

### St Francis Xavier Parish Usual Timetable

	1st Sun of Month	2nd Sun of Month	3rd Sun of Month	4th Sun of Month	5th Sun of Month
St Francis Xavier Masses	5pm Sat Vigil (Standard Time) 6pm Sat Vigil (Daylight Saving) 8am Sun 10am Sun (Miha) (live-streamed)	5pm Sat Vigil (Standard Time) 6pm Sat Vigil (Daylight Saving) 8am Sun 10am Sun (live-streamed)	5pm Sat Vigil (Standard Time) 6pm Sat Vigil (Daylight Saving) 8am Sun 10am Sun (live-streamed)	5pm Sat Vigil (Standard Time) 6pm Sat Vigil (Daylight Saving) 8am Sun 10am Sun Family Mass (live-streamed)	5pm Sat Vigil (Standard Time) 6pm Sat Vigil (Daylight Saving) 8am Sun 10am Sun (live-streamed)
Ruakaka	10.30 am *Liturgy	10.30am Mass	10.30 am *Liturgy	10.30am Mass	10.30 am *Liturgy
Hikurangi	8:00am Mass	10:00am *Liturgy	10:00am Mass	10:00am *Liturgy	10:00am *Liturgy
Whangarei Heads	5pm Sat Vigil Mass (Standard Time) 6pm Sat Vigil (Daylight Saving)	8:30am *Liturgy	///	8:30am *Liturgy	10am. Combined Community Service
Maungatapere	///	///	///	8.30am Mass	///
Maungakaramea	10.30am Mass	///	///	///	///
Matapouri, Miha	12 noon 3rd Sunday of Month: - March; May; July; Sept; Nov			* Liturgy means Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion /// means no LOW or Mass	
Poroti, Miha	12 noon 3rd Sunday of Month: - Feb; April; June; Aug; Oct; Dec				
Pipiwai, Miha	12 noon 5th Sunday of the month				
Weekday Masses and Other Ceremonies					
Monday 7am Mass	Tuesday 9am Mass	Wednesday 12.10pm Mass	Thursday 7am Mass	Friday 12.10pm Mass	Saturday 8am Mass
<b>Exposition:</b> Fri 6am; & 11am - Midday. <b>Rosary:</b> Sat following 8am Mass			<b>Reconciliation Rite I:</b> 11.30am Fri & Saturday.		
5.30pm. 2nd Tuesday of the month. Mass - Syro Malabar 5pm. 5th Sunday of month. Mass - Filipino Community. 6pm. Every Wednesday of the month. Novena - Filipino Community.					



**Can You Help? Computer Operators needed to operate the laptop during Sunday Masses.** Adults and Secondary School students that attend the 6pm Vigil Mass on Saturday evening, or 8am or 10am Mass on Sunday. If we get enough people volunteering you will be rostered once a month. Simply load the Service Plan then click through the Mass. Training given. Please contact Janet at the Parish Office 437 7902.

**Prayers please for these people and their families.... and those who are sick and their caregivers especially:** David Robinson, Brian Reed.

**Recently deceased:** Patrick Pukeroa (*husband of Martha*), Graziella Russo, (*wife of Mario*), Jim Kelly, Raymond Linwood (*Western Australia, nephew of Marie Cook*), Kevin Pomeroy (*husband of Martha*), Siril Perera (*Sri Lanka, brother of Jasintha*).

**Anniversaries:** Dannie O'Shea, Fr Pat McCann S.M, Bernard (Brian) Kidd, Mamie Herlihy, Bill Gagnon.



## St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish



Cnr. Kamo Road and Park Avenue, P.O. Box 8061, Kensington, Whangarei  
Phone: 437 7902. House: 437 5266.

**PARISH STAFF:** Fr Brian Prendeville sm (pp), Fr Peter McDermott sm,  
Fr Trevor Tindall sm, Fr Peter Janssen sm, Deacon Jim Nees, Deacon Nimo Ponifasio  
Janet Ponifasio, Lalyn Luna.

Online at: [www.whangareicatholic.org.nz](http://www.whangareicatholic.org.nz) Email: [sfx@whangareicatholic.org.nz](mailto:sfx@whangareicatholic.org.nz)  
Facebook Search: [Catholic Church Whangarei](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicChurchWhangarei).

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**26 February 2023. Year A**

**Next Week's Readings: (Second Sunday of Lent)**  
**Genesis 12:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9**

Today we are treated to the story of Jesus being tempted in the desert. In Matthew's gospel this story comes straight after his baptism when he is revealed as the Beloved Son of God. Immediately he is led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days. The desert was a place of solitude and preparation time.



Our period of Lent is a similar time when we are preparing ourselves too for Easter and for the Catechumens, reception of the Sacraments of Initiation. Jesus does it the opposite way round: he was baptised first and then went to the desert to prepare for his ministry. Our Catechumens both children and adults prepare in the desert of Lent for 40 days before they are baptised.

The first words that the Devil says to Jesus is "If you are the Son of God..." He wants Jesus to doubt his identity as God's Son and to derail his mission. Jesus has come in order to embrace our human condition which involves all that we go through like hunger and the Devil wants him to take a shortcut: You can use your position to benefit yourself. This is a similar temptation to Adam and Eve in the garden. They had to believe that God's word and obeying God's word was more important than any food like an apple no matter what it might give them. Jesus instead passes the test that Adam and Eve failed. He is not tempted either by a shortcut to power or to testing God so that he can gain instant fame. He will not try a 'power grab', he will wait until the power is given him by his Father. He wishes rather to associate himself with the poor rather than the powerful.

Please pray for our Catechumens and journey with them.

Fr Peter McDermott sm.

**LITURGY CALENDAR:** Please mark your diary.

**Stations of the Cross.** In preparation for Easter, we invite you to participate in the Passion of Christ during this Lenten period.

◆ **Fridays at 7pm.** We need groups/individuals to lead on 17, 24 and 31 March. Simple booklets available to assist in leading the Stations. Please register your willingness to lead by contacting the Parish Office. Thank you.

◆ **Do you wish to join a Caritas Reflection group?** It is an opportunity to gather in a small group with others (about 5 or 6) to prayerfully reflect on a Lenten theme. This year the **Lenten gospels** are the basis for our reflections. If you would like to be part of one of these groups, please indicate this by signing the sheet in the Church foyer. Please indicate your name, contact number, area and time of day you prefer to meet. The programme runs for the 6 weeks of Lent.



**Welcome.** We warmly welcome Fr Peter Janssen to our parish. Fr Peter J has returned from working in Italy over the last several years, working in prison ministry among other things. Coming to Whangarei is a chance for Fr Peter to settle back into life and ministry here in Aotearoa.

**Caring Foundation Emergency Flood Response Appeal.**

The Caring Foundation, will be accepting donations to help Catholic agencies in the diocese deliver vital help to the many families severely impacted by the floods. Donations received will be used for food, shelter, clothes and other essential supplies and support services. Donations can be made directly online to the Foundation <https://caringfoundation.org.nz/donate-3/> so that assistance can get to families quickly.

**Community Market Day for Ukraine. 25th March in Parish Hall 8.30am-1pm**

Responding to Pope Francis' call to us to help the people of Ukraine, the Parish Pastoral Council are organising a Market Day fundraiser for Ukraine. We are inviting suggestions of Art for Sale, Stalls, Entertainment and any other suggestions of ways we can raise funds to help support the people of Ukraine. Please call the Parish Office if you have ideas or initiatives you are willing to contribute.



**World Day of Prayer: Taiwan 2023. Friday 3 March.** "I Have Heard About Your Faith". *Ephesians 1:15-19. Theme: God's promise in the letter to the Ephesians, which is an invitation to active listening, which is the ground of our prayers.*

**Bream Bay World Day of Prayer Service** will be held at the Presbyterian Church, Camellia Ave, Ruakaka on Friday 3rd March at 10am. All are welcome.



**Baptism Course.** The next Baptism Course is on 30 April and 7 May. If you are expecting your first child, now is a good time to do the Course. For further information and to register please phone the Parish Office 437 7902.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARY**

- **Sunday 26 February:** First Sunday of Lent.
- **Sunday 5 March:** Day of Prayer for all Children

**LENTEN REFLECTION:** Give up complaining—focus on gratitude. Give up pessimism—become an optimist. Give up discouragement—be full of hope. Give up bitterness—turn to forgiveness. Give up harsh judgments—think kindly thoughts.

**Every Wednesday at 6pm,** the Filipino community pray a Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help in the side Chapel of our Church. All welcome to join them.

**Pax Christi** are not meeting in March. The next meeting will be at Eymard house, Tuesday 4 April at 7pm.



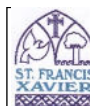
**Society of St Vincent de Paul Parish Food Basket.**

Thank you for your continued support. Donations of baked beans, tinned tomatoes, pasta and rice are very welcome.

**Meetings: 5pm on the First and third Thursday of the month** - First Thursday we pray the Rosary and 3rd Thursday we have a meeting. All welcome to join us.



**Parish Playgroup.** We would love to see you on Tuesdays in the Parish Hall. 9-11.30am during school term. You will meet other parents and grandparents. Please bring a gold coin and fruit for shared morning tea. Queries to the Parish Office.



**St Francis Xavier Catholic School Year 5 and 6 Camp.**

At the end of this term, our Year 5 and 6 students will be going to camp on Kawau Island. This bi-annual camp is a wonderful opportunity for the children to experience kayaking, yachting, hiking, archery, and many other activities. The cost for the four-day camp is \$130.00. In the past, some very generous parishioners have given a donation to help our children attend this camp and we would be very grateful for any help with the 2023 camp. Please see us at the school office, ask for Mrs J.



**Christian Meditation.** Meet every Wednesday in Eymard House 7.30pm-8.30pm. All welcome.

**Go Forward in Hope International Pro-Life & Family Conference.** Thursday 23 to Sunday 26 March, Auckland. For more information and to register visit [fli.org.nz/conference2023](http://fli.org.nz/conference2023) or Michelle Kaufman 027 526 1199.



**Newcomers** - please make yourself known to a greeter before Mass. Please take a *New Parishioner Pack* from the Church foyer, fill out and return to the Parish Office. Thank you.



**Kamo Prayer Group** meet every Tuesday during the school term. 10am to 12 noon. Phone Anne Marie for details 021 140 4657

**MAORI COMMUNITY - KO NGA PANUI.** Himene practice, (2nd & 4th Thursdays) 7pm in the gathering area of the Church.

**55+ Group** will not be meeting in March.



**Martha and Mary Group** are not meeting at the present time. Queries to Jan 437 0426.

**Special Collections in the Auckland Diocese: Lenten Appeal**

Each year the Lent Appeal is run by Caritas on behalf of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Conference (NZCBC) to support our work of charity and justice for the poorest and most vulnerable around the world, including in Aotearoa New Zealand.



It costs \$5,270.24 per week to meet running costs of our Parish including our Outlying Areas.



Please remember the Parish in your Will