St Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

MARIST

Excellence in learning and behaviour
We work hard
Kia mahi tahi tatou

Term 4 – Week 7
26th November 2026

ATTITUDE

Positive can-do attitude
We don't give up
Ngakau reka



RESPECT

Consideration for ourselves, others and the environment
We are caring and helpful
Manaakitanga

YES

Yes to following in the footsteps of Jesus
We say Yes to doing the right thing
Kia mahi pono tahi tatou ki te mahi tika

5 Mackenzie Street
Putaruru

Phone 07 885 1006
Mobile 027 333 3445

Email office@stmarysput.school.nz
Principal Jenny MacKenzie

St Mary's Catholic School
Putāruru

Term 4 Calendar 2026

NOVEMBER 12–13	Year 5 & 6 Camp @ Narrows Park
NOVEMBER 15	School Mass @ 9:30am
NOVEMBER 16–20	Year 7 & 8 Camp @ Blue Mountain Adventure Centre
NOVEMBER 24	Interschools Athletics
NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 30–4	Swim Safe
DECEMBER 2	Year 8 Retreat
DECEMBER 9	Neighbours Concert
DECEMBER 10	Year 8 End of Year Prizegiving
DECEMBER 14	Last Day of Term – school will finish at lunchtime
DECEMBER 15	Teacher Only Day (Ministry Maths Professional Development)

Have a wonderful Term 4!

Congratulations :

St Mary's Catholic School
Putāruru

5 Mackenzie Street
Putaruru 3411
Tel: 07 885 1006

Striving for Excellence
in the Marist Tradition

Principal – Mrs Jenny MacKenzie

25/11/2026

Announcement of New Deputy Principal

Tēnā koutou katoa,

It is with great pleasure that our board announce the appointment of Nicola Bailey as our new Deputy Principal at Saint Mary's Catholic School Putāruru. Nicola has been part of our school community since 2019, when she joined us from Bishop Edward Gaines, Tokoroa.
Her new role will commence in Term 1 2027, allowing a smooth transition, with our outgoing Deputy Principal.

Nic brings a wealth of leadership skills, a commitment to educational excellence and a Catholic faith that will nurture and uphold our school's Special Marist Character.

We ask that our school Whānau and wider community support Nic in her new role, pray Our Lady guides her in the foundations set by the Marist Sisters and Saint Patrick continues to nurture our connection between our Parish and school.

Lastly, we would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to outgoing Deputy Principal, Karen McChlery for her dedicated service and leadership. Karen has been a part of our School and Parish community for the past 11 years and wish her success in her new Principal role in Saint Joseph's, Matamata.

Wishing our Whānau a safe end to the school year, as move into Advent this weekend.

Ngā manaakitanga a te Karaiti - Blessings in Christ,

Conor Croke – Presiding Member, on behalf of the Board of Saint Mary's Catholic School Putāruru.

Goodbye :

This week we say "goodbye" to Mrs Baigent (our Learning Support Co-ordinator) who has retired … again. Mrs Baigent has been at St Mary's for a very long time, she actually retired a while back but as we lovingly call her "the boomerang" she came back to help us out. This time, she is retiring "properly" and we wish her all the very best and send her off with love and know that we'll see her again soon.

Important Information



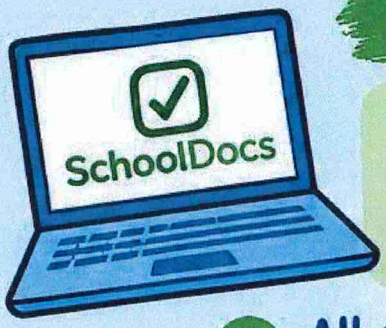
SCHOOL BUS

Parents of bus students – if you need to contact the bus company – or check out bus routes – or worried about something – here is the link

https://putaruru.easybus.nz/

SchoolDocs

SchoolDocs Login for parents



Username : stmarysput

Password : marist

All school policies and procedures are here for you to see

Go to Governance Documents on our school website

SVB MARIAE NOMINE

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

LET US KNOW IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT

GOOD ATTENDANCE = BETTER LEARNING

It is very important that you let the school office know if your child is absent, and the reason why.

The Ministry of Education checks all attendance on a daily basis so we need to ensure our absences are recorded correctly.

HOW YOU CAN LET US KNOW:

You can phone the office – **07 885 1006**
(please leave a message if not answered)

You can email the office –
office@stmarysput.school.nz

You can do an absence notification using the **Skool Loop** app

Please support us with attendance – sickness should be the only reason your child is absent from school

School should be informed of absences BEFORE 9am.

If you are having trouble with transporting your child to/from school, please contact Jenny and she can discuss the school van with you – **principal@stmarysput.school.nz** or **027 333 3445.**

the YMCA

YMCA have taken over the contract for absence tracking for schools in our area, if a child has a chronic absence issue they will have them on a register and will be contacting parents directly.

WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!

Please remember if you have any problems, Jenny's door is always open – as are the teachers – we are always here to support you, and your child/ren with their learning or anything else.

Please remember to pop into the office to sign in before heading to a classroom.

St Mary's School Putaruru

Fundraiser

Grocery Grab

4 FOUR SQUARE

Your chance to win a

$1,000

grocery grab!



Grocery Grab day
5th December

Ticket Price
$15 each

Support our School

– Every ticket counts –

Tickets can be purchased from **Four Square Putaruru**
or from our **Year 7 & 8 students**

IF YOU SEE BULLYING...

Walk away and tell an adult

Don't laugh and join in

Be kind to the kid being bullied – show them you care

Take them away from the bullying

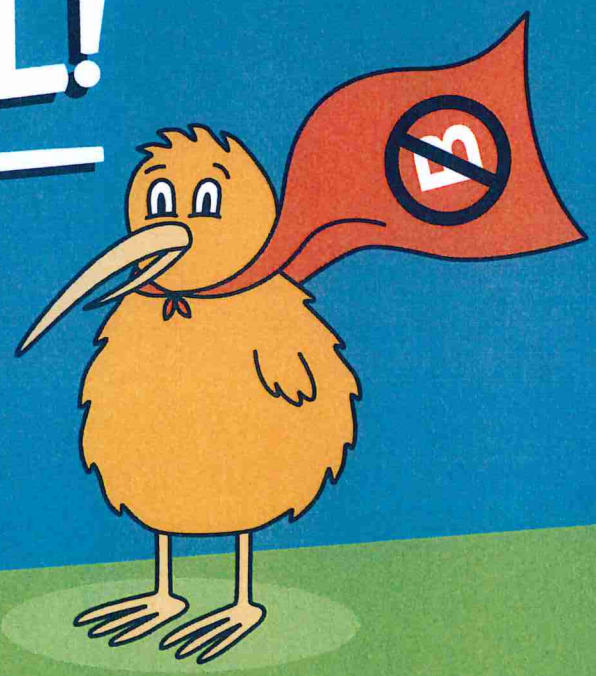
Tell them no one deserves to be bullied

Ask the kid being bullied to join in with you and your friends

Help make our school

A BULLYING-FREE NZ SCHOOL!

Don't stand by and let it happen!



TOGETHER WE CAN STOP BULLYING AT OUR SCHOOL

bullyingfreenz

I AM BEING BULLIED

What can I do?

Get help – don't keep it a secret

Talk to someone you can trust – a teacher, parent, friend

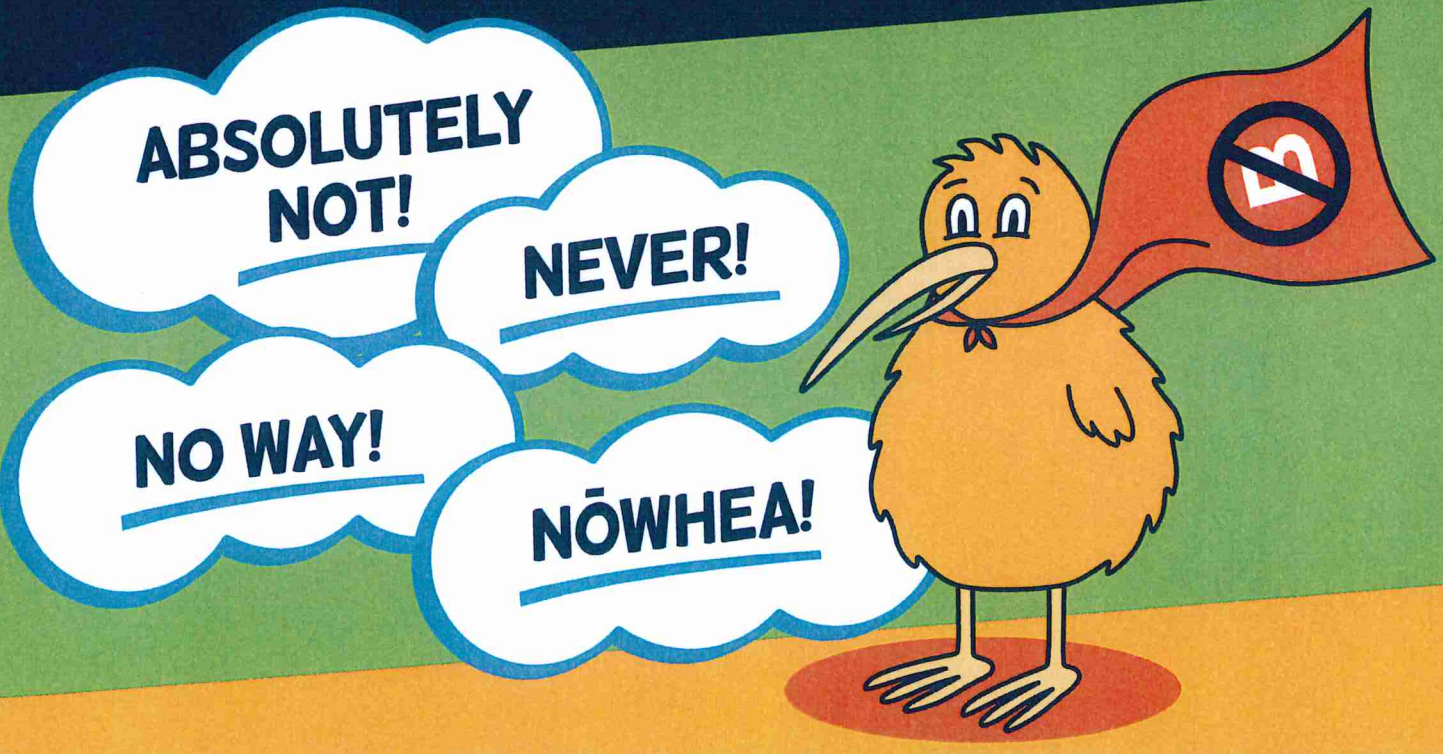
Ignore it – walk away

Stay cool and calm

Keep safe – fighting back can make it worse

It's OK to feel scared – telling is the right thing to do

If you are being bullied, it's NOT your fault...



TOGETHER WE CAN STOP BULLYING AT OUR SCHOOL

bullyingfreenz

St Mary's Religious Education Newsletter
Week 7 - Term 4

Advent: A Season of Hope and Preparation

Next week, we begin our journey into **Advent**, a special time in the Catholic Church when we prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas.

The word *Advent* comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming". It marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year and is celebrated over four weeks, leading us towards Christmas.

Advent is a time of reflection, prayer and joyful anticipation. Throughout this season, we focus on four important themes: **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**. The liturgical colour is purple, reminding us of the importance of preparation and reflection. On the third Sunday of Advent, a rose-coloured candle is lit to represent joy as we draw closer to Christmas.

One of the most familiar symbols of Advent is the **Advent wreath**, with its four candles representing each week of the season. As another candle is lit each week, the growing light reminds us of Christ, the Light of the World, and the hope He brings to all people.

As we begin this special journey, we are encouraged to look beyond the excitement and busyness of Christmas and think about what it truly means to welcome Jesus into our lives. May this Advent season inspire us to share hope, offer peace, show joy and spread love through our words and actions, both at school and in our wider community.

Neighbours Concert

Wednesday 9th December
St Mary's Hall
10:30am - Morning-Tea
11.00am - Concert Starts

End of Year Liturgy & Prizegiving

Thursday 10th December
St. Patrick's Church
6.30pm



Saint of the Week!

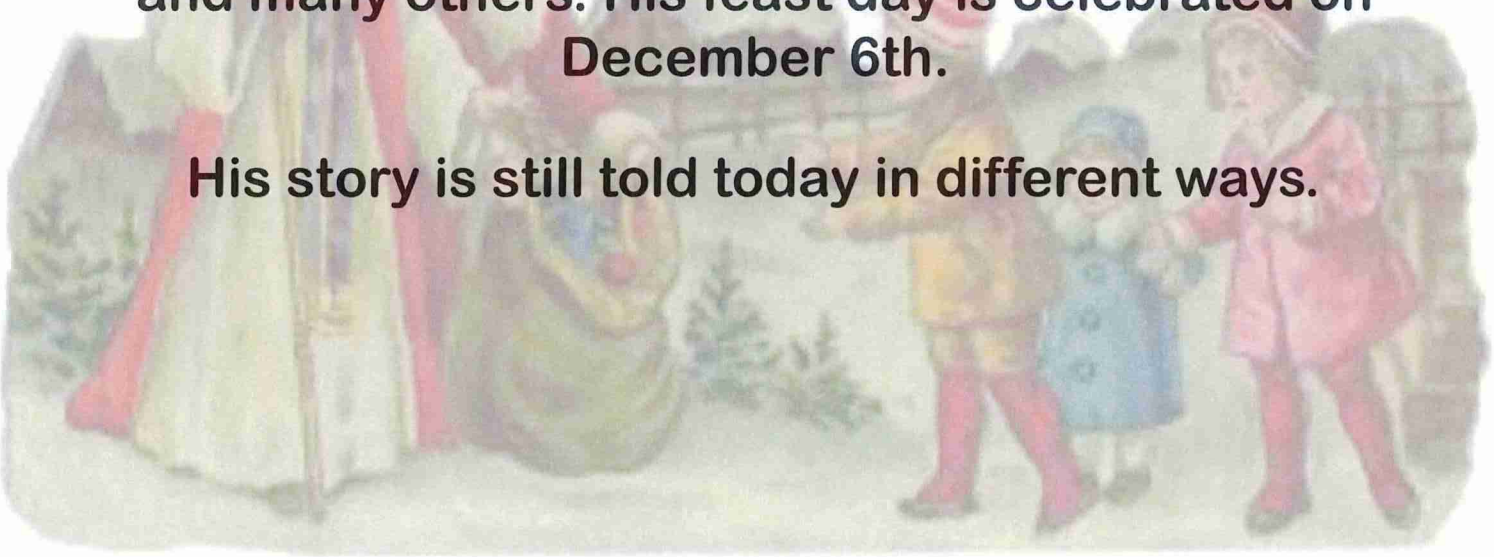


Saint Nicholas

Feast Day: 6th December

St. Nicholas was a kind and generous bishop who lived in the 4th century in Myra, which is now part of modern-day Turkey. He was known for his love of helping others, especially the poor and those in need. One of the most famous stories about St. Nicholas is of him secretly helping a poor man who had three daughters. The man was unable to provide a dowry for them, which meant they couldn't marry. St. Nicholas, wanting to help, secretly threw three bags of gold through their window, which provided the dowries they needed. This act of kindness saved them from a difficult fate. St. Nicholas became known as the patron saint of children, sailors, and many others. His feast day is celebrated on December 6th.

His story is still told today in different ways.



1st Sunday of Advent - 29th November



Year B

Reading Summories



First Reading: Isaiah 63:16–17, 64:1, 3–8

Isaiah reminds us that God is our Father and our loving creator. Even when we turn away from Him, He never stops caring for us. The reading expresses a longing for God to come close and bring hope to His people. It encourages us to trust in God, remember His love and allow Him to guide our lives.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

In this reading, St Paul gives thanks for the gifts and blessings God has shared with His people. He reminds us that God is faithful and will continue to strengthen us as we prepare for the coming of Jesus. It is a message of encouragement, reminding us that we are never alone and can always rely on God's love and support.

Gospel: Mark 13:33–37

In the Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples to stay awake and be ready because they do not know when He will return. He encourages them to remain watchful and faithful rather than becoming distracted or unprepared. As we begin Advent, this message reminds us to prepare not only for Christmas but also our hearts for Jesus. We can do this by showing kindness, helping others, praying and living as Jesus taught us.

A message to take into Advent: These readings remind us to trust in God's love, recognise His faithfulness and stay ready to welcome Jesus into our hearts. Advent is not simply about counting down the days until Christmas; it is about preparing ourselves to live more like Christ.



First Sunday of Advent

GOSPEL PRAYER



Loving Father,

Thank you for always being with us and for the many blessings you give us. Help us to trust in your love, remain faithful and keep our hearts ready for the coming of Jesus.

As we begin our Advent journey, teach us to be watchful, patient and kind. May we bring hope to those who feel lost, peace to those who are struggling and love to everyone we meet.

Help us to prepare not just for Christmas, but to welcome Jesus into our hearts each and every day.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Putaruru Community Food Bank Roster:

ITEMS IN NEED...

Condiments, spreads, pasta sauces, toilet paper.

Thank you so much for your support!

Week 1 - Room 1
Week 2 - Room 2
Week 3 - Room 3
Week 4 - Room 4
Week 5 - Room 5
Week 6 - Room 6
Week 7 - Room 7
Week 8 - Room 8
Week 9 - Staff

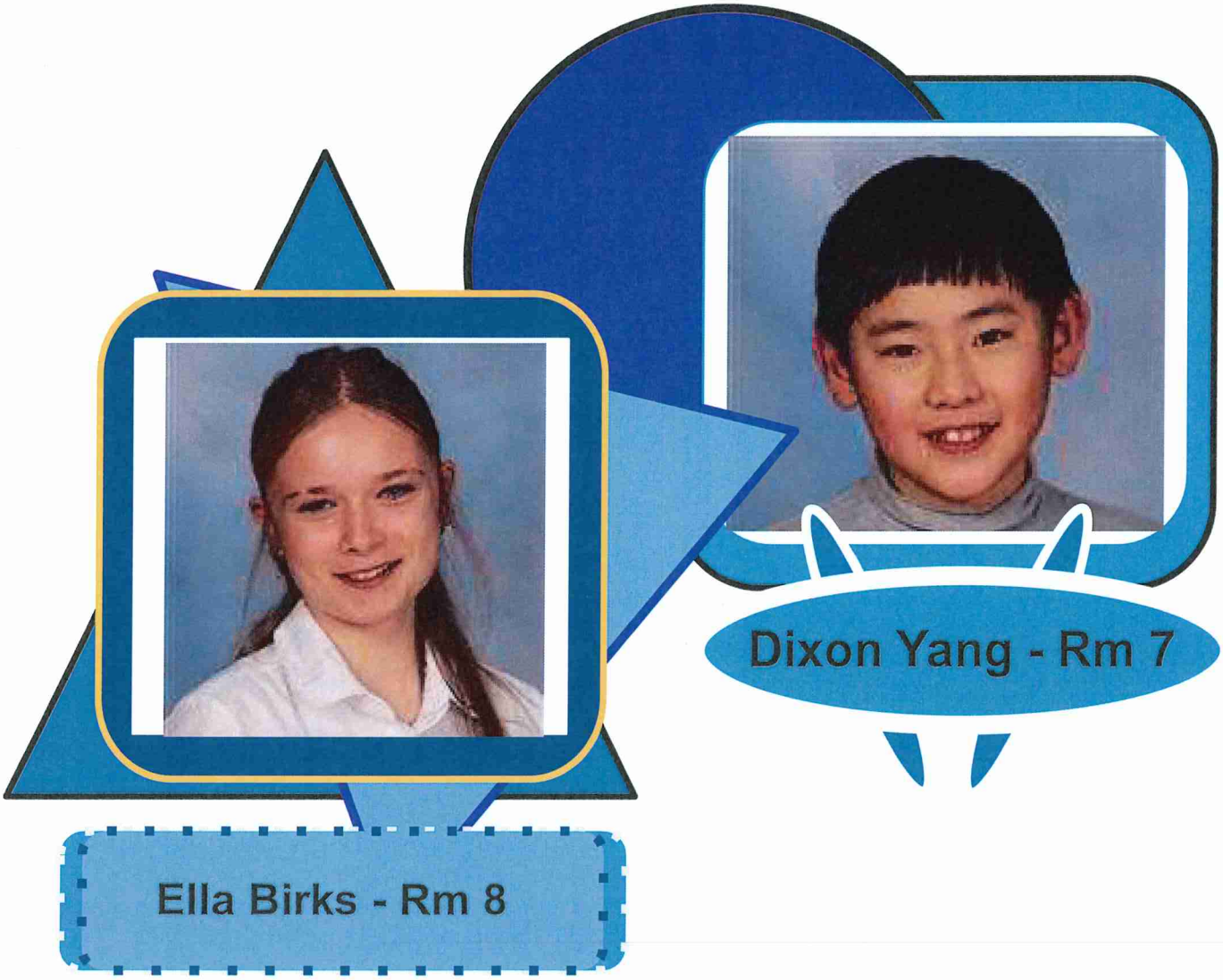






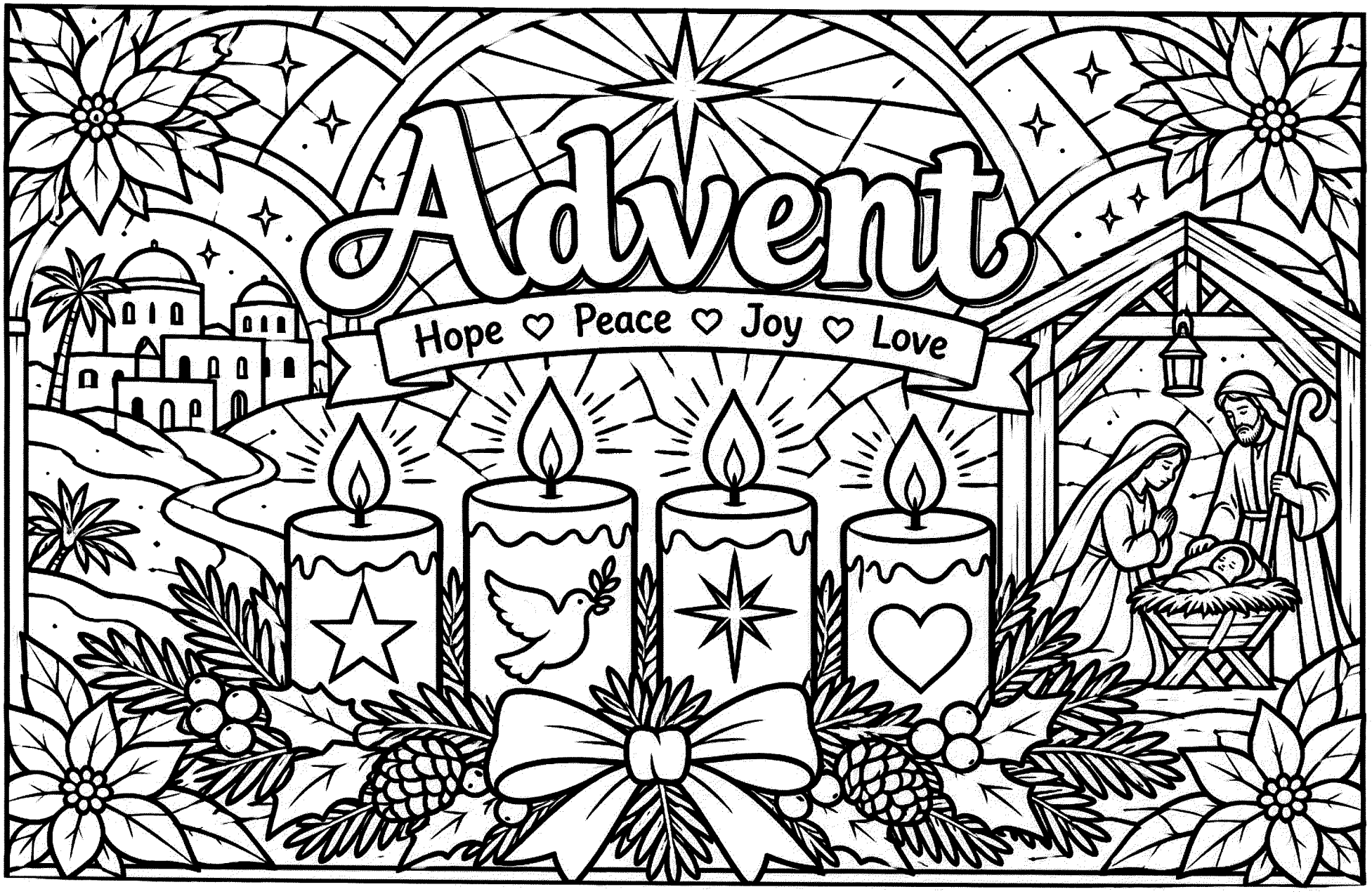
Marist Students

Our Marist Students this week are...



These students have shown the Marist values of the school and have shown excellence in everything they do.

Well done!



Advent Colouring in competition:

Winners will be announced on *Wednesday 9th December*.
Please bring your entries to the office.

Full Name: _____

Senior Music Group & Choir

Our Senior Music Group and Choir will be performing at Rangiura Rest Home on Thursday 3rd December at 10:30am. Permission notices have been sent home and should be returned to Sandra in the office by tomorrow – Friday.

Swim Safe

Due to a schedule change Swim Safe will not be taking place – we will let you know as soon as it is re-scheduled.

Athletics

Our students excelled at the Interschool Athletics. A big thank you to Courtney, Rocio and Nicky for their organisation and supervision.



Float Parade – 4th December

The Float Parade will start and finish at Glenshea Park. Students who have put their name down to be on one of our floats are:

Our Year 7 & 8's are organising the floats and decorations this year – they will be in contact with those who have offered assistance with decorating the floats.

Andrew West
Brooklin Ogle
Levi Hughson
Scarlett Oosthoek
Colby Long-Chauval
Arya Mallawa Arachchige
Resandi Udakandage
Nikita Hutcheson
Sinead Croke
Quinn Alick
Ruby Conway
Molly Leavai
Violet Clarke
Katrina Andrew
Kaiya Anderson
Lachlan Ormsby
Frankie Ward
Rejoyce Ogle
Luca Hughson
Blake Oosthoek
Aless Clark
Jaycee Alberto
Emilia White
Cillian Croke
Jordan-Florence
Verity Scott
Maisey Leavai
River Clarke
Brody Clarke
Alfie Thomas
Cooper Ormsby
Asta Lloyd
Maya Ward
Colton Ogle
Kenzie Hughson
Harper van der Heyden
Arya Mallawa Arachchige
Resoon Udakandage
Isabella White
Niamh Croke
Maleka Johnston
Sina-Rose Atoni
Max Leavai
Maverick Clarke
Markus Andrew
Lyla Hennessy
Hudson Ormsby

Teachers accompanying the floats are :

Krystle Atoni
Mohini Reddy
Courtney Henderson

Another newsletter will come out next week with timings and costume information.



Year 4 Sleepover

Our Year 4 students will be having a sleepover in the school hall on Thursday 3rd December This will be a great evening for the students with lots of fun activities. Permission notices have been sent home to those students and should be returned to school as soon as possible.



Sausage SIZZLE ROSTER

Term 4 2026

Friday 16th October	-	Tanya West
Friday 23rd October	-	Yazmine Ward
Friday 30th October	-	Sarah Andrews
Friday 6th November	-	Kirby van der Heyden
Friday 13th November	-	Helen Bainbridge
Friday 20th November	-	Stefanie Mueller
Friday 27th November	-	Yazmine Ward
Friday 4th December	-	Tanya West

Thank you for your support!



No sausage sizzle last week of term.



Deck the Hall is happening again this year. If you are able to help out in any way - decorating, putting up trees, wrapping pretend presents - please let Clare Colman know via the school office. Set up is from November 24th-30th - your help would be greatly appreciated.

Deck the Hall gold coin donations go to the Putāruru Food Bank – helping those in need over the Christmas period.



Any Wearable Arts costumes from 2026 that we can display would be greatly appreciated – please let Sandra in the office know and we can arrange drop off.



Touch Rugby

Just a reminder that next week is the final day for touch rugby and it will be played on Thursday afternoon. Our year 4 students will have their "overnighter" in the hall after touch.

TIME	FIELD	TEAM	vs	TEAM	YEAR LEVEL
WEEK 7 - FRIDAY 27th November					
4:00	1	St Mary's Warriors	vs	Pukeatua Storm	1 & 2
4:00	2	Lichfield Bombers	vs	St Mary's Dashers	1 & 2
4:00	3	Tirau Tarantulas	vs	PPS Kea	1 & 2
4:00	4	Te Waotu Weka	vs	PPS Kereru	1 & 2
4:00	5	Te Waotu Ruru	vs	PPS Tui	1 & 2
4:00	Jnr BF	Tirau Tornadoes	vs	Pipipaopao	1 & 2
4:00	6		vs		5 & 6
4:00	7	Tirau Titans	vs	St Mary's Seals	5 & 6
4:00	8	Te Waotu Kakapos	vs	St Mary's Swifters	5 & 6
4:00	9	Lichfield Touch Blacks	vs	Te Waotu Fantails	5 & 6
4:00	Snr BF	Te Waotu Fantails	vs	Pukeatua Lightening	5 & 6
4:30	1	Te Waotu Tui	vs	Te Waotu Kereru	3 & 4
4:30	2	Lichfield Torpedoes	vs	Pukeatua Cyclone	3 & 4
4:30	3	Tirau Thunder	vs	St Mary's Masters	3 & 4
4:30	4	Teina Tawhaki	vs	St Mary's Playmakers	3 & 4
4:30	5	Teina Taniwha	vs	Te Waotu Keas	3 & 4
4:30	6	St Mary's Meerkats	vs	Pukeatua Hurricanes	5 & 6
4:30	7	PPS Kakapo	vs	PPS Karearea	5 & 6
4:30	8	Lichfield Untouchables	vs	PPS Piwakawaka	5 & 6
4:30	9	Te Waotu Takahe	vs	PC Broncos	7 & 8
4:30	Snr BF	PC Knights	vs	PC Waahs	7 & 8
5:00	1	PPS Kaka	vs	PPS Kiwi	3 & 4
5:00	2	Lichfield Typhoons	vs	PPS Pukeko	3 & 4
5:00	3	Tirau Thunder	vs	Pukeatua Tornado	3 & 4
5:00	4	Lichfield Rockets	vs	St Mary's Dashers	1 & 2
5:00	Snr BF	St Mary's True Ferns	vs	PC Waahs	7 & 8
5:00	7	PPS Takahe	vs	Te Waotu Fantails	5 & 6
5:00	8	St Mary's Gooseys	vs	St Mary's Showsteppers	7 & 8
5:00	9	Pukeatua Thunder	vs	PC Panthers	7 & 8