

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 *Liturgy	8.30am Mass	///
Maungakareama	10.30am Eucharist	///	///	///	///
Matapouri, Miha	12 noon 3rd Sunday of Month: - March; May; July; Sept; Nov			* LOW 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
<b>Exposition:</b> Fri 6am; & 11am - Midday. <b>Rosary:</b> Sat following 8am Mass				<b>Reconciliation Rite I:</b> 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.					

**Voice For Life: The New Zealand Catholic bishops** have recently updated and released an important document entitled: "Te Kahu o te Ora - A Consistent Ethic of Life". Originally released in 1997, the updated version has been expanded to address not only traditional life issues but new problems we face in today's society. The concept of a "consistent ethic of life" refers to the fact that since all human life is sacred, there is a need to value and protect human life in all circumstances. For more pro-life information, visit Voice for Life at [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz).

**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.

**Recently deceased: Recently deceased:** Don Hewitt, Judith Mieckle, Sally Osmena.

**Anniversaries:** Bernard (Brian) Kidd, Mamie Herlihy, Dannie O'Shea. Bill Gagnon.



## 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

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

### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

3 March 2021 Year B

**Next Week's Readings: (Fourth Sunday of Lent)**

**2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2: 4-10; John 3:14-21**

This Sunday, we hear in our Gospel reading of Jesus driving out the merchants and money changers from the temple. To the Jews, the temple was the most holy place in the land and people travelled from afar to offer sacrifices and worship God in the temple. So being able buy animals for sacrifices at the temple was convenient, but it had turned the temple into a market place. The money changers and merchants were there to make money from the travellers. This was disrespectful and it had also distorted the true purpose of the temple. Jesus seeing this and with righteous anger drove the merchants and the money changers out.

As we reflect on this Gospel reading, we can ask ourselves about – How we may have turned our own lives into a marketplace, focusing on material possessions and other worldly pursuits over our relationship with God. How we may have allowed temptations, the busyness of our lives and worldly distractions to take over our lives, causing us to lose sight of what is truly important.

To help us with these, we have The Law given at Sinai, our 1<sup>st</sup> Reading this Sunday, in particular the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment – **“Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.”** Sunday is the ‘Day of the Lord’ the sabbath day.

The Church says through Canon Law 1247 **‘On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass. Moreover, they are to abstain from those works and affairs which: hinder the worship to be rendered to God, the joy proper to the Lord’s day, or the suitable relaxation of mind and body.’**

For Catholics, going to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is not optional. We are obliged to do so. Participating in the Mass is our No1 priority every Sunday. Our focus must be on the Eucharist and not allow what else is going on in our lives to distract us from our relationship with God and the worship of God. Remember, every time we participate in Mass, we enter into the physical presence of our God.

How awesome is that! So let us prioritize our relationship with God above all else and worship him. Let us make every effort to make sure that our bodies and hearts are worthy dwelling places for Christ, and approach the Eucharist with reverence and awe.

Dcn Nimo Ponifasio

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

**Stations of the Cross, Fridays at 7pm. We have no one to lead on Friday 8 March.** Please contact the Parish Office. Booklets available at the Parish Office.

**Pre-Easter Rite II Reconciliation.**

**St Francis Xavier: Wednesday 13 March 7pm**  
**Ruakaka: Wednesday 20 March 7pm**

**Pax Christi** next met on Tuesday 5 March in Eymard House, 5.30pm to 7.30pm. All welcome..

**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 (purpose). (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.


**Charismatic Mass with Healing prayers.** Christ the King Church, 260 Richardson Road, Mt Roskill. 4pm - 6pm Sunday 10 March. Bishop Steve Lowe presiding.

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

**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. 

**Market Day:** The Syro-Malabar Catechism children are hosting a Market Day to fundraise for the replacement of the carpets in the Church. This is happening on Sunday 10 March straight after the 10 am Mass till 1:30 pm at the Parish Hall. There will be games, face painting, food, and a lemonade stand. Come along and have fun.


If you wish to donate any items to sell (no clothing please) please drop off all donations at the Parish Hall on Saturday 9 March after the 6pm Vigil Mass or on 10 March after the 10 am Mass. For any other queries contact either: Jisha 021 022 87446 or Swapna 021 081 59266


**Palms Needed:** We need large palm fronds or Nikau palm fronds to decorate our Church for Palm Sunday. Please contact the Parish Office if you can help. Thank you 


**IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARY**

- o **Sunday 10 March:** Fourth Sunday of Lent
- o **Sunday 17 March:** Fifth Sunday of Lent
- o **Sunday 24 March:** The Passion of The Lord (Palm Sunday)

**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.


 **SFX Prayer Group, (formerly Kamo Prayer Group)** meet every Tuesday 10am to 12 noon in Eymard House during the school term. Phone Anne Marie for details 021 140 4657


**Blaze Youth Group** (secondary age) meet Fridays during term time 7pm-9pm in the Parish Hall. All welcome. Inquiries to the Parish Office. 


**Society of St Vincent de Paul: Parish Food Basket.** Thank you for your continued support. Donations of baked beans, pasta sauce, pasta and rice 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.


**Choir.** Our practices are: Thursday 7 March, 4.30-6pm; Thursday 14 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 Catholic School News:** Students are learning about Lent and how they can best prepare for Easter. It is wonderful to talk to our students and hear they understand the importance of this time in the liturgical calendar. Last week we were delighted that Father Hayden visited some of our senior classes and talked about vocation to the priesthood. We pray for all those in our community who need our prayers at this time, and pray God answers those prayers as He sees best. *Bernadette Hall* (Principal)



 **St Francis Xavier Parish Playgroup.** Alternate Tuesdays in the Parish Hall 9-11.30am during school term. **Next Playgroup is Tuesday 12 March.** We have available; ride on toys, toddler slide, climbing, sandpit, books, craft + more!

 **Can You Help? Computer Operators needed to operate the laptop for Sunday Masses.** We ask if any adults or secondary school students can help with this Ministry? **We are desperately short of computer operators for 10am Mass.** Please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.

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

**Auckland Diocese: Special Collections**  
**Collection for the Holy Places - Good Friday 29 March.** This collection goes towards the upkeep of the Holy Places in Christendom.

 **Newcomers** - please make yourself known to a greeter before Mass. Please take a *New Parishioner Pack* from the Church foyer, fill it out and return it 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*