

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 8am Sun 10am Sun (Miha) (live-streamed)	5pm Sat Vigil 8am Sun 10am Sun (live-streamed)	5pm Sat Vigil 8am Sun 10am Sun (live-streamed)	5pm Sat Vigil (Youth Mass) 8am Sun 10am Sun Family Mass (live-streamed)	5pm Sat Vigil 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	8:30am *Liturgy	///	8:30am *Liturgy	10am. Combined Community Service
Ngunguru	///	5pm Mass	///	///	///
Maungatapere	///	///	8.30am *Liturgy	8.30am Mass	///
Maungakareama	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 ///	Tuesday 9am Mass	Wednesday 12.10pm Mass	Thursday 7am Mass	Friday 12.10pm Mass	Saturday 8am Mass
Reconciliation Rite I : 11.30am Friday & Saturday.				Exposition: Friday 11am - Midday.	
5.30pm. 2nd Tuesday of the month; 4th Sunday of the month - Mass - Syro Malabar 5pm. 5th Sunday of month. Mass - Filipino Community. 6pm. Every Wednesday of the month. Novena - Filipino Community.				Rosary: Tuesdays, after 9am Mass, 11.30am every Wednesday Saturday following 8am Mass.	

Available from the Parish Office: Bible Diary \$22.
Daily Mass Calendars \$5. Columban Calendars \$15..
Eftpos machine is in the office during the week for sales

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy. Franciscan Renaissance with Patrick Carolan (live from the USA). Monday, 16 February 2026, 7-8pm. Zoom (Koha/Donation). Register to receive the Zoom link:
www.studyjoy.nz/2026/01/08/franciscan-renaissance/

Prayers please for these people and their families.. and those who are sick and their caregivers especially: Rob Giles, (Auckland), Selena Bercic (Mitimiti), Ken Doran, Les Barker, Patrick Murnane.

Recently deceased: Gemma Leef, Truus Cox, Patricia Thornton, Fred Dittmer.

Anniversaries: Graziella Russo



St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish

Hikurangi; Maungakareama; Maungatapere; Matapouri; Ngunguru;
Poroti; Pipiwai; Ruakaka; Whangarei Heads;

Entry: 63 Park Avenue, Kensington. Mail: 1B Bedlington Street, Whau Valley.
Phone: 437 7902. House: 437 5266.

PARISH STAFF: Pa Peter Tipene (pp), pp@whangareicatholic.org.nz, Fr Mark Napa,
Dcn Jim Nees, Dcn Nimo Ponifasio, Janet Ponifasio, Arjay Ferrer, Pearl Tattersall.
Online at: www.whangareicatholic.org.nz Email: sfx@whangareicatholic.org.nz

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
15 February 2026 (Year A)

Next Week's Readings: (First Sunday of Lent)
Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

The Choice is Ours

In this Sunday's gospel we get into the heart of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus calls us to live by a special set of Christian standards that are at odds with much of what the world teaches and holds dear. He sets out several different ways that our holiness is supposed to surpass that of others'. They go beyond keeping the Ten Commandments. Jesus challenges us to go beyond the 'letter of the law'. The meaning of the word 'commandment' implies that something is placed into our hands (free will).

The opening sentence of our first reading (Ecclesiasticus 15:16) expands upon this point. "If you **choose**, you can keep the commandments" is pointing to human free will and the capacity within each of us to follow the ways of God. They are meant to transform our heart and whole life from the inside out. They challenge us not just to be 'good' but genuinely 'holy' and Christ-like. All of them are challenging, but we need to remember that by calling us to these high standards of Christian living, Jesus is showing us His confidence in us that, together with his help, we can live up to them. Ultimately, by virtue of our free will, the choices we make are up to us. So the stakes, in this life and the next, can't be higher and what he tells us today in the gospel can't be more important.

Dcn. Jim

LITURGY CALENDAR: Please mark your diary.

Wednesday 18 February: Ash Wednesday. (Day of Fasting and Abstinence).
Masses: 9am (SFX School); 12.10pm; 5.30pm.

Stations of the Cross: Fridays at 6pm. 20, 27 February, March 13, 20, 27 March. **Please note:** No Stations on Friday 6 March.

We need groups / individuals to lead on the above dates. Please register your willingness to lead by contacting the Parish Office. Thank you.

“Blessed Palms”: Please put your Blessed Palms in the basket for burning for Ash Wednesday. Outlying Churches can place their Blessed Palms in a bag and place in the suitcase.

Bishops Lenten Appeal: “The beginning of Lent marks the start of the Bishops’ Lenten Appeal. Theme *“Hear the voice, answer the call”*. Donations can be made to Caritas directly via direct debit or credit card through the Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand website <https://www.caritas.org.nz/ways-to-give>. The bank account for Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is 03-0518-0211216-000. Please use “Lent” as the Code and your first and last name as particulars. Donations received by Caritas by 31 March will be sent a receipt for the 2025/26 tax year. Any donations received in the Caritas office after April 1st will be sent a receipt for the 2026/27 tax year. Your generous support enables Caritas to help poor and marginalised communities around the world. Thank you.

LENT WEBINAR SERIES:

Whakarongo ki te reo, whakahokia te karanga. Hear the voice, answer the call.

Journey through Lent with New Zealand's Catholic Bishops and others of the faith as they guide us in prayer and reflection on each Sunday's Gospel. Scan the QR Code or use one of the contacts below.

caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars. Ph 0800 22 10 22

Email: caritas@caritas.org.nz

Caritas Lenten Programme:

“Whakarongo ki te reo, whakahokia te karanga”.
“Hear the voice, answer the call”

The Booklet is available from the Parish Office for groups or individuals to use.

Family Life International:

This Lent, become a *40 Days for Life Prayer Partner* and spiritually unite with the global *40 Days for Life* movement to pray for an end to abortion and to bear witness to the dignity of every human person from conception - right where God has placed you. From Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday. Use the QR code to find the sign-up page. For more information contact Simon 021 400 729 or simon@fli.org.nz



2025 Journey of Faith for Teens (13 to 18 years of age) for Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist. “Into The Light - Ki Roto Ki Te Marama” Programme” begins on Sunday 22 February 2026. Contact the Parish Office for details and to register. Queries to Nigel 022 133 2460.

Sacramental Programme 2026. Preparation programme for Baptism and other Sacraments - (Year 4 to Year 8). Queries to the Parish Office 437 7902. Registrations close on **13 March 2026**.

Information and Orientation meeting for all the Parents/ Guardians on 19 March 2026, 6pm to 7pm here in our Church. Programme starts 29 March 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. Registration forms available from the Parish Office. Thank you



Joshua Men's Fellowship

next meet on Tuesday 17 February at 6pm here in our Church. All men very welcome.



Blaze Youth Group ((secondary

age) meets every Friday at 7pm in our Parish Hall. All teens welcome. Enquiries to the Parish Office.



Gardening Working Bee – Saturday, 21 February. Volunteers are needed

for our gardening working bee on **21 February, 9am–12 noon**. Please bring your own gardening tools and a plate to share. Your help keeps our parish grounds looking beautiful.



Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Our Filipino community will gather on Wednesday 25 February to pray a Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help in the side Chapel of our Church.

Please note: They will not gather on Ash Wednesday 18 February.

World Day of Prayer for Women is celebrated worldwide on the first Friday in March. (Friday 6 March 2026). **Theme: “I Will Give You Rest: Come”** comes from Nigeria. This year the Whangarei World Day of Prayer Service will be hosted by St John's Golden Church (149 Kamo Road) on Friday 6 March at 10am. There will be an offering taken up for Nigeria. There will be refreshments following the Service.



St. Francis Xavier Catholic School News. We had a Mihi Whakatau on

Friday to formally welcome all new students, staff and families. We trust they will enjoy their time at SFX and become involved in the school and parish in ways that share their talents. Our school Open Evening is coming up on the 24 February, where we invite whanau to come meet the 2026 teachers and staff and visit their child's classroom. This enables an opportunity to hear about classroom expectations, routines and what learning is happening this term. God bless. *Bernadette Hall (Principal)*



Every Donation Makes A Difference

Our Parish Foodbank thanks you for your support. There is a list in the Church foyer of items needed. Otherwise we are in need of tinned spaghetti, baked beans, tinned tomatoes and pasta. Thank

MAORI COMMUNITY - KO NGA PANUI. Himene practice, (2nd & 4th Thursdays) 7pm in the gathering area of the Church.

Miha Māori: First Sunday of the month at 10am, followed by morning tea and the Māori Committee meeting at 12 noon.

Notification of Triennial General Meeting of the Hato Werahiko Kawerio Roopu Katorika Māori (Catholic Maori Committee), Sunday 3 May 2026 at 12 noon in the Parish Hall.

Sacred Heart College Open Day. Join us at our Open Day on Wednesday 25 February, 2026. Places are available in Year 7 and Year 9, 2027, and we welcome your interest. Boarding is available in Years 9 to 13. Scholarships are available. Applications are prioritised in accordance with our Enrolment Scheme. Applications close Friday 27 March, 2026. See poster on noticeboard. Go to <https://www.sacredheart.school.nz/>



New to our Parish? Welcome. Please make yourself known to a greeter before Mass. Please take a *New Parishioner Leaflet* from the Church foyer, fill it out and return it to the Parish Office. Thank you.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: The straight and narrow path does not detour around the Ten Commandments. Psalm 25:4 “Make me to know Thy ways, O Lord, teach me Thy paths”