nz



ACTIVITY FEE



Firstly I would like to thank the many parents who have paid the full year \$40.00 for your child. For those who wish to pay each term, this is quite acceptable, and we ask that payment for term two \$10.00





be made at the school office (no eftpos) or online 02-0612-0089632-00. The Activity Fee enables the school children to experience visiting performers and a range of education outside the classroom experiences and saves parents sending small amounts of money in for various activities.

STUDENT ABSENCE

Regular and punctual attendance is a requirement of the Education Act. If your child is absent please telephone the school office (we have an answerphone). The school is audited on its roll and absences need to be explained to the auditors. All unexplained absences will be followed up by a phone call which is quite time consuming.

CARITAS



AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND Challenge

The Caritas Challenge is an annual event for schools and youth groups around New Zealand to demonstrate solidarity with those living with poverty.

THE FOCUS FOR 2017: CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PACIFIC

Caritas Challenge 2017 focuses on our neighbours in the Pacific and the challenges they face as a result of climate change. All funds raised during the Caritas Challenge in 2017 will go towards supporting the people of Kiribati.

The aim is to build solidarity with those living with poverty or injustice, through hands-on experiences that are fun and informative, while we raise funds.

Gold Coin donation Mufti – Tuesday 16 May

We will hold a variety of games and activities which focus on the challenges faced by people in the Pacific as a result of climate change.

SPORTS DRAW

Rugby Saturday 13 May

Rippa Rugby 10am – Field 2 (Rippa Area)
Coach/Manager Tony & Sarah Fairweather
Midget Rugby 10am – Field 2 (Midget Area)
Coach/Manager Vaughan & Kylie Wrenn
All players please arrive by 9.30a.m.

Netball

A, B & C grades 9 & 10am
4x4 9am – Sports Centre
5x5 10.30am – Court 5

FAITH FACTS

This week we can remember Father Damien of Molokai. He won recognition for his ministry from 1873

to 1889 in the Kingdom of Hawai'i to people with leprosy (also known as Hansen's disease).

Leprosy is still a problem in many countries today. Data 2012, Africa 17 540, Americas 33 926, South-East Asia 125 167, Eastern Mediterranean 4 960, Western Pacific 7 425 Total 189 018.



In 2015 there were 4 cases reported in New Zealand.

We pray for the victims of this disease and those who work to eradicate it.

Pope Francis breaking ground again! - In a trip to Egypt designed to forge Muslim-Christian brotherhood, Pope Francis stressed the



importance of unity in shaping world peace and emphasized the incompatibility of violence and faith. "Let us say once more a firm and clear 'No!' to every form of violence, vengeance and hatred carried out in the name of religion or in the name of God," the Pope said in Italian in a speech at a peace conference at Al-Azhar University, the premier seat of high learning among Sunni Muslims. Let us pray that in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may we too will give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS



Mrs Larsen

Sophie
Anderson

Terri Smith

LAST WORD

*May the blessings of the Lord be upon you,
dwell within, and flow through you.*

Nonah Kalemato
Principal

