

**St Mark's School Centenary – 22nd – 24th October (Labour Weekend)
Details and registration at www.saintmarks.school.nz**



This year St Mark's School will celebrate its centenary, and it does so as a high-performing school, at maximum capacity, actively living out its Christian Character.

In late 2019 the school had a Special Character Review led by Rev'd Anne van Gend (Anglican Schools Office) and Rt Rev'd Kelvin Wright. Given that this is the first Synod report submitted since the review, it is appropriate to share some of the highlights from it...

“Having reviewed St. Mark's School four years ago these reviewers had no trouble navigating our way to the school and felt a sense of familiarity arriving at the school gates. That sense of familiarity did not last long, however. The school was in the same place as before, but everything else was different. It is not necessary to rehash in detail the painful history of the time surrounding the last review - a time soon after the earthquakes when the school's buildings were damaged and the school community was in disarray – but we will refer to it from time to time when necessary. Every review takes place in a particular historical context, and the context of St Mark's is one of absolutely astonishing, intelligent and courageous change.

“This is a school in which so much is being done excellently. The school is fortunate both in the particular confluence of personalities in its senior team, and that it is so ably supported by the staff... St Mark's is doing much that could be of wider interest and benefit to the Anglican Schools network.”

That benefit to the wider Anglican Schools Network is being realised with our Principal, Dr Averil Worner, having been appointed Chair of the national Anglican Schools Network earlier this year.

The Five Marks of Mission are integrated across the curriculum and are explicitly referenced in unit plans.

The worshipping life of the school is strong with a student-led service every Monday and a Vicar-led service every Friday. Each student is invited (and expected) to attend a Sunday service in the Parish of Opawa-St Martins, and a full school Advent service is held in the Cathedral each year. Daily services are held during Holy Week, and there is a whole-school communion service at least once a term.

It is heartening to see some student-led initiatives to live out the Gospel message, including a “Walk-to-school” morning raising funds for Fountain of Peace – an orphanage and teaching home in Uganda. Students also designed and created a garden for the City Council's Garden Expo to highlight the 5th Mark of Mission, namely the treasuring and safeguarding of creation.

Obviously the COVID lockdowns and subsequent restrictions had a large impact on the operations of the school in 2020. The school was well-equipped to deliver online learning, including devotional time, and has navigated the re-opening well.

Financially, the school is in a healthy position, and has been using its resources to maintain the grounds to a high standard. The Locarno St fence has recently been replaced, plans are underway to refresh amenities in the Junior block, and the high-functioning Parent's Association are working toward funding a new playground. The school grounds are serving the community well, with some external groups hiring facilities, including an after-school student care service.

The Parish of Opawa-St Martins have been very grateful to the school for their hospitality. While the parish undergoes its earthquake repairs the School has generously allowed the Parish to use school spaces for office, midweek, and Sunday services.

The school is well served by its teaching staff, support staff, Parents Association, Board of Trustees and Board of Proprietors. Our current Proprietors are: Rt. Rev'd Peter Carrell (Warden), Rev'd Canon Ben Truman (Vicar), Rev'd Margaret Neate (Bishop's Representative), Nigel Georgieff (Chair & Vestry Representative), Michael Greenwood (Vestry Representative), Raewyn Cole (Proprietor Appointed), Raylene McEwan (Proprietor Appointed), Laura Robinson (Proprietor Appointed).

* St Mark's School is an Anglican special character, state-integrated, co-educational, full primary school, with a maximum role of 245 students. *