

**Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints by the Sea,**



As we come to the end of another wonderful term at St Thomas More Catholic School, we take a moment to reflect with gratitude on the many highlights of our first term - moments of learning, connection, and faith that have shaped our time together. Continuing our journey through the Easter season, we are reminded of the hope and new life at the heart of all we do, and we give thanks for the many blessings within our school community.

Earlier in the term, I had the privilege of attending the Commissioning Mass in Rotorua, and later joining fellow principals from our Hamilton Diocese on a pilgrimage and study tour in Sydney. We stayed at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney and participated in a retreat at the Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre in Kincumber. Both experiences were incredibly affirming, grounding us in our shared mission of Catholic education and strengthening our commitment to faith, learning, and service.

Our Lenten journey was a special time of reflection. Our Pipi children, our youngest learners, led our Palm Sunday liturgy, and we had the privilege of gathering in prayer with Aquinas College students, who prayed the first Station of the Cross with us as part of their pilgrimage. We were inspired as 93 Intentional Discipleship Pathway students completed a powerful 18km Cross Walk from St Thomas More back to Aquinas College. Following this, our Year 6 students led our school in the remainder of the Stations of the Cross, guiding everyone through a meaningful time of prayer and reflection.

During the term, we also supported our Vinnies Youth Group in collecting items for St Vincent de Paul, responding to the call to serve those in need. We have a large, active group of student leaders who are always willing to step up, offer their time, and support initiatives that make a real difference in our community. Their enthusiasm, compassion, and commitment to service continue to inspire us all.

Our sense of community extended beyond our school gates. We warmly welcomed 24 students from St Margaret's Catholic School in Hong Kong, sharing stories, language, and culture during a fun-filled day together. We also hosted senior students from Suzanne Aubert Catholic School to celebrate St Patrick's Day, where our students led a special liturgy and enjoyed a day of shared activities and fellowship.

There are many highlights from our first term. We were thrilled to receive \$1,500 worth of tennis equipment through EVES Real Estate Bay of Plenty, thanks to the kind nomination of one of our parents. This generosity has already enriched opportunities for our children.

Our commitment to student wellbeing has remained strong this term. Our senior students participated in both the St John Wellbeing Programme and the Kids Can Ride initiative, building confidence, resilience, and practical life skills.

We were proud to see our new Road Patrol Leaders begin their roles on Gloucester Road, supported by Constable Den, helping ensure the safety of our community.

We also farewelled Nina, who has served our school through the PiPS programme. Her work in our garden has nurtured not only plants, but a deep sense of care for God's world in our children. We are incredibly grateful for her contribution. If any parishioners feel called to support our vegetable garden, we would warmly welcome your help - whether planting, weeding, or working alongside our children.

We are excited to have launched our Community Sponsorship Programme this year, strengthening partnerships that support student learning and wellbeing. We are especially grateful to welcome Jo Hatchman of Hatch Consultancy as our first sponsor. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a sponsor of our school, please let us know.

We are also part of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's School Sustainability and Resilience Fund 2026 and would greatly appreciate your support. This fund allows the community to decide which projects receive funding, and we are in the running to receive a share of over \$100,000.

If you are able, please support our school by voting:

- Head to [www.participate.boprc.govt.nz/vote-now](http://www.participate.boprc.govt.nz/vote-now) and review the projects
- You have up to \$35,000 to allocate and need to spend at least \$25,000 - feel free to support multiple projects
- Click "submit" at the end of the page to register your vote

Voting closes on Monday, 27 April. Thank you for your support - the Manaaki Kai (Caring Through Food) project will make a real difference for our children.

Finally, on the last day of term, we gathered as a school community to give thanks and celebrate Kerry Duncan as she begins her retirement. We are deeply grateful to Kerry for her many years of dedicated service and the lasting impact she has had on our school. We will welcome Natalie Smyth next term, who will teach in our new entrant Pipi class.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support of our school. We are truly blessed to be part of such a strong and faith-filled parish community.

To learn more about all that happens at St Thomas More School, simply scan the QR code below or visit our website.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Lisa Broadmore  
Tumuaki / Principal  
St Thomas More Catholic School

