



DIOCESE OF
PALMERSTON NORTH



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March 2017

Dear Parents and Caregivers,
E te iwi whakapono, tēnā koutou tēnā tātou katoa,

Special greetings to parents new to our Catholic schools. You've made a great choice. They are vibrant communities of academic, cultural, and sporting achievement. They are communities of care and generosity and service. And most importantly **our schools are alive with faith: the greatest gift that God ever gives us; the way we become our true selves.**



School communities are always evolving. Much good work has been done in recent years to ensure that schools see themselves as a part of - rather than alongside - the parish(es). This means that more school families are feeling at home at Mass on Sundays, being nourished spiritually and gaining purpose and direction in their lives.

All schools need whānau support. That comes in lots of different ways. One essential way is the **payment of "Attendance Dues."** Attendance dues are best understood as a **building fund**. They are 100% needed. Payment ensures that your children's school remains viable, with insurance bills paid and, from time to time, building upgrades and extensions underway. If Attendance Dues are not paid, our Catholic school network will become substandard and gradually no longer viable.

Last year 14 of our schools **benefited from major upgrades** (totalling \$9.7 million) and this year a further 5 schools have **major projects already underway or planned**. That's the fruit of everyone stepping up and chipping in notwithstanding the real financial pressures, which I know some of us face.

Thanks too for your contributions of support, time and care for our schools. As parents and caregivers you too are the heart of our schools, as together - teachers, trustees, chaplains, priests and Bishop - we all strive to form our children or mokopuna in the sure light of Jesus.

+ Charles

Bishop Charles Drennan.