

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 Eucharist	///	///	///	///
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
Exposition: Fri 6am; & 11am - Midday. Rosary: Sat following 8am Mass				Reconciliation Rite I: 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.					

Titipounamu Study & Joy: Letters to the Corinthians - who were they? with Kieran Fenn fms. Monday, 09 Oct, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Fee: Koha.
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/09/19/letters-to-the-corinthians-who-were-they/>

Prayers please for these people and their families.... and those who are sick and their caregivers especially: Margaret Hibbert, Ida Moroney, Michael Pukeroa, Barbara Ashwell, Lorraine Merito, Elinor Jackson (mother of Kate McKenzie), Brian Reed, Marguerite Osborne, Bryan Chapman.

Recently deceased: Roseanne Macken, George Marr (Auckland, brother of Verna Williscroft), Anne Jennings (sister of the late Bill Gibson), Mary Martinovich.

Anniversaries: Delfina Magpantay, Mary Hape.



St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish

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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

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Facebook Search: [Catholic Church Whangarei](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicChurchWhangarei).

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

24 September 2023 Year A

Next Week's Readings: (Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Ezekiel 18:25-28; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32

God is Extremely Merciful and Generous.

This Sunday in our 1st reading, Isaiah reminds us that God is merciful and forgiving. He says – ***“Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; For my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.”*** God’s mercy and generosity is extreme, and it’s way beyond our understanding. Our human logic is completely different from God’s way of thinking.

Also, today’s Gospel gives us an example of how the rules of the kingdom of God are different from ours. We learn that God’s kingdom is similar to a landowner who goes out at different times of the day beginning at dawn and right up to the last hour of the day, to hire workers for his vineyard. At the end of the day, he pays them all the same amount of money no matter whether they worked 1 hour or the whole day – same pay, same reward.

Remember what happened to the so called ‘Good Thief’ dying on the cross next to Jesus on Calvary? Jesus knew his repentant heart and his willingness to change, even at the last moment of his life. Christ promised him that he would be in paradise that very day, even though he was a criminal - Same reward as those who have been faithful to the Lord all their lives! God is indeed very merciful and generous!

The point is: – God’s generosity and mercy surpasses human understanding, and our earthly logic does not apply in the kingdom of God.

Friends, as beneficiaries of his love and mercy, let us always praise our heavenly Father and thank him for his great love and generosity to us all. Let us always be grateful for his unspeakable mercy and try to imitate him and be like him in our dealings with others.

Dcn Nimo Ponifasio


New Zealand Bishops Election Statement 2023. The New Zealand Bishops have put out a pre-election statement to guide us in making wise and prayerful decisions in the upcoming election. They put before us important issues to consider so that we may cast a vote based on sound Catholic principles. You can find a hard copy of this statement in the **foyer of the church** and in the suitcases for the outlying areas. You can also access this statement **online** by accessing the following links. Visit https://www.catholic.org.nz/assets/NZCBC_Election2023_A4.pdf.

Webpage <https://www.catholic.org.nz/about-us/bishops-statements/election-statement-2023/>

Being informed to make a good vote.

Last week we made available some information from Family First regarding the stance of the various political parties on issues to do with the Family and Respect for Life. We have been asked to provide another source of information to help you become better informed on the stance of the political parties regarding issues of **Justice**. You can find this information at <https://electionscorecards.org.nz/>. We would like to make it clear we don't **endorse** either of these groups but merely present this information so you can make a good and balanced decision yourself weighing up all the options. Please do so prayerfully.

Support Life Sunday 2023. Saturday and Sunday 7 and 8 October is the weekend of Support Life Sunday 2023. The theme this year is *Te Kahu o te Ora - A Consistent Ethic of Life*. The work being done includes an extensive revision and updating of the bishops' statement of that name from 1997. Pending the publication of the revised version of *Te Kahu o Te Ora*, go here to recall the 1997 original: www.catholic.org.nz/about-us/bishops-statements/a-consistent-ethic-of-life/

 **Sunday 1 October will be Venerable Suzanne Aubert Celebration Day in all Catholic Churches throughout New Zealand.** It is a day to remember the life, spirituality and good works of Venerable Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert. The theme of 'United in compassionate love – Kua kotahi i rota i te Pūaroa', has been chosen for this year's Celebration Sunday. While we wait and pray for Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert to be beatified, we continue to unite to promote her message of compassion and love throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

Request for Parish Budgets: The Management and Finance committee is about to commence planning for the next financial year - 1 January to 31 December 2024. Parish groups / Outlying Areas requiring funding are requested to present a **detailed budget**. Email admin@whangareicatholic.org.nz before 13 October 2023. Please give a contact name & address for your group or outlying area.

The Season of Creation A message from the CDA Justice & Peace Commission: In this Season of Creation, we pray: "that we grow as people, to harmonize our own rhythms of life with those of creation, which gives us life." *Pope Francis*

DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARY.

- ◆ **Wednesday 4 October:** Feast of St Francis of Assisi
- ◆ **Sunday 8 October:** Day of Prayer to Support Life

Thought for the Week: "Decisions can take you out of God's will but never out of His reach".

2 Timothy 2: 13. if we are faithless, he remains faithful-- for he cannot deny himself.

Kamo Prayer Group will not meet School Holidays.



Blaze Youth Group (secondary age) will not meet School Holidays.



Martha and Mary next meet on Friday 6 October at 10am in Eymard House. All welcome. Queries to Jan 437 0426



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

Faith Formation: A Journey through the Bible. Kids Korner. Twenty Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Twenty-Fourth-SUNDAY-of-OT.pdf>



Society of St Vincent de Paul: Parish Food Basket: Thank you for your continued support. Donations of tinned spaghetti, tinned sweetcorn and pasta are very welcome.

Urgently Required. Treasurer for the Society. Please contact north-landsvdp@outlook.com

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.

Operation Christmas Child. National Shoe Box Collection. Thank you to those who have taken a box. The shoeboxes may be dropped at Newberry's Funeral Home, between 17 October and 4 November and only between the hours of 8.30am - 10.30am, or between 2.30pm and 5pm, so not to interfere with funerals. For gift suggestions and more information please visit operationchristmaschild.org.nz



Balls of Wool and Buttons Needed. We are asking for donations of balls of wool and buttons to use for lunch time crafts for students at Pompallier Catholic College and St Francis Xavier Catholic School. Odd balls, half balls or scraps. Please drop off to the Parish Office.



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, 8am or 10am Mass on Sunday. Training given. Please contact Janet at the Parish Office.

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

Choir Practices. Monday 9 October 4.30pm - 6pm and Thursday 12 October 4.30pm - 6pm. Newcomers most welcome.

Auckland Diocese Special Collections: World Mission Sunday 29 October. This money is distributed by the National Missions Office to help in the running expenses of a diocese for 12 months in a missionary country.



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