



Jubilee 2025



Jubilee of the World of Education

24 – 25 May 2025

This weekend, we celebrate the Jubilee of the World of Education, giving thanks for the teachers, mentors, administrators, and support staff who dedicate themselves to the growth and development of students. We honour their commitment to fostering knowledge, curiosity, and a love of learning in future generations. Education is a cornerstone of hope and opportunity, and those who work within it inspire minds, shape character, and empower young people to fulfil their potential.

Today, we give thanks for the invaluable role they play in our communities, and we pray for their continued wisdom, patience, and strength. May their work always be guided by compassion and a desire to uplift every student in their care.

Prayers

Example prayers of the faithful

We pray for principals, teachers, and staff of our schools and universities, that they are filled with wisdom and empowered by the Holy Spirit to see the needs of their students and to inspire those under their care. **E te Ariki ...**

For all students, that they may be filled with curiosity, courage, and a love for learning. May they grow in wisdom and compassion, and may their hearts be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they discover their unique gifts and purpose. **E te Ariki ...**

Other prayers for Education

A Prayer for the School Day

Dear Lord, we thank you for this new school day and everything it has to offer. We ask that you give us the strength and courage to do our daily tasks with a positive attitude and an eagerness to learn.

Guide us through each lesson and help us understand complex topics that may come our way by giving us the grace we need to remember and retain the knowledge.





Jubilee 2025



As we come together from different backgrounds, please help us to respect each other's differences and work as a team towards academic success.

Give us patience and grace when we face challenges in class and equip us with the tools needed to find solutions. Let us be united no matter the situation and never fear being wrong in our answers.

We thank you. Amen.

Prayer for Teachers

God of Love,

Thank you for every teacher who notices a child's special gift. Thank you for teachers who are listeners and gentle guides. Thank you for teachers who expect much and love enough to demand more. Thank you for the special teacher each one of us remembers.

God of Mercy,

Sustain teachers who give everything they have. Strengthen teachers who assume the blame for so many problems beyond their control. Help exhausted teachers rest.

God of Strength,

Encourage teachers to care and inspire them to nourish. Motivate teachers to keep on learning for the fun of it and to make learning enjoyable for tamariki.

God of Justice,

Help and support teachers in their special calling, wherever they teach and whatever obstacles they must face. We pray these things in the name of our great teacher, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Adapted from the [National Catholic Education Association](#)

Prayer for our Schools

We pray for the Catholic schools in Te Rohe Pihopa o Te Papaioea (Diocese of Palmerston North).

E Te Atua, God our loving Father, You gift us with this world and invite us to respond with love and wisdom.

E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus Christ, beloved Son, You show us how to live and call us to participate in your life and mission.





Jubilee 2025



E Te Wairua Tapu, Holy Spirit, You empower and guide us on our shared spiritual journey.

Bless the young people and whānau in our parishes and their Catholic school communities.

Bless all who work in and support Catholic Education in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Remind us that you are always with us.

Fill educators with enthusiasm, knowledge and joy to learn and teach that which is at the heart of our schools, You, who live and reign for ever and ever, Āmene.

Written by the Catholic Education Office team.

Reflection on the Jubilee of the World of Education

Read the following reflection out during Mass/within your faith communities over the weekend of 24 – 25 May 2025, or distribute for personal reflection.

The Jubilee of the World of Education is a chance to reflect on the significant role our Catholic schools play in supporting the mission of Jesus by sharing his Good News with the young people in their care and their whānau. At the centre of Catholic education is the encounter with Jesus, as highlighted by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference in the 2014 document *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*.

While we are part of the global network of Catholic schools, our schools are shaped by our Aotearoa New Zealand context. It is important to acknowledge the dedication, sacrifice, and financial input of earlier generations who laid the foundation of our vibrant Catholic schools today. In the Palmerston North Diocese, we have 26 Catholic primary schools and 8 Catholic colleges, including the only two Catholic Māori boarding colleges in the world.

In each of our schools, our young people strengthen their understanding of what it means to belong to the Catholic school community, but also beyond that to the Church community of faith. Our schools are at the heart of each parish community.

Let's pray that our school-parish communities will be shared places of welcome, hospitality, learning, and prayer so that we may be people of the Good News.

Diocese of Palmerston North Catholic Education Office





Jubilee 2025



Suggestions for celebrating this Jubilee in your communities

- **Use the Provided Prayers of the Faithful or Write Your Own**
Include prayers for students, teachers, administrators, and all who contribute to education, asking for wisdom, guidance, and growth for those involved in teaching and learning.
- **Incorporate Prayers in School and Community Gatherings**
Share prayers or special blessings during school assemblies, Mass, and gatherings to recognize the value of education and its impact on young minds.
- **Share a Reflection on the Role of Education in Faith and Life**
Offer a reflection at Mass or community events, focusing on how education shapes lives, fosters compassion, and builds pathways toward faith and knowledge.
- **Invite Students to Participate in a Special Youth Mass**
Hold a Mass led by students, with readings, music, and prayers presented by young people to celebrate their role in the community.
- **Offer a Blessing for All Students and Teachers**
Conclude Mass or gatherings with a special blessing over students, teachers, and all involved in education, invoking God's guidance for the academic year.
- **Celebrate Catholic Schools Day**
On 28 May 2025, celebrate Catholic Schools Day by showcasing the unique identity and mission of Catholic education, highlighting its role in forming Christ in the lives of others, and sharing the importance of Catholic schools with the broader community.

