


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	///
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 ///	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				Rosary: Tuesdays, after 9am Mass, 11.30am every Wednesday	
5pm. 5th Sunday of month. Mass - Filipino Community.				Saturday following 8am Mass.	
6pm. Every Wednesday of the month. Novena - Filipino Community.					

 **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.

**Available from the Parish Office: Daily Mass Calendar \$5.**  
Eftpos machine is in the office during the week for sales

**Parish Library:** Our books are in the process of being uploaded online. Feel free to explore the collection here: <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/FXLibraryWhangarei>

**Prayers please for these people and their families.. and those who are sick and their caregivers especially:** Ken Doran, Les Barker, Patrick Murnane..

**Recently deceased:** Patricia Thornton, Fred Dittmer, Iris Kilduff (*mother of Chris Findlay*), Ben Hutton (*son of Katrina and Raymond, former Pompallier Catholic College student*).

**Anniversaries:** Anna Williams..



## St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish

Hikurangi; Maungakaramea; 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](mailto:pp@whangareicatholic.org.nz), Fr Mark Napa,  
Dcn Jim Nees, Dcn Nimo Ponifasio, Janet Ponifasio, Arjay Ferrer, Pearl Tattersall.  
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### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

22 February 2026. Year A

**Next Week's Readings: (Second Sunday of Lent)**  
**Genesis 12:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9**

To begin Lent with the story of the fall of our first parents who disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit, should make us aware of our own sinfulness. Before Adam set out on the road of disobedience, man and woman knew perfect happiness and lived in harmony with God. The consequence of their action has cast a long shadow over humanity ever since and created a wall of division between God and ourselves. It brought about the kind of world we know so well – a world broken by sin. There is sin in our lives and will be until the end of our days. However all is not lost because out of the desert comes Jesus to begin his mission of saving people.

Greater than anything lost by Adam's disobedience is the new life won by the obedience of Christ who shared in our weakness so that we might live off his strength. The story of the temptations of Jesus, where he is enticed to misuse his God given powers for selfish purposes is well known. In permitting himself to experience temptation Jesus sets the example we must follow when we come face to face with the human dilemma of choosing between good and evil. We draw comfort from the fact that the Lord knew what it felt like to be tempted and as a result can sympathise with us in our weakness.

Lent is a time for new life in Christ. By joining Jesus in the desert of our hearts, we focus our attention upon the things which really matter in life. The voice of God is calling us home and we should make a conscious decision to serve the Lord and do what is pleasing to him. This is not so much a season for giving up things as an opportunity for returning to the things of God we have neglected. Good habits are hard to keep and easy to lose.

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are the disciplines and order of the season. At the same time let us avoid those heavy duty acts of mortification. If we take on sacrifices beyond our limits, we may well end up becoming everyone else's penance! Happy Lent!

Pa Peter

**Pre-Easter Rite II Reconciliation.**

**St Francis Xavier: Wednesday 18 March 6pm**

**Ruakaka: Wednesday 25 March 7pm**



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

**Stations of the Cross: Fridays at 6pm.** 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 phone the Parish Office if you can lead. It will be cancelled otherwise.

**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 2026:** 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 - [caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars](https://www.caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars). Ph 0800 22 10 22 Email: [caritas@caritas.org.nz](mailto:caritas@caritas.org.nz)

**Caritas Lenten Programme:** 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](mailto:simon@fli.org.nz)



**NZ National March For Life 2026** takes place in Auckland on 7 March. Join hundreds of people marching in support of our most vulnerable. Be a voice for the voiceless! Gather from 1pm at lower Queen St, Auckland. The march begins at 2pm, marching up Queen St to Aotea Square. Event ends by 4pm. For more details: <https://marchforlife.nz/>

**St Francis Xavier Parish Administrator Position.**

The Parish is seeking applications for this full time position involving bookkeeping and property maintenance. We are seeking strong organisation skills and attention to detail, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and proficiency in Microsoft Office and accounting software. To find out more please contact Leah Peacock, Chair of the Parish Finance Committee on 027 273 7301.

**Help Needed for Holy Week.** We need parishioners, to help with Palm Sunday, Chrism Mass Hospitality and other ceremonies. Please contact the Parish Office if you can assist. Thank you.

**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.

**Sacramental Programme. Preparation programme for Baptism and other Sacraments (Year 4 to Year 8).** Queries to the Parish Office 437 7902.

Registration forms available from the Parish Office. **Registrations close on 13 March 2026. Information and Orientation meeting** for Parents/ Guardians on 19 March. 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. Thank you



**Blaze Youth Group** ((secondary age) meets every Friday at 7pm in our Parish Hall. All teens welcome. Enquiries to the Parish Office.

**Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.** Our Filipino community meet every Wednesday to pray a Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help in the side Chapel of our Church. All welcome.

**Our Parish Playgroup** meet every Tuesday during term time, 9am to 11.30am in the Parish Hall. We invite all parents and caregivers - bring along your preschoolers and join in the fun. Gold coin donation. Enquiries to the Parish Office.

**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 continue to pray for those affected by natural disaster and those who have lost their lives in the Mount Tauranga landslide. We also especially pray for those who have died suddenly and those who have passed at a young age. For those young people undergoing illness or surgery we pray that they make a successful recovery, so they may continue to experience Gods wonder on this earth. May God ease the fears of those who face surgery and a long recovery, let their bodies be strong and resilient throughout their journey. God bless. *Bernadette Hall (Principal)*

**Christian Meditation** meet every Wednesday at 4.30pm in the side Chapel of our Church. All welcome

**Choir practices** - 4.30 - 6pm Thursday 5 March and Thursday 12 March

**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.



**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 you