

## Holy Week and Easter Timetable

### Sunday 24 March: PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD.

Sat 6pm (Vigil): Mass - Blessing of palms within Mass  
Sun 8am: Mass - Blessing of palms within Mass  
Sun 10am: Mass - 9.30am - Procession from Marist Clubrooms car park



### Monday 25 March: Chrism Mass 11am. (One Mass only)

Chrism Mass is the only Mass today Please note change of time)  
The Celebrant is Bishop Steve Lowe. Please bring a plate of finger food for our shared luncheon, which you can leave in the Parish Hall from 11am onwards.



Tuesday 26 March: 9am Mass

Wednesday 27 March: 12.10pm Mass

### Thursday 28 March: Holy Thursday. (One Mass only)

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30pm. Bring food for the needy - Society of St Vincent de Paul Food baskets will be brought up at the Offertory Procession. (Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following Mass till 10pm)



### Good Friday 29 March:

• **Stations of the Cross:** 10.30am St Francis Xavier School Grounds. (Church if wet)

• **Solemn Liturgy:** 3pm at St Francis Xavier Church. Retiring Collection for the Holy Places.

(Children's Liturgy in the Parish Hall for Primary School aged children.) Parents to drop children to the Hall and collect them following the Solemn Liturgy.



• **Other Services at other Places on Good Friday:**

† Stations of the Cross: Maungakaramea 11am.

• **HOLY SATURDAY: "The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night 30 March: 8pm.**

• (only Mass) (RCIA receiving Sacraments)

• **SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION 31 March:**

(Please leave your watches at home on Easter Sunday)

St Francis Xavier: 8am Mass; 10am Mass. (RCIC Baptisms)

Whangarei Heads: 7.30am.

Hikurangi: 10.30 am.

Ruakaka: 10.30 am.

Please Note: No Mass at Maungakaramea on Easter Sunday.

Easter Monday 1 April: 8am Mass.

Please note: The Parish Office will be closed Tuesday 2 April.



Prayers please for these people and their families.... and those who are sick and their caregivers

especially: Ben Hutton, Margaret Hibbert, Truus Kaptein, Margaret Kernot, Liz and Jim Nicholls,  
(Auckland, brother and sister-in-law of Mary Ann Reed.

Recently deceased: Sally Osmena., Antje van Dijk, Ann Luiten.

Anniversaries: Colleen Miller, Brian Gillespie, Peter Webb.



# 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 Trevor Tindall sm, Fr Peter Janssen sm,  
Deacon Jim Nees, Deacon Nimo Ponifasio  
Janet Ponifasio, Marjorie Abraham-Quinn

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).

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**17 March 2024 Year B**

**Next Week's Readings: (PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD)**

**Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1 - 15:47**

Preparing for Easter.

## Exulting in Christ's victory

Christians have a victory song too because in a very literal sense, *Easter is an astonishing triumph*. It is the final result of an epic battle between God and Satan, between light and darkness, life and death. It is *our* perpetual reminder that God has saved us from spiritual slavery in Egypt, namely, sin, by sending His Son to do battle for ourselves.

Everything about the Resurrection radiates the glorious victory Christ won on Calvary and for that reason, Easter has its own song, which is the most beautiful song the Church has to offer!

The ancient hymn of the Church is called the Easter *Exsultet*, that latter term being the first word of the Latin hymn, "Let [the host of heaven] exult". It is also called the Easter Proclamation.

It passes us by. I offer you a taste in Lent of the things to come.  
It is worthy of prayer and meditation.

**O truly blessed night,  
worthy alone to know the time and hour  
when Christ rose from the underworld!**

**This is the night  
of which it is written:**

**The night shall be as bright as day,  
dazzling is the night for me,  
and full of gladness.**

**The sanctifying power of this night  
dispels wickedness,  
washes faults away**

**restores innocence to the fallen,  
and joy to mourners,  
drives out hatred, fosters concord,  
and brings down the mighty.**

**O holy Father, accept this candle, a  
solemn offering, the work of bees  
and of your servants' hands,  
an evening sacrifice of praise,  
this gift from your most holy  
Church."**

I would hate you to miss out on the Gold Medal of the Church.

<https://www.theschooloftheology.org/posts/essay/the-exsultet>

<https://contingentmagazine.org/2020/04/11/this-is-the-night/>

I would love to prepare for Easter during Lent by studying this beautiful hymn.

A wonderful idea for next year.

From Fr Brian.  
**Pre-Easter Rite II Reconciliation:**  
**Ruakaka: Wednesday 20 March at 7pm**

**Opportunities for Rite I Reconciliation.**

Holy Thursday- 4.30pm-5.30pm  
Good Friday- immediately after the Solemn Liturgy.  
Holy Saturday - 11am - 12 noon

**Good Friday Outdoor Stations of The Cross. 10.30am.**

Like to draw your attention to our Outdoor Stations of The Cross on Good Friday (29 March). It is always been a tradition for our Schools to come together with the parish on Good Friday.



**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.



**Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship** next meet for prayers, praise and worship on Wednesday 20 March here in the Church at 7pm.

**Ready the Way –Sacramental Programme 2024**

To prepare for the Sacraments of: **Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Holy Eucharist.** Enrolment forms available from the Parish Office.

**Registrations close on Thursday 11 April.**

**Information and Orientation meeting for all the Parents/ Guardians on Friday 3 May at 7pm here in our Church.**

This will explain the requirements of the programme and the Kaupapa. (Parents only please)

**Programme starts:** Sunday 12 May 2024 at 10am Mass at Saint Francis Xavier Church for parents and children, followed by preparation session in St Joseph's Room at St Francis Xavier Catholic School.

**Age Guideline:** A candidate should be 8 years old to start the programme.



**The Syro Malabar Catechism Children's** fundraising Market last Sunday, raised a total of \$4006.70 for our new carpet in the church. What a fantastic achievement for all those who participated and contributed.

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

**Stations of the Cross. Fridays at 7pm.**

**Holy Week Timetable:** See notice.

**Monday 1 April.** Public Holiday 8am Mass

**Tuesday 2 April:** Parish office closed.

**Sunday 7 April:** Sunday of Divine Mercy.

**Monday 8 April:** The Annunciation of The Lord

**Thursday 25 April:** Anzac Day. Public Holiday. 8am Mass

**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.

**Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land**

The traditional Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land is an effort by the church to maintain a strong bond between the faithful across the world and the Holy Places. It is the main source of material support for Christian life in the Holy Land and a tool for the universal Church to express solidarity with the Christian communities of the Middle East.

Through the funds collected on Good Friday, the church is able to carry out the important mission in the Holy Land of: preserving the Sacred Places, the stones of memory, and promoting the Christian presence, the living stones, through its many pastoral, educational, welfare, health and social facilities. \$7.19 million was collected in 2023 - down over 25% from the \$9.04 million collected in 2022.

With war, persecutions and the uncertainty of life in the Middle East, Christians are suffering and many are migrating out of the region. The Dicastery for the Eastern Churches has issued an appeal for prayerful and financial support for the Holy Land Christians.

Please support your brothers and sisters in Christ in the Holy Land, the land of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Choir Practice**

Thursday 21 March,  
4.30 -6pm.



**MAORI COMMUNITY - KO NGA PANUI.**

**Himene practice**, (2nd & 4th Thursdays) 7pm in the gathering area of the Church.



**St Francis Xavier Parish Playgroup.** Alternate Tuesdays in the Parish Hall 9-11.30am during school term. **26 March:** Easter Crafts, Easter Egg Hunt. All ages welcome. Tea and Coffee provided. Phone Katharine 021 529 663

**Society of St Vincent de Paul: Parish Food Basket.** Thank you for your continued support. Donations of tinned tomatoes, tinned sweetcorn and baked beans 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.

**Ride Needed to Mass.** One of our older parishioners needs a ride to 10am Mass from Park Avenue, Kensington. If you can help, please phone Janet at the Parish Office. Thank you.

**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 New Zealand. Caritas envelopes are available in the foyer of our Church.



**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.



**Eftpos Machine** is at the rear of the Church.

Please remember the Parish in your Will