

Next Week's Readings: (Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Isaiah 56:1, 6-7; Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32; Matthew 15: 21-28

Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Every Wednesday at 6pm here in our Church. All welcome.



Baptism Course. Sunday 13 and 20 August. 2pm to 3.30pm here in our Church. If you are expecting a child, now is a good time to do the course. For further information and to register please phone Janet at the Parish Office 437 7902

MAORI COMMUNITY - KO NGA PANUI. Himene practice, (2nd & 4th Thursdays) 7pm in the gathering area of the Church. **Miha Maori:** First Sunday of the month at 10am.

Miha, Sun 20th August @ 12 noon , Takahiwai Marae, 229 Takahiwai Rd, followed by shared kai. All welcome. Ph Kare 027 255 1840

The Beginning Experience. A weekend away to help those suffering the heartache of Separation, Divorce, or Widowhood will be held on 25 - 27 August. The Weekend Program is open to any person, anywhere in the Country, of any religion or of no religion. The cost for 2 nights accommodation, meals, materials and follow up event is \$350 with EARLY BIRD cost \$325 if paid by 26 July. For more information please phone Lynda 027 489 8003 or (09)478 9742 / Kelly evenings 027 686 4416 www.beginningexperience.org.nz



Can You Help? Computer Operators needed to operate the laptop during Sunday Masses. Adults and Secondary School students that attend the 5pm/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



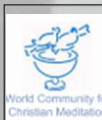
Society of St Vincent de Paul

Parish Food Basket: Thank you for your continued support. Donations of tinned tomatoes, tinned sweetcorn and peanut butter 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.



Daylight Saving begins Sunday 24 September 2am. Remember to put your clocks forward 1 hour.



Christian Meditation meet every Wednesday in Eymard House. 5pm to 6pm. Newcomers most welcome.

Special Collections in Auckland Diocese.

Sunday 27 August: Māori Pastoral Care Collection This money is used to fund initiatives, schools, projects of the Auckland Diocesan Māori community.

Hearts Aflame Catholic Summer School 2024: Scholarship.

There are two scholarship spaces available for the 2024 School for any young adult aged 18 to 35 who wants to know more about their faith, have an authentic encounter with Christ, and meet other Catholic young adults from all over New Zealand. One of the scholarship places is reserved for a young adult involved in Catholic Education (teaching, teacher training or chaplaincy). The Scholarship covers the full registration fee for the 2024 School (\$645) Visit heartsaflame.org.nz to apply before 15 August 2023.

Prayers please for these people and their families.... and those who are sick and their caregivers especially: Brian Reed, Dora Hampton, Liam Whitehouse, Margaret Hibbert, Ros Macken, Mo Evans, Anne Jennings, Maureen French, Joe Carroll, Ida Moroney, Michael Pukeroa.

Recently deceased: Rosalie Beazley, Mareece van Huenen, Lyn Geritzlehner, Susanna Vink, Sue Claridge (wife of Clive), Leonie Maxwell (mother of Aroha).

Anniversaries: Sr Jo Gresham smsm, Patricia O'Rourke, Ken Hodgson, Nelsie Morris, Godfrey Chand, Ane Yovich.



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY





St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish

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

Ruakaka; Hikurangi; Whangarei Heads; Maungatapere; Maungakaramea; Matapouri; Poroti; Pipiwai.

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, Marjorie Abraham-Quinn.

Online at: www.whangareicatholic.org.nz Email: sfx@whangareicatholic.org.nz Facebook Search: [Catholic Parish of Whangarei - St Francis Xavier](#)



Hear the voice of the Lord and trust in Him In our Gospel reading this Sunday 19th Ordinary Time, Jesus, walking on water, calls to Peter in the boat and says 'Come', inviting Peter to step out of the boat and come to him. Peter with his little faith, had the courage to step out of the boat.

Pope Francis says that *"The response to the Lord's call always enables one to do extraordinary things."* (Angelus 10/8/2014) This is what Peter was able to do! He walked on water! Such an extraordinary and an unimaginable thing to do! But he took his eyes off Jesus, he doubted and started to sink.

How many times have we stayed in the boat when our Lord is calling us? Inviting us to trust in him and do ordinary and even extraordinary things? We are often tossed around, like the disciple's boat, by our insecurity, our doubts and fears. But through prayers we can hear the voice of the Lord, learn to trust him and step out of the boat with confidence, out of our comfort zones, and follow his will.

May our prayer this week be for the Lord to increase our faith and trust in him, so that we may take that step to whatever the Lords is calling us to, and keep our eyes totally focused on him.

The Assumption into Heaven of the Blessed Virgin Mary This Tuesday 15th August we celebrate the feast of the Assumption into Heaven of the Blessed Virgin Mary: when Mary, the Mother of our Lord was taken up to Heaven body and soul. Bishop Pompallier, our first Catholic bishop, dedicated New Zealand to Mary under the title of her Assumption, placing our country under the protection of Mary as she is now – alive, body and soul, rejoicing in the happiness of God's kingdom. This is the patronal feast day of New Zealand and is a Holy Day of Obligation.

The belief in the Mary's assumption to Heaven among Christians was widely accepted, even as far back as the second and third centuries. On 1st November 1950, Pope Pius XII in the Bull 'Munificentissimus Deus' (Most Bountiful God), declares that: *"...by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own authority, we pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."* This means that as Catholics we believe that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord and our mother, was assumed into Heaven body and soul.

By meditating on Mary assumed into heaven, her heavenly glory, and following her examples here on earth, we too will one day share in this same glory. Even with the many difficulties we face in life, let us not lose faith. We can be assured that Mary follows all our footsteps with gentle concern, dispelling the gloom in moments of darkness and distress, and she intercedes for us to our Lord her Son. Let us therefore, continue on in confidence with our Christian commitments, knowing that our Mother in Heaven helps and cares for us.

Mother Mary – pray for us.

Dcn Nimo Ponifasio



Congratulations to the children who are making their First Holy Communion today at 10am Mass.

We appreciate the parents and family members who have supported the children on their Sacramental journey.

DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARY.

- ♦ **Tuesday 22 August:** The Queenship of Mary.
- ♦ **Sunday 27 August:** RCIA Enquiry Meeting. See notice.
- ♦ **Tuesday 29 August.** Memorial of the Passion of St John the Baptist.
- ♦ **Friday 1 September:** World Day of Prayer for Creation: 1 September

ASSUMPTION OF MARY

NINE DAY NOVENA IN ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

Day 8 Sunday 13 Aug 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Day 9 Monday 14 August: 6.30pm-7.30pm

Tuesday 15 August. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Patronal Feast for Aotearoa, New Zealand

Masses: 9am; 1.30pm - (SFX Catholic School); 5.30pm



Day of Prayer for Care of Creation. 1 September 2023. Pope Francis has established 1 September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home.

The Season "Celebration" begins 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. The theme this year is *Let Justice and Peace Flow*. The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home, the Oikos of God.

IMAGINE PEACE FOR ALL

POHEWATIA TE RANGIMĀRIE MŌ TE KATOĀ



Social Justice Week 2023. Imagine Peace for All: Peace Begins with You? Social Justice Week runs from 3 - 9 September 2023. For the next three years, the focus of Social Justice Week will be on peace and responding to conflict. The overarching tagline is: 'Imagine Peace For All / Pohewatia te Rangimārie mō te Katoa'.

Each year there will be a unique focus, and for 2023 it is: **'Peace begins with you! / Ka tīmata tonu te Rangimārie i roto i ā koe!'** Imagine Peace For All / Pohewatia te Rangimārie mō te Katoa'.

Reflection Booklets available from the Parish Office for groups or individuals to use.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR ST FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH WHANGAREI

We are still seeking someone to be responsible for the daily financial resourcing/management of the Parish and to administrate the Parish Properties and Assets. This is a part-time position and could suit a qualified/experienced person looking for flexible hours 9am to 3pm, (some core hours required) in a caring and pastoral environment. Interested? Please forward your CV or Resume highlighting your relevant experience to admin@whangareicatholic.org.nz.



RCIA. An Information meeting will be held on Sunday 27 August at 11am in Eymard House (Brick House). The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is a programme where you can become more acquainted with the Catholic community and the Gospel values by which we try to live. It is for adults wishing to become Catholic or interested in asking questions about the Catholic faith. A warm welcome is assured. Queries to Janet at the Parish Office 437 7902



Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship meet for prayers, praise and worship on Wednesday 16 August at 7pm here in the Church at 7pm. All men are welcome



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.



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