



DIOCESE OF
PALMERSTON NORTH



BISHOP'S
OFFICE

Te Rau Aroha
Diocesan Centre
33 Amesbury Street
Private Bag 11 012
Palmerston North 4442
New Zealand

T +64 6 357 1980
E bishop-pa@pndiocese.org.nz
www.pndiocese.org.nz

March 2018

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

Greetings to you all and especially to parents new to our Catholic schools. You've made a great choice. Our kura or schools are vibrant communities of academic, cultural, and sporting achievement. They are also 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.**



St Joseph's School, Dannevirke 2018

I am relieved to be able to say this year there has been **no increase in our Attendance Dues**. That does not mean that our bills have not gone up. Our insurance bills have gone up and we do intend to continue our building upgrades, refurbishments and extensions etc. (Cullinane College, for instance, is in the midst of a totally transformative building programme.) So to get the maths right, what this means is that we all must do our utmost to get our Attendance Dues paid.

That is called our collection rate. I am hoping that with the zero percent increase families who have struggled in the past to pay this bill, will this year get it across

the line. Thank you for that great sacrifice and effort. If we can get our collection rate up then maybe next year too we can hold our fees or dues at the same level again.

Away from dollars and cents, I wish to again recognize the good work being done to ensure that schools see themselves as a part of - rather than alongside - the parish(es). More school families are feeling at home at Mass on Sundays, being nourished spiritually and gaining purpose and direction in their lives. Our parishes are quietly but steadily growing. That's Good News!

Thank you all 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, administration and support staff, volunteers, trustees, chaplains, priests and Bishop - we all strive to form our children or mokopuna in the sure light of Jesus.

+ Charles

Bishop Charles Drennan.