



# St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 4 Week 8  
29 November 2023

Kia ora St Mark's Whānau,

## Reverend Ben

Reverend Ben's final church service as our vicar was held on Tuesday. We said goodbye to a person of great worth who has been transformational in our school family. After speeches from guests from the BOP, BOT and PA, Reverend Ben was presented with a gift and a homemade giant card from the students. One student from each class (from our biggest Year 8s down to our newest new entrants) then shared what they love most about him and I think it most fitting to publish here what they each said about Ben.



- Remy: Reverend Ben, I love how you are so kind.  
Toby: Reverend Ben, you are so silly, you make me smile and laugh.  
Harriet: I am so thankful for the time I have had with you.  
Beau: Reverend Ben, you are very funny and we like it when you make us laugh.  
Alaska: Reverend Ben, I liked how you made all of the balloons at the fair. You are so clever. I like how you preach the word of the gospel. Hope you enjoy the time at your new job.  
Jake: Reverend Ben, I like how you are so kind. I love it when you throw chocolate to the school. I like your silly attitude. You are very good at everything you do.



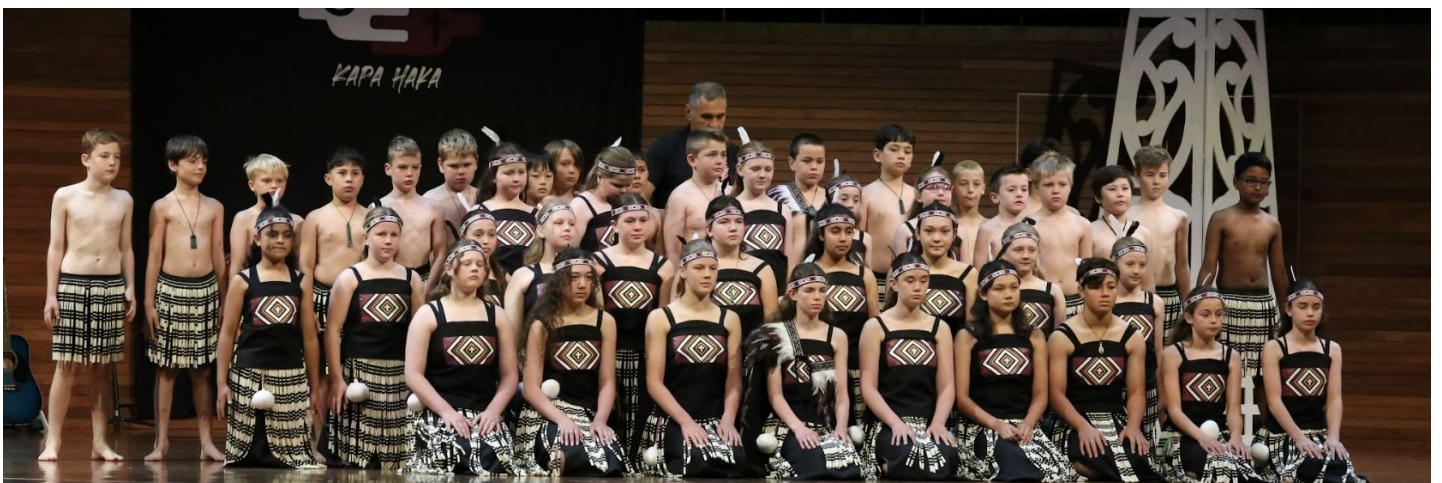
*Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story*

- Lachlan: Reverend Ben, we hope that you have a good time at your new cathedral. I like that you don't take things too far.
- Joshua: Goodbye Reverend Ben, I hope you have a good time at the cathedral. We will all miss you reverend ben, im thankful that you are funny and you make everyone smile and have a great time during church.
- Tyler: Saying goodbye to you is like saying goodbye to the schools comedian, you always made us laugh while you were telling the story of jesus you are so kind and you always put a smile on my face I pray that your future endeavours may go well and you are as happy as you made us every friday It became something we looked forward to every week and we thank you for that.
- Theo: Reverend Ben, saying goodbye to you is like breaking your mum's favourite plate or cup; you will never be able to be replaced to the same standards. But through the time that I have been at Saint Marks there have been three and a half Reverends but you are my favourite by far with how funny, kind, and caring you are. Thank you Reverend Ben for guiding me through the Six years you have been at Saint Marks. I will always remember your kindness.

*Thankyou, Ben. We will miss you!*

### **Tūhono Festival**

My thanks to Mrs Coster and Mrs Bryant who gave up their time in the weekend to facilitate this amazing event. Our team performance was outstanding.





### **Staffing**

I have communicated with the community via the school app the staffing structure we are putting in place for 2024. I feel privileged to be part of a team of educators who are so skilled and who work so hard for our students.

### **Traffic**

The choices being made at those critical pick up and drop off times are once again becoming an issue. As way of reminder it is unsafe for cars to attempt the following:

- Double park and wait for students
- Park across driveways
- Do u-turns
- Park outside the school main door on Cholmondeley Ave
- On Locarno Street, park opposite the main gate (it's an unofficial crossing point)
- Speed

I have asked staff who assist students at these times to remind drivers of these important safety measures. We absolutely cannot have an injured student, or worse!

### **Science Roadshow**

Our Year 3-8 students enjoyed an outstanding educational experience on Tuesday as they attended the Science Roadshow. Sparking interest in the science world was the order of the day as students engaged in some brilliant, interactive activities.

### **Top Team**

My thanks to Mrs Bigelow for organising a great day of fun and competition. We welcomed the senior classes from St Michael's Church School to St Mark's for this great event.

### **Year 7 Leadership Camp**

As I write this, the Year 7 class has completed their special leadership camp and are writing letters to apply for leadership positions in 2024. I am heartened by the amazing attitude these students are choosing of leadership, service and dedication. I know we will have a great Year 8 class next year.

## Year 4/5 Camp

There are some very excited Waka Pūhara students heading off to Woodend Christian Camp today. It is always a massive undertaking and responsibility for staff to facilitate outdoor education programmes. Thank you to Mrs Coster and Ms Bryant for their work.

## Canterbury Athletics

Congratulations to Ariki E, Angel S, James D, Sofia D, Lincoln S and Indie L who represented St Mark's and our sports zone at the Canterbury Athletics event this week. It is so pleasing to see a proportionally high number of St Mark's athletes competing to this top level.

At a time of year that is far too busy, let's remember the important things...

## Matthew 11:28.

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Blessings to all,  
Adrian

5 December	Year 8 Leavers Dinner - 6pm
12 December	New Parents Evening - 6pm
13 December	Internal Prize Giving - 1.30pm
14 December	Advent Service - 7pm
18 December	Prize Giving - 7pm
19 December	Last Day and End of Year Church Service - 2pm

## Church Certificates

Raupō	Ella R
Īnaka	Theo H
Pūtakitaki	Ava R
Kōura	Kiara L
Kawau	Aurora S
Kāmana	Lemarle D-A
Pīngao	Violet J/Zaia O
Wheke	Isla H

## Church Service - 24 November Welcome Certificate - Luka A



## Parish News

We are particularly keen for the parents/caregivers to know they are very welcome to come over to the church every Tuesday 9am or Friday at 2.30pm when we're open for prayers & a cuppa.

We have an upright piano to give away - anyone interested can email us on [opawa.stmartins@gmail.com](mailto:opawa.stmartins@gmail.com).

## Lost Property

There is a large amount of lost property in the cupboard and also on the table in the foyer. We would like to reunite these items with their owners.



Dec 21st-23rd  
Jan 3rd-5th,  
Jan 10th-12th  
and Jan 17th-19th!

9am-  
12pm!

\$50 per day, plus \$5 off each extra day!

ST MARK'S SCHOOL

Email interest to

33 CHOLMONDELEY AVE, OPAWA tomg1715@gmail.com



Thank you

Thank you for your generous contributions. Lucy H in year-7 will be putting these items in handmade bags to donate to our City Mission.



**Christchurch  
City Mission**

Te Whare Mīhana Ki Ōtautahi



Parish of Opawa-St Martins

# Christmas *Market*

FRIDAY

08  
DEC

5-7 PM

**FOOD & FESTIVE  
GOODS TO PURCHASE**

cnr Opawa Rd & Vincent Pl  
CASH ONLY

## **Advent & Christmas at St Mark's Opawa 2023**

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light  
(Isaiah 9:2)*

Our St Anne's Chapel is open for silent prayer on  
Tuesdays 5,12,19,26 Dec 9am  
or Fridays 8, 15, 22,29 Dec 2.30pm

We invite you to write down your prayers and tie  
them to our Tree of Light in the Chapel - you may  
also like to light a candle.

Festive food and new gifts (please don't wrap  
them) can be left under the tree for the City Mission  
until 17 December.

A collection box for the Christian World Service  
Christmas Appeal will be available.



## **Christmas Services**

*For Unto Us a Child is Born (Isaiah 9:6)*



Saturday 23 December 5pm  
Children's Nativity Service

Sunday 24 December 11pm  
Midnight Eucharist

Monday 25 December 9am  
Family Christmas Day Eucharist

**ALL ARE WELCOME.**

**St Mark's Anglican Church**

**101 Opawa Rd**

**[opawa.stmartins@gmail.com](mailto:opawa.stmartins@gmail.com)**