



February 2025

Re: The RE Curriculum Resource Contribution 2025 - to Principals of Catholic Schools and Colleges

Dear Principal,

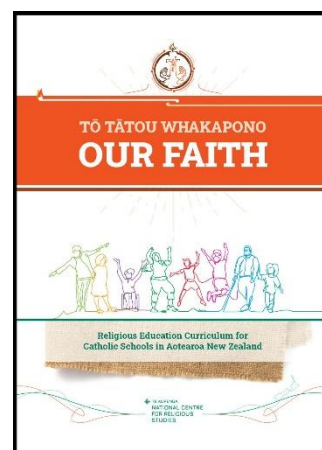
I hope this letter finds you and your school community off to a great start for 2025. I'm writing once again to let you know that the NCRS team remains committed to supporting Catholic character at your place, especially through Religious Education.

The RE **Curriculum Resource Contribution** (CRC), ensures NCRS retains the capacity to support you, DRs, teachers, tamariki and rangatahi with a quality RE curriculum and resources. Our team consists of 3 full-time, and 3 part-time RE professionals, all with significant classroom experience, knowledge and creativity. Conscious that times are tough for families, we strive to ensure every child in a Catholic school in Aotearoa receives much more than \$11 worth of quality RE support from NCRS. We are especially grateful for the many interactions with principals, DRs and other teachers who regularly give us feedback on the value of our mahi as it connects with the young people in your care.

So, what does NCRS do? (Where does your Curriculum Resource Contribution money go?)

Championing Religious Education: NCRS is the 'champion' of RE in Aotearoa NZ Catholic schools. We are the agency, within Te Kupenga - Catholic Leadership Institute, mandated with this task by the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference. We are 100% committed: to RE; to RE teachers & DRs; to supporting diocesan RE advisors (REAs); to developing and resourcing the RE Curriculum; to 'being real' about expectations on DRs and RE teachers; to understanding the complexities of this challenging work. We respond to requests for PLD input, we write, co-ordinate, lead meetings, read, and research 48 weeks in the year.

Tō Tātou Whakapono Our Faith (TTWOF): Having finalised the new RE curriculum - [To Tātou Whakapono Our Faith](#) - we immediately began generating associated resources for Aotearoa Catholic schools. By the end of this year we aim to have completed 'base-line' year 1-13 materials for all but a few themes. In subsequent years, we will revisit all areas, and further develop, revise and extend content – so the curriculum will be continuously refreshed and remain engaging and meaningful. Significant content is already available on www.ourfaith.nz, including introductory videos, activities, background notes, learning intentions and the projected [timeline](#) for roll-out. Principals, DRs, RE teachers and Boards are encouraged to return again and again to the curriculum document and become familiar with the content and purpose.



We work closely with RE Advisors in each diocese and acknowledge the important working relationship we have with them as we collectively support staff and students in this adopting and embedding phase of Religious Education in Aotearoa.



Curriculum Website: The relatively new site, www.ourfaith.nz, went live in July 2023. It remains a work in progress as we continue to populate and revise content. Teachers who do not know the username and password for teacher 'Learning Packs' can gain it from their local REA or e-mail me directly. (FYI – the old FaithAlive (www.faithalive.org.nz) and FaithCentral (www.faithcentral.nz) sites, will remain in place for a few more years but are no longer supported/developed.)

PLD Videos/Symposium content: Te Kupenga and NZCEO have produced 5 interactive sessions on the RE curriculum Te Rama Aroha Cross-Themes [Grace](#), [Holiness](#), [Wisdom](#), [Justice](#) and [Prayer](#).

Sexuality Education support: *Having Life to the Full* (HL2F) is now well established in dioceses and Lyn Smith is currently revising content in korero with diocesan course facilitators. He Mea Hanga Mīharo ki tō te Atua Āhua – [Wonderfully Made in God's Image](#) is established as the Sexuality Framing document for Catholic schools, incorporating MoE directives. In response to feedback we are also developing the "[Sexuality Resource Grids](#)" to further support delivery and decision-making around local content.

FaithJourney: (www.faithjourney.nz) This site is not linked to the formal curriculum but is designed with an intention to provide another means for families with children in your school, and those not in Catholic schools, to engage at home in developing their Catholic faith.

A brief comment on changes to Certification: Just a reminder that, as recently announced in [NZCEO Kōtūi](#), NCRS is no-longer responsible for [Certification](#). The new, less cumbersome, process and approach has been redesigned by Te Kupenga - Catholic Theological College, with significant consultation and increased focus on qualifications, and is now be managed by CTC (admin@ctc.ac.nz).

Ministry of Education connection:

Social Sciences: As schools are aware, the Ministry of Education is ramping up the NZ Curriculum refresh. I've been seconded onto the Social Sciences review group to raise the flag for Religious Studies (RS). While RE will always be a separate domain from RS in many respects, it does provide a legitimate opportunity to talk up the positives that exist in special character schools equipping their students with quality learning in their own faith contexts. It's significant to have a voice at the table.

National Sexuality Education: Last year I was included in the ERO planning/critiquing rōpu for their "*Let's talk about it: Review of relationships and sexuality education*" research. While I was strongly critical of some of their rushed survey tools, it was another opportunity to make the case for the importance of quality education in human sexuality, and to share the approach of Catholic schools. (Remember, there is a background of the Associate Minister of Education being on record as not wanting sexuality education to remain compulsory in schools.)

NCEA: Other than Level 1 'tweaking', the secondary review of Achievement Standards continues to be a fraught and slow process, however, NCRS is as involved as possible. I was re-elected as chair of the Religious Studies Teachers' Association and we wrote to the Minister of Education requesting increased involvement in further development of RS Achievement Standards. Senior TTWOF content has been written with NCEA in mind, but constant changes in the standards have made this a challenge. We remain committed to generating appropriate and quality material which supports the NZ bishops' expectations for RE in Aotearoa and also provides opportunity for students to gain NCEA credits. We decided to focus on year 7 & 8 rather than year 13 last year hoping that some Level 3 guidelines might have arrived by now. They haven't. Therefore, we'll push on with creating Year 13 content in 2025, with an option to connect with current standards, and a hope for integration when the new standards are finally written. If there is not at least a capacity to sync 3 out of 4 standards with our TTWOF content, we are open to reviewing the Achievement Objectives within themes – but not if we have to 'sell our soul'. We shall wait and see – and pray!



Various Generic Resources which are available for you:

- [Praying the Sign of the Cross](#) in 35+ different languages! (Thanks to continuing responses to our request from generous teachers and young people in our schools.)
- A PowerPoint of the [2024/25 Liturgical year](#) – Thanks to Auckland diocese for populating the current data. (N.B. The new perpetual Liturgical Year poster is available from [Pleroma](#)).
- Inspiration – Printable **Catholic Pioneer Bookmarks** for [Science](#), [Literature](#) and [Spirituality](#)
- Inspiration – Printable **Catholic Pioneer Posters** for [Science](#), [Literature](#) and [Spirituality](#).
- Vocation – [Printable Teach RE Posters](#) – to prompt students to think of becoming an RE teacher.
- Printable [Hākarameta Sacrament](#) Posters (N.B. large file to download).

It is through the Curriculum Resource Contribution that NCRS is able to support effective long-term curriculum development, and provide quality resources for Religious Education and Catholic Character. As always, we welcome any suggestions from you as principal, or any of your staff, as to how we can better serve the young people and staff at your school in effective teaching and learning of Religious Education.

Finally, I do wish to thank all those principals, DRSs and teachers who have given us feedback throughout the journey thus far in these increasingly diverse and challenging times. As the REAs are taking the lead in PLD, our focus for 2025 is keeping our noses to the grindstone to keep producing resources for you. However, be assured we will also continue to respond quickly to requests from schools – just drop us a line.

I wish you all the very best for 2025. Please keep us in your prayers, as we do you in ours,

Kind regards, and blessings in your work,

Ngā mihi nui,



Colin MacLeod
Director NCRS

Additional Information

1. **Easy link** to the NZCEO document regarding the Curriculum Resource:
 - NZCEO's advice on managing payment: (www.tinyurl.com/NCRS-CRC20)

