

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.					



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, Bob Connor.

Recently deceased: Beverley Simpkins, (*Taumarunui, sister-in-law of Millie Aperahama*), Padraigh (Pat) Kinsella, (*Australia, brother of Theresa Kinsella*).

Anniversaries: Teresa Davis.



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](#).

17 December 2023. Year B

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16; Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38.

In today's readings, as in those of last Sunday, we are reminded that Salvation has come through the Jews. We see today a glimpse of what is called "Salvation History". That is, how the world is being saved from sin and death through God's revelation to and dealing with his chosen people. Ever since the fall of Adam and Eve, God has been preparing the world for its salvation through his active relationship with his chosen people.

There have been many ups and downs in the history of God's chosen people and hence in Salvation History. Notable figures in that history were the ancient prophets, who constantly reminded the chosen people of this special relationship and what privileges and obligations flowed from it. John the Baptist in his rough-hewn austerity must have seemed to his contemporaries just like one of these. Perhaps Elijah come back to earth. Perhaps another one of these messengers from God. Even more significant would be John as the new King David to restore Israel's religious and political power.

John denies that he is one of these. He says of himself, "*I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord'*". He is not the culmination of Salvation History. He is not the Messiah, the Saviour. He is the one announcing the imminent arrival of the Saviour. He is the culmination the preparation for the Saviour. This preparation necessarily involves repentance for sin as a pre-condition.

The baptism of John is a moral or repentant baptism, a tangible sign expressing a desire to be cleansed of sin. It is an attitude that anyone, not necessarily Christian, might come to upon reflecting on one's life. However, what God wants for us and is conferred in Jesus' Baptism is infinitely more. It is pure un-merited gift. The joy of living in the Spirit. A joy foretold by the Prophet Isaiah in today's first reading and made reality by the Saviour Jesus Christ. "*I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation.*"

Fr Peter Janssen S.M.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Pre Christmas Opportunities at St Francis Xavier Church

Friday 22 December 11:30am - 12 noon, 4pm – 5pm.
Saturday 23 December - 11:30am - 12 noon



**Solemnity of Mary
The Holy Mother of God.**

You are invited to start the New Year in a prayerful way. All are welcome to attend 8am Mass here in our Church Monday 1 January 2024.



**The Presentation
of the Lord
Friday 2 February 2024.**

The Blessing of Candles will take place on 2 February at 8am Mass. Please bring any candles you wish to have blessed.

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.

Mr Craig McKernan.

On Thursday St Francis Xavier Parish School, farewelled our principal of 24 years.

First, a remarkable contribution to the parish and to the education of our young. We are in debt too, for his leadership, care and desire to educate our children who belong to our parish.

Thank you Mr McKernan. May we delight in your efforts to continue the tradition of Catholic education and formation of our young so that they can have every possible advantage and opportunity to be children who develop and grow in their faith and their humanity.



Baptism Course. The next Baptism Course is Sunday 4th and Sunday 11th February 2024. If you are expecting your first 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.

Message from Fr Brian.

Parish Flag. Competition for a design of our Parish Flag that speaks of St Francis Xavier. Prizes to be allotted. Everyone who enters will be a winner. First prize will be substantial. The Competition ends last week of February 2024. Drop off or email your flag ideas to the Parish Office.

DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARY.

- Monday 25 December:** Christmas Day.
- Sunday 31 December:** The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
- Monday 1 January 2023:** Mary, The Holy Mother of God.

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 today 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. We ask parishioners to please bring a plate for our shared supper.

Proclaimers of the Word for Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

6pm Family Mass: M Fairclough, A Waggott

Midnight Mass: E Kearins, M Marie

Christmas Day

8am Mass: K Sturge, K Taylor

10am Mass: A Kerrisk, L Gervacio



Please note: Christmas Holiday Timetable insert in last weeks Bulletin - The Parish Office reopens on Tuesday **23 January 2024**, not Tuesday 22 January 2024 as in the Timetable.

Christmas Masses: Extraordinary Ministers of Communion.

The Christmas Roster is in the gathering area.

- ◆ **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, tinned vegetables and jelly are very welcome.



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.

Catholic 30s & 40s Social Event - 27 January.

On 27 January at 4pm, we are meeting for afternoon drinks at Good George, Mission Bay followed by a stroll around the beach. It will be a very relaxed fun way to spend the evening with like-minded company! If anyone you know is interested, please RSVP to aklcatholic_singlesocialgroup@gmail.com.

Available from the Parish Office.

2024 Columban Calendar \$12.
2024 Daily Mass Calendar \$4.50



Congratulations to Jean and Noel Paget on celebrating 67 years of marriage.



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