

## Mother's Day this Sunday 😊

Tēnā koutou katoa e te whanau e hoa ma

This week is New Zealand Sign Language Week, and all classes are upgrading their signing skills ably led by Annabel Gibb and Jo Snelling. You could ask your child if they will share something sign related they have learnt over the week – some are amazing with the amount of language they have learnt.

Over the next fortnight, our Year 3 – 8 students will have their first experience of the Government's new [SMART assessment tool](#). They will take part in individual Reading, Writing, and Mathematics assessments either in paper form or on a computer. Please understand that this tool is not yet fully built, and the Government is going to use the information generated by this first round of assessments to change and refine it. There won't be any standardised data generated this time, so the raw result your child will receive (in a few weeks' time) won't mean too much by itself. Student reports will be coming home closer to the end of this Term – also in a new format. There are many changes in the school world at the moment, and we will keep you informed as we learn more ourselves.

Thank you for the clear messaging you are giving our Office team if your child is absent. As you know, there is a strong push to lift school attendance across the country with the Government target being to have at least 80% of children at school 90% of the time (or more). Last Term we nearly made this number with 78% achieving the standard. 54 people (28% of the roll) had 100% attendance in Term 1 and another 37 people only missing one day. Excellent work!

Later this week I am in Hokitika with the wider Canterbury Catholic principals' group where we will listen to a world expert on AI and the coming impacts in education. As someone who uses these tools daily, I am very interested to learn what those at the cutting-edge think will happen in the next few months in this area – there is huge change coming, and huge possibility.

Ngā mihi  
Dave



FOUNDERS' AWARD WINNERS  
WEEK 1

## Prayer for Pope Leo XIV:

Faithful God, You guide us on the path of life and your goodness is our constant companion. Be with our Shepherd, Pope Leo XIV, in his service of the Church. Fill him with the power of your Spirit, the peace of your presence and the compassion of Christ.

May he walk with you, in wisdom and humility, and lead us, together with all God's people, to embody your love for the world.

Amen.

## Faith Facts:



What does the Pope do?

In the Nineteenth Century, the First Vatican Council said the pope's mission and purpose is three-fold:

1. to ensure the unity of faith among Christians,
2. to see to the lasting good of the Church,
3. to make sure all the world's bishops are in harmony.

The Pope is the Church's visible sign of unity.

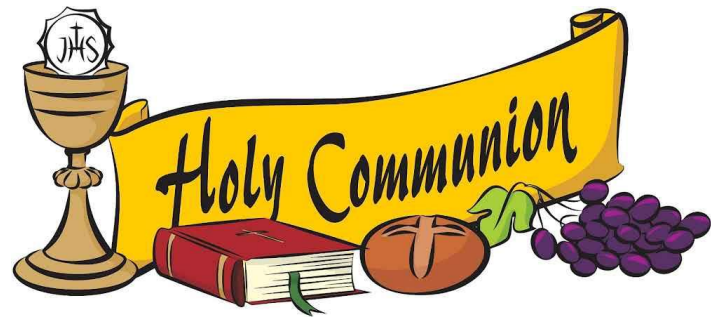
## First Holy Communion Preparation:

Congratulations to the children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Tuesday.

Classes Attending 9.15am Friday Mass at the Basilica:

8th May – Rooms 5 and 11.

15th May – Rooms 10, 9 and 1.



## Found Jacket –

We have a brand new school jacket at the Office that was handed in at the end of last Term (Un-Named) – if this belongs to your child, please collect it.

## 2026 Key Dates

4 May	NZ Sign Language Week
14 May	SCG Meeting (School Library - All welcome)
20 May	May BOT Meeting 5.15pm
26 May	Cross Country
1 June	Kings Birthday (Public Holiday)
2 June	Cross Country (postponement date)
22 June	Teacher Only Day (School Closed)
24 June	June BOT Meeting
26 October	Labour Day (Public Holiday)
Term 2	20 April – 3 July
Term 3	20 July - 25 September
Term 4	12 October - 15 December



## Eco Leaders Hui 🌱

Ten schools came together to share, inspire and connect, and wow – the mahi happening across South Canterbury is something special. From vegetable gardens and chickens for eggs, to native planting, saving mudfish, worm farms, upcycling and learning through play... the passion is real.

The day was about sharing stories, learning new ideas, and making connections with like-minded students leading change in their schools.

A huge shout out to everyone who made it happen – the staff (and parents) supporting these tamariki, co-hosts [Enviro NZ](#) (Corrie and Briony) and [Environment Canterbury](#) (Debbie), and Natasha Rankin who stepped in to make sure lunch was sorted (plus Alice's mum for jumping in with prep the day before!).

An inspiring day of collaboration and action for our future. Watch this space to see how their action plans evolve! 👁️



Want to grow your own  
swan plant?  
See Deb in the Office  
for seeds 😊





Mark the dates in your calendar now...Alpha is starting again on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 6:30pm at the Parish Centre at Sacred Heart Basilica for 12 weeks. You will have the chance to catch up with old friends or maybe make new ones. Bring along family members or maybe workmates and friends who have shown an interest in your faith. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. We start with a delicious meal, followed by a short video and discussion in small groups. It's fun and very informal. It's your chance to ask the big questions about life in a supportive and safe environment. Everyone is welcome. No charge, no pressure, no follow-up! RSVP by text or phone to Paula on 027 5382595 by 8<sup>th</sup> June, for catering purposes.

The Alpha programme begins on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 6:30pm in the Parish Centre behind the Sacred Heart Basilica.

We are hoping to reach out to parents of children who are attending our catholic schools, people who are no longer attending Mass and those who might feel that they might be open to beginning a relationship with Jesus or in need of a refresh in their faith journey.



Alpha is for everyone 😊

Please click this link for the Alpha introduction video:

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/184913169>



Congratulations to our Sacred Heart Families who were celebrated at the recent Citizenship Ceremony



# MID & SOUTH CANTERBURY ROAD SAFETY WEEK COLOURING COMPETITION



GRAB YOUR BRIGHTEST ART  
SUPPLIES AND HELP US SAVE  
LIVES. BE A...

**ROAD SAFETY HERO!**

PRIZES UP FOR GRABS!

COLOUR CREATIVITY PACKS  
FOR EACH AGE GROUP + \$30  
WAREHOUSE VOUCHER FOR  
OVERALL WINNER FROM EACH  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMPETITION RUNS DURING  
ROAD SAFETY WEEK, ALL  
ENTRIES MUST BE IN BY THE  
15TH MAY 2026.

ENTRIES AVAILABLE AT:  
LOCAL LIBRARIES, SCHOOLS,  
COUNCIL BUILDINGS.

CREATIVITY  
**WIN**  
PRIZE PACKS!



# MID & SOUTH CANTERBURY ROAD SAFETY WEEK COLOURING COMPETITION



**STOP! LOOK! LISTEN!**  
**BE SAFE! BE SEEN!**

Artist Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age: \_\_\_\_\_ School/Group: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Competition runs during road safety week, all entries must be in by the 15th May 2026.  
 Entries can be dropped off to the local library, schools, or dropped to council attention: Road Safety  
 By entering, you agree to have your artwork displayed to help promote road safety awareness.



# GIRLS ONLY FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS!



*Unleash your passion. Build your skills!*



Venue: Sir Basil Arthur Park, Racecourse Road  
Tuesday and Friday - 4pm to 5:15pm

Contact Leigh - [leigh@southernfootball.co.nz](mailto:leigh@southernfootball.co.nz) or  
02109047546 for enquiries



Southern Football Federation is running Girls Football Development Sessions in Timaru. These sessions are designed to provide a supportive and enjoyable environment where girls can develop their football skills, build confidence, and connect with other players from across the region.

The sessions are open to girls of all abilities and experience levels, whether they are currently playing football or would simply like to come along and try the game. Sessions will take place at Sir Basil Arthur Park on Tuesdays and Fridays from 4:00pm to 5:15pm.

The sessions are free to attend, as the goal is to make football as accessible as possible for girls in the region.

The only cost involved will be a training top (approximately \$20-\$30) which helps create a sense of identity for the group when attending sessions and future development opportunities.

Over time, these sessions aim to support the continued growth of girls' football in the region and may lead to further opportunities such as development events and camps aligned with New Zealand Football.

# Museum talk

*International Biodiversity Day 2026*

**Friday 22 May, 7pm**

Join artist Zenobia Southcombe who will present an illustrated talk about the wonderful images of local biodiversity featured in her current exhibition *In Our Backyard*, on show at the SC Museum.

**Limited places**, booking essential, \$10 charge as fundraiser for SC Museum Development Trust. Call (03) 687 7212 or [museum@timdc.govt.nz](mailto:museum@timdc.govt.nz) to book.

**SOUTH CANTERBURY  
MUSEUM**  
**EXPLORE** our heritage

**Where:** SC Museum  
Perth Street, Timaru



# Museum talk

*International Museums Day 2026*

**Monday 18 May, 7pm**

Join curators Tony, Chris and Philip for an illustrated talk about what is planned for the new museum *Te Kura Marumaru South Canterbury Museum*, opening next year - architecture, exhibitions, operations and more.

**Limited places**, booking essential, \$10 charge as fundraiser for SC Museum Development Trust.

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