

## Waitangi Day this Friday – School Closed



The final Mass of Fr Christopher Friel and  
Fr Vincent Barboza at Sacred Heart Basilica.

Tēnā koutou katoa e te whanau e hoa ma /  
greetings friends and family

It's great to see everyone back after the summer break! We welcome several new ākonga / students and their whanau to Sacred Heart in 2026.

I would also like to welcome two new staff members who are now part of our team. Claudia Hooker Room 4 and Oscar Kirkness in Room 12. Claudia and Oscar are starting their teaching careers with us having both trained at Otago University. I'm sure you will make them welcome when you have an opportunity.

Our 9 week Term has burst into life with a really positive feeling in the school. Harold and the Life Education van are the usual 'hit' with the students and all classes are getting two sessions looking at a range of health topics. Next week we start our annual camp cycle with our Year 5s and Year 8s away in Dunedin and Banks Peninsula respectively. Please note that in Week 6 we have a Teacher Only Day (school closed) on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March, and that the whole school will be swimming daily for the last fortnight.

I like to talk to people and if you need to contact me directly, you are welcome to email ([principal@sacredhearttim.school.nz](mailto:principal@sacredhearttim.school.nz)), call (036888188), or just pop in while passing. If I'm not instantly available, we can schedule a time easily.

Enjoy the celebration of Waitangi Day on Friday where we respect the origin of our founding document - Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Ngā mihi nui  
Dave Armstrong  
Principal

## Prayer for our School:

God our Father – Te Atua, as we begin this new school year, we ask for your blessing on all who work and study at Sacred Heart School. We give thanks for the opportunities that lie before us. Help us all to play our part in shaping this community, loving You and each other, and learning in Christ to follow Your way.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Faith Facts:

The liturgical year of the Church is made up of six seasons: *Advent, Christmas, Lent, The Sacred Paschal Triduum, Easter and Ordinary Time*. Currently we are in **Ordinary Time**. Ordinary Time is divided into two sections (one span of 4-8 weeks after Christmas Time and another lasting about six months after Easter Time). During Ordinary Time the faithful consider the fullness of Jesus' teachings and works among his people.

## FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME:

Begins Tuesday 3 March 2026, with a meeting just for parents, one parent is fine, 7.30pm in St Thomas' Church Lounge. All children who have been baptised and are aged 8 at the beginning of the school year are eligible to make their First Communion. Eligible families will be sent an online enrolment form or alternatively, there are 'paper' copies in the main porch of Sacred Heart Basilica and the Foyer of St Thomas' Church. Enrolments need to be in before Friday 27th February 2026.

## Religious Education Programme for Term One:

This term we focus on the 'Ā Tātou Whakapapa – Our Story' theme of our Religious Education Programme, "Tō Tātou Whakapono – Our Faith":

Rooms 10, 9, 8, 5 and 4:	Who am I – understanding that God made us as we are and loves us.
Rooms 3 and 2:	To whom do I belong – understanding that we are all part of our own families and God's family.
Rooms 1 and 13:	Where am I – understanding that we are part of a school that has a special history and charisms grounded in the person of Christ.
Rooms 12 and 11:	Who are Catholics – understanding that the message of Jesus came to different places and peoples of the world.

Information about the Programme can be found at: [www.totatouwhakapono.nz](http://www.totatouwhakapono.nz)



## School Absences

A reminder to please notify the **School Office** (preferable over your class teacher) of your child's absence **before 9am** that day. This can also be done through your HERO app. Any unexplained absences will be recorded on your child's attendance record.

## Photo / Videoing Policy Reminder

As exciting as it is, with your child starting school, or returning to school, we ask that parents and caregivers be mindful of videoing / photographing other students. We have several families who have not approved photo consent, and we need to ensure this is adhered to.



**NO PICTURE TAKING  
NO VIDEO RECORDING**

## Phones

Our School Policy on cell phones is "Away for the Day". The basics to remember are:

- Student phones are not required at school.
- If parents want their child to bring a phone, it will need to be switched off and placed in their class' safe area for the day.
- During the day, parents or students can contact each other through the school Office.

# Important Information for 2026

## Hero

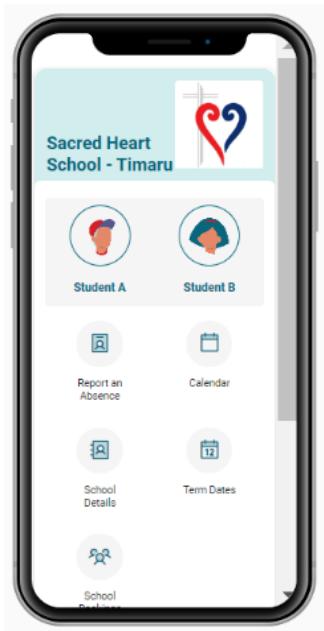
At Sacred Heart we use a piece of software called "Hero" for all our communication and sharing of learning. Once you have joined, you will be able to message teachers, get notices, and generally keep up to date with school. Our aim is that 100% of families will join. The instructions to do this can be found below.

## Joining Hero

Hero is our new communication tool, and we need every family to join. Once joined you will have access to all key communication areas – reports, newsletters, teacher messaging, class notices, school calendar – everything!

## Creating a Hero account

On your phone, go to the App Store or Google Play and download the app. You are looking for this app –



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### 1. Select "New User"

Your account will be set up by your school using the email address that you provided when you enrolled your children, use this address to request a password.

### 2. Add your email address

Select the "Request Password Link"

### 3. Check your email

Hero will send you an email with a link to follow.

### 4. Follow the link

This will take you to a secure page to enter your chosen password. If you have problems logging in, come and see Rachel in the Office to make sure we have the correct details for you. If you have an issue, the most likely cause is that the email address you used is not the same one as you used when you enrolled your child(ren).

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In case you need it, here is the link to the '*how to join*' page on the Hero website.

[Detailed instructions for joining Hero](#)

# The 2026 Sacred Heart Staff Team:

## Teachers:

Room 11	Gina Simpson	Year 8
Room 12	Oscar Kirkness (Pictured)	Year 7
Room 13	Georgia Annear	Year 5/6
Room 1	AJ Hall	Year 4/5
Room 2	Debbie Plant	Year 3/4
Room 3	Hayley Goodman	Year 3
Room 4	Claudia Hooker (Pictured)	Year 2/3
Room 5	Chelsea Greenall	Year 2
Room 8	Nicola Hibbs	Year 1/2
Room 9	Nicky Inkster	New Entrants/Year 1
Room 10	Amanda Henderson	New Entrants



## Relieving Teachers:

Alice Porter, Sarah Jones, Jenny Moynihan, Rochelle Kennedy, Jonathan Hunter and Annabel Gibb.

## Support Staff:

Jo Snelling	Learning Support
Tracey Toshach	Learning Support
Brigid Tracey	Learning Support
Janice Rooney	Learning Support / Admin Team
Deborah Crawford	Learning Support / ESOL
Rachel Hicks	Office Manager
Rachel Butcher	Financial Officer
Emma Simpson	Admin Officer
Jim Lancaster	Property Manager
David Armstrong	Principal

## **SACRED HEART Primary School Timaru Staff 2025**



## 2026 Key Dates

11 – 13 February	Year 8 Camp Living Springs
24 - 26 February	Year 7 Camp Spencer Park
18 – 20 February	Year 6 Camp Peel Forest Eco Lodge
12 - 13 February	Year 5 Camp Dunedin
7 February	Waitangi Day (Public Holiday)
25 February	BOT Meeting 5.15pm
8 March	Whole School Mass
9 March	Teacher Only Day (School Closed)
23 March–2 April	Whole School Swimming (Water Skills for Life)
27 April	ANZAC DAY observed (Public Holiday)
1 June	Kings Birthday (Public Holiday)
22 June	Teacher Only Day (School Closed)
26 October	Labour Day (Public Holiday)
Term 1	2 February - 2 April
Term 2	20 April – 3 July
Term 3	20 July - 25 September
Term 4	12 October - 15 December

Important  
Dates

## Communication

### To contact the Office:

Phone 03 688 8188  
Text 027 369 0947  
Facebook Sacred Heart School Timaru  
Email [office@sacredhearttim.school.nz](mailto:office@sacredhearttim.school.nz)

### To contact a teacher:

Call the School Office if urgent or email them 03 6888188:

Gina Simpson Rm 11 [gina@sacredhearttim.school.nz](mailto:gina@sacredhearttim.school.nz)  
Oscar Kirkness Rm 12 [oscar@sacredhearttim.school.nz](mailto:oscar@sacredhearttim.school.nz)  
Georgia Annear Rm 13 [georgia@sacredhearttim.school.nz](mailto:georgia@sacredhearttim.school.nz)  
AJ Hall Rm 1 [a@sacredhearttim.school.nz](mailto:a@sacredhearttim.school.nz)  
Debbie Plant Rm 2 [debbie@sacredhearttim.school.nz](mailto:debbie@sacredhearttim.school.nz)  
Hayley Goodman Rm 3 [hayley@sacredhearttim.school.nz](mailto:hayley@sacredhearttim.school.nz)  
Claudia Hooker Rm 4 [claudia@sacredhearttim.school.nz](mailto:claudia@sacredhearttim.school.nz)  
Chelsea Greenall Rm 5 [chelsea@sacredhearttim.school.nz](mailto:chelsea@sacredhearttim.school.nz)  
Nicola Hibbs Rm 8 [nicola@sacredhearttim.school.nz](mailto:nicola@sacredhearttim.school.nz)  
Nicky Inkster Rm 9 [nicky@sacredhearttim.school.nz](mailto:nicky@sacredhearttim.school.nz)  
Amanda Henderson Rm 10 [amandah@sacredhearttim.school.nz](mailto:amandah@sacredhearttim.school.nz)



### To contact the BOT or SCG

Board of Trustees [bot@sacredhearttim.school.nz](mailto:bot@sacredhearttim.school.nz)  
School Community Group (PTA) [scg@sacredhearttim.school.nz](mailto:scg@sacredhearttim.school.nz)  
School Facebook Page [Sacred Heart School Timaru | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SacredHeartSchoolTimaru)

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## Reporting incidents to Police for Educational Facilities

Guidance for when and how to report incidents.



### CALL 111

FOR EMERGENCIES

#### WHEN?

- ▶ Is it happening now or about to happen?
- ▶ Is somebody's safety at risk?
- ▶ Is property being damaged?

You need an Emergency Police response to an event.

### USE 105

FOR POLICE NON-EMERGENCIES

#### WHEN?

- ▶ Has it already happened?

You need non-urgent Police attendance.

You need to notify us of an offence or incident for follow up by **calling 105**.

Incidents can be reported online at [105.police.govt.nz](http://105.police.govt.nz)

### OTHER SUPPORT

#### NETSAFE

- ▶ 0508 NETSAFE (0508 638 723)
- ▶ [help@netsafe.org.nz](mailto:help@netsafe.org.nz)
- ▶ [netsafe.org.nz](http://netsafe.org.nz)
- ▶ Text 'Netsafe' to 4284

#### CRIMESTOPPERS

- ▶ 0800 555 111
- ▶ [crimestoppers-nz.org](http://crimestoppers-nz.org)



### EMAIL OR TEXT / CALL

#### EMAIL

When you want to contact your local School Community Officer (SCO)

- ▶ For Early Intervention notifications to Police, suspension or incident worth noting by Police Youth Services.
- ▶ For notifying of issues or incidents being experienced that you would like assistance or general advice about.
- ▶ Organising meetings.

#### TEXT / CALL

- ▶ Call your local SCO / Youth Aid Service (YAS) Officers to seek general advice, organise meetings or arrange SCO programmes.

Our SCO or contact at Police is:

[Deb.Qested@ot.govt.nz](mailto:Deb.Qested@ot.govt.nz)

Ph: [0211921382](tel:0211921382)



### NOTIFY OTHER AGENCIES

When you feel an incident requires one of these services:

#### ORANGA TAMARIKI

- ▶ Complete a Report of Concern (ROC).
- ▶ Is a child/young person's safety at risk?
- ▶ Is a child/young person experiencing or witnessing Family Harm at home?

Call: **0508 326 459**

Or schools only: **0508 332 774**

Email: [contact@ot.govt.nz](mailto:contact@ot.govt.nz)

#### EMERGENCY DHB MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS TEAM (CRS\* TEAM)

- ▶ Is a child/young person self harming or suicidal? Dial **111** and contact CRS team.

Lifeline's Suicide Crisis Helpline:  
**0508 TAUTOKO** (0508 828 865),  
or visit [lifeline.org.nz/services](http://lifeline.org.nz/services)

If there is immediate risk, dial **111**

\*Crisis Response Service

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# OCEANS

## Grief and Loss Peer Support Programme

Oceans grief and loss is a peer support programme supporting people who are missing people in their lives. Grief from death, separation or changes in our lives can last a long time and sometimes it helps to be able to share our journey with others.

During the six (adults) to eight (children) week length of the facilitated programme people find support, strengths and encouragement in sharing and learning from each other.

**“Grief is like the Ocean; it comes on waves ebbing and flowing. Sometimes it is calm and sometimes it is overwhelming. All we can do is learn to swim”. Vicki Harrison**

Check out further information and register on  
[anglicancare.org.nz](http://anglicancare.org.nz)

Contact Alexia, Oceans grief and loss coordinator

Text/phone: 0274 OCEANS (623267)

Email: [oceans@anglicancare.org.nz](mailto:oceans@anglicancare.org.nz)

Note: There is a \$20 commitment fee to assist with related costs