



February 2022

**Re: The RE Curriculum Resource Contribution 2022 - to Principals of Catholic Secondary Schools**

Dear Principal,

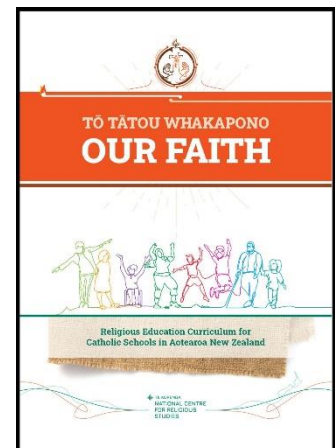
I hope 2022 has begun well for you, your staff and the young people in your care, especially with all the Covid related complexity. I wish you to know that NCRS continues to support you in your work of nurturing the young people who have just joined, or are returning to, your school. We remain fully committed to supporting Religious Education in Catholic schools on behalf of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops, particularly as we focus on developing resources for the new RE curriculum *To Tātou Whakapono Our Faith*.

The RE **Curriculum Resource Contribution** (CRC), ensures NCRS retains the capacity to support you, DRs, teachers and young people with a quality RE curriculum and resources. Our team consists of 4 full-time RE professionals, all with recent classroom experience and holding current Teacher Registration, and 2 part-time ex-teachers with significant expertise in RE.

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

**Championing Religious Education:** NCRS is the major ‘champion’ of RE in Aotearoa NZ Catholic schools. We are the agency mandated with this task by the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference. We are 100% committed to RE, to RE teachers & DRs; to supporting the diocesan RE advisors; 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 PD input, we write, co-ordinate, lead meetings, read and research 48 weeks in the year.

**A New RE Curriculum:** For the past couple of years our major work has been on consulting and drafting a new RE curriculum for Aotearoa Catholic schools. This is now complete and has been approved by the NZ bishops at the end of 2021. It is available in the NCRS area of Te Kupenga’s website, along with the projected timeline for roll-out in schools. (<https://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/ncrs/>) It’s an exciting phase of development and, especially within the challenging environment of Covid-19, NCRS is planning for schools to take quality time, with support from us and diocesan RE Advisors, to get up to speed with the new document. Principals, DRs, RE teachers and Boards are encouraged to read it and become familiar with the contents but implementation of the new curriculum is not expected until 2024. There is no rush to get on-board especially as schools need to be significantly supported with quality PD and resources.



**Sexuality Education support:** As you will be aware, during 2021 we revised the Human Sexuality Framing document to pick up recent changes by the Ministry of Education. The revised document is called *He Mea Hanga Mīharo ki tō te Atua Āhua – Wonderfully Made in God’s Image*. NCRS has also revised the *Sexuality Resource Grid Package* (SRP) to provide specific support in the teaching of human sexuality from a Catholic perspective. (All available from [www.tekpuenga.ac.nz/ncrs](http://www.tekpuenga.ac.nz/ncrs))



**Curriculum Website:** FaithCentral ([www.faithcentral.nz](http://www.faithcentral.nz)) contains resource material for the Understanding Faith Curriculum and associated Catholic Character material. It will remain in place for several years, and a new site is being developed for *To Tātou Whakapono Our Faith*.

**NZpray2day App:** This is designed for secondary young people, teachers and whānau to help them enter into the richness of the ancient Christian cycle of seasons, saints and readings. It is available free of charge from Apple Store and Google Play. **Please encourage your community to download and use it.**

**Ethical Stance Research.** I wish to thank all those schools who so generously responded to last year's request to continue the research project into attitudes towards ethical issues, which NCRS, The Nathaniel Centre and The Centre for Science and Citizenship have been conducting over the past few years. We had planned to survey year 13 students last September and run focus groups later in 2021, but Covid made it impossible. We do aim to complete this phase of research in 2022 and we'll be in touch closer to Term 3 with survey information. It is a fascinating area of research, and we look forward to sharing findings with you.

**Working with RE Advisors (REAs):** NCRS and diocesan REAs continue to meet and work closely together to support teaching and learning in RE.

**Achievement Standards Review:** The Ministry of Education continues its review of Achievement Standards (AS) in Religious Studies. I have been part of the Subject Expert Group (SEG) since 2020 which drafted the Level 1 (year 11) assessment rubrics and tasks. It's a challenging task with the MoE leadership person changing 4 times, and a number of changes to the content being made along the journey which don't seem to make sense and are beyond the SEGs influence. The dialogue continues and there is a lot of good will in the mix. I remain committed to the goal of ensuring the RS components within our Religious Education programme of learning can be credentialed through Achievement Standards. It's complex work. (Please, keep this mahi in your prayers.)

Finally, having completed the RE curriculum document, after over 50 face to face or virtual meetings in 2021, I do wish to thank all those principals, DRs and teachers who have given us feedback throughout the journey thus far. Our focus for this year is writing materials for years 9 and 10 and re-working our draft resources for year 11 to retain synergy with the ever-changing NCEA review. Having planned to visit every diocese with a 'Sharing the RE Journey' workshop, it looks as though Covid will prevent these gatherings from happening. However, we will be in touch. Please, be assured we will also continue to respond quickly to requests from schools – just drop us a line.

Through the Curriculum Resource Contribution NCRS is able to support effective curriculum development, and provision of resources for Religious Education and Catholic Character. We welcome any suggestions from you as principal as to how we can better serve the young people and staff at your school in effective teaching and learning of Religious Education.

I wish you all the very best for 2022.

Kind regards, and blessings in your work,



Colin MacLeod  
**Director NCRS**



## Additional Information

1. **Easy links** to two documents sent in 2019 regarding the Curriculum Resource Contribution are available on-line:

- The NZ Catholic Bishops' letter sent to all schools last October regarding the change for 2020 ([www.tinyurl.com/NCRS-CRC20a](http://www.tinyurl.com/NCRS-CRC20a))
- NZCEO's advice on managing payment ([www.tinyurl.com/NCRS-CRC20](http://www.tinyurl.com/NCRS-CRC20))

## 2. The proposed Timeline for developing the new RE Curriculum

