

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 1: 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.					



Paul Sorensen has written a book - **A Call to Love**. ...A story of a couples deep faith..... spanning the globe and four generations this is a warm narrative story of three families, each steeped in a strong love of family life and the Christian faith. Copies are available from the Parish Office \$30.00. Paul has kindly gifted all proceeds for our Parish Music Scholarships.

Prayers please for these people and their families.... and those who are sick and their caregivers especially: Barbara Ashwell, Ben Hutton, Margaret Hibbert, Brian Plunkett, Rebecca van Altvorst, Maureen Evans, Peter Harris, Fr Tom O'Connor S.M.

Recently deceased: Fr Paul Shanahan S.M, David Stone (UK, brother of Jennie Parkin), Beverley Simpkins, (Taumarunui, sister-in-law of Millie Aperahama) Pdraigh (Pat) Kinsella, (Australia, brother of Theresa Kinsella).

Anniversaries: Gary Clemmett, Lena Williams, Melanie Ponifasio.



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, Marjorie Abraham-Quinn

Online at: www.whangareicatholic.org.nz Email: sfx@whangareicatholic.org.nz

Facebook Search: [Catholic Church Whangarei](#).

**10 December 2023. Year B
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Next Week's Readings: (Third Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 61: 1-2,10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"

Every year on the 2nd Sunday of Advent, we hear this cry of John the Baptist – prepare the way of the Lord. John's role was to prepare the people for the coming of the long awaited Messiah, Jesus Christ. His call is also for us as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Our Lord, and as we prepare for his second coming at the end of times, and as he comes to us every day of our lives.

In our Gospel reading this Sunday, John tells the people what to do to prepare for the coming of the Lord; by confessing their sins and being baptised. Now for us, 'baptism' corresponds with the Sacrament of Baptism, 'confessing sins' corresponds with the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession). I suggest that in preparing for the coming of the Lord, we focus on these sacraments, especially this week.

How? You can renew in your heart your Baptism and think of the graces and the benefits you received. How you were freed from sin and became an adopted brother or sister of Christ. Thank God that you became a member of the Church, able to receive the sacraments, receive the gift of faith and many other privileges and benefits. So during this time of Advent, think of your baptism and walk in the power of that baptism.

We can also prepare for the Lord by confessing our sins at Reconciliation. We need to be free of sin and I encourage you all during Advent to go to confession. Make sure that you are cleansed of sins. If you are struggling with sin and at the same time awaiting the coming of the Lord, go to confession as a way of 'making the path straight' in your heart to receive the Lord.

At Confirmation we are 'baptised with the Holy Spirit' and are made courageous and bold witnesses of Christ. Let us once again walk in all the boldness of Confirmation. Be strong in your witness and living a life that boldly says: I'm preparing for the coming of the Lord, I'm going to be ready and not getting caught unprepared, I'm walking free of sin and walking in the power of God.

So, friends, during this Advent let us 'prepare the way of the Lord' by focusing on these sacraments with a mind that is totally fixed on being well prepared for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dcn Nimo Ponifasio

Haere Mai! Nau Mai! All are invited to the Anniversary of the first Mass in New Zealand which was celebrated at Totara Point on 13 January 1838. Outdoor Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 am at Totara Point on the 14 January 2024. Bishop Lowe will celebrate Mass. Shared picnic will follow. All welcome. Alternative arrangements can be made in case of inclement weather. (There are many local churches/maraes available). Joe McMonagle has offered to take a 12 seater bus if needed. Koha welcome. Sign up sheet is in the Church foyer.

Pre Christmas Rite II Reconciliation:

Ruakaka: Wednesday 13 December 7pm

Rite 1 Reconciliation: **Friday 15 December** 11.30am – 12 noon.
Saturday 16 December 11.30am – 12 noon.
Friday 22 December 11:30am - 12 noon, 4pm – 5pm.
Saturday 23 December 11.30am – 12 noon.



Caritas Christmas Appeal. Enable lives of dignity this Christmas. Multiply your impact and support vulnerable communities to thrive! Empowering women in business, supporting rural livelihoods and nourishing children across seven countries in the Asia-Pacific region. If you're donating via a direct deposit, please input your supporter ID as the reference, 'Christmas Appeal' as the code, and your first and last name in the particulars section. If you have any questions, comments, or would like to donate over the phone, please reach out to our team on 0800 22 10 22.

Westpac - Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand - 03-0518-0211216-00

Bank Account Details incorrect in Bulletin 26 November. BANK ACCOUNT CHANGE FOR INTERNET PLANNED GIVING. From 27th November the bank number will change for all parishioners whose Planned Giving payments occur through internet banking. YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO ANYTHING as our BNZ bank has sent a request to 5 banks to change their AP details effective on 27th November. BUT if you have the bank account saved in your internet banking for one-off donations or payments, please update the details to **02-0108-0706750-03**. Contact Marjorie at the Parish Office if you have any queries.

Message from Fr Brian.

We are very sorry to hear more cars have been broken into and stolen from our Church carpark. We can't emphasise enough our need to do all we can to prevent this, and to give security to parishioners vehicles. Our next stage will be to either have static guards at all our functions (and incur costs), or as a community we arrange some way of patrolling our carpark. This is very disappointing.

DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARY.

- ◆ **Friday 8 December:** The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary.
- ◆ **Sunday 10 December:** Second Sunday of Advent.
- ◆ **Sunday 17 December:** Third Sunday of Advent.
- ◆ **Thursday 21 December:** Parish Office closes at 1pm.
- ◆ **Sunday 24 December:** Fourth Sunday of Advent.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives"



"Carols and Chicken Wings" All are cordially invited to come to St Francis Xavier Church next Sunday 17 December at 5pm for our Carol Night. All organisations and parish groups welcome to come along and sing only one carol and share with others. See Carol list in Church foyer. We ask parishioners to please bring a plate for our shared supper. Thank you



You are invited to Christmas Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Today Sunday 10 December 6pm at Te Karaiti Te Aranga (The Risen Christ Anglican Church). 10 Boswell Street, Kamo. Please bring something to contribute to shared Kai afterwards.



Mass Intentions. Mass can be offered during the week for your special intentions such as anniversary of death of a loved one, someone you know who is sick or facing surgery, some you know who is close to death. Envelopes are available from the Church noticeboard or Parish Office. To book your Mass Intention please visit the Parish Office. Thank you

- ◆ **Christian Meditation** is postponed till further notice.
- ◆ **Our Parish Playgroup** starts again in Term 1 2024.
- ◆ **Kamo Prayer Group** starts again Tuesday 13 February 2024



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



Join us for The Nativity Escape Room activity with pizza and dessert for ages 9+. Friday 15 December in the Parish Hall. Please use the QR code to register. For further details contact: Katharine 021 529 663 or Mary 027 326 975544. See poster on noticeboard.



St Francis Xavier Children's Christmas Activity Morning. Tuesday 19 December, 9am – 11am, in the Parish Hall. The morning will be geared towards 5-8 year olds. Please can a caregiver accompany the children. Older and younger children siblings welcome, but the activities will be for the 5-8 age range. Please bring a named paper bag for crafts to go in. Please use the QR code to register. Any questions please contact: Katharine 021 529 663 or Mary 027 3269 75544. See poster on noticeboard.

Available from the Parish Office. 2024 Columban Calendar \$12.
2024 Daily Mass Calendar \$4.50



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