

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



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.

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, Margaret Baker.

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

Anniversaries: Reign Puriri, Sr Judith Leydon RSM, Eli Hankins, Pauline Patterson, Eli Hankins, (*son of Sam and Amanda*), Pauline Patterson, Douglas Simpson, Brian Kidd, Bill Gagnon.



St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish

Hikurangi; Maungakamea; 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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

1 March 2026. Year A

Next Week's Readings: (Third Sunday of Lent)

Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2,5-8; John 4:5-42.

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

As we move through the season of Lent, the Church gives us the beautiful story of the Transfiguration this Sunday. Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a high mountain. While there, something amazing happens. Jesus is transfigured before their eyes. His face shines with glory, and his clothes become dazzling white. Then they hear the voice of the Father: *"This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him."*

In that moment, the disciples see clearly who Jesus really is. He is not just a good teacher or a prophet. He is the Son of God, the promised Messiah. Even Moses and Elijah, who appear beside him, point to the fact that Jesus is greater.

In the Old Testament, mountains are often places where people meet God. Moses met God on Mount Sinai. Elijah encountered God on Mount Horeb.

Now Peter, James, and John have their own mountain experience. They are given a glimpse of Christ's glory.

This moment of glory happens just before Jesus begins his journey to Jerusalem and to the cross. That is why we hear this Gospel passage during Lent. Lent is our journey with Jesus toward Calvary with the Transfiguration telling us that the cross is not the end of the story. Suffering will come, but glory will follow.

Later, Jesus gives himself completely on the cross at Calvary for us. When he dies, darkness covers the land and all hope seems lost. But through that darkness, light breaks through. Three days later, Jesus rises from the dead. The glory that the disciples saw on the mountain now shines fully in the Resurrection. Jesus is the true light who overcomes sin and death. The Transfiguration reminds us that beyond sacrifice there is glory, beyond suffering there is resurrection, and beyond darkness there is light.

During Lent, we are invited to climb the mountain with Jesus. We are invited to step away from noise and distraction, to pray more deeply, and to listen carefully. The Father's words: *"Listen to him"* are also meant for us. Lent is a time to listen again to Christ in the Gospel, to trust him more fully, and to follow him even when the road leads to the cross. May we trust him more, really listen to him and always follow him faithfully.

Blessings. Dcn Nimo

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. March 13, 20, 27 March. **No Stations on Friday 6 March.** We need groups / individuals to lead on the 20 and 27 March. 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. Go to <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. Thank you.

Pax Christi will be running the Caritas Lenten Reflection Programme every Monday during Lent from Monday, 23 February - 23 March from 5.30pm to 6.30pm in the side room of the Church. The journey is one of prayer, scripture, reflection and discussion. Be enriched on your Lenten journey. All very welcome.

NZ National March For Life 7 March. Gather from 1pm at lower Queen St, Auckland. The march begins at 2pm, marching up Queen St to Aotea Square. Event ends by 4pm. Details at : <https://marchforlife.nz/> **Mass for Life (and Adoration).** Before the March, you are invited to attend Mass to pray for the protection of all pre-born children from conception and for the conversion and healing of all those who are wounded by, or participate in, abortion. Eucharistic Adoration follows Mass. Saturday 7 March, 9am at Holy Family Catholic Church - 94 Taikata Rd, Te Atatu Peninsula.

SFX Parish Family are grateful to the **Whangarei Catholic Hope Trust** for their generous support of our Local Youth Minister; Pearl Tattersall in her ministry here at St Francis Xavier and at Pompallier College. We pray in thanksgiving for the benefactors of the Trust and all those involved in their generous benefactions.



We welcome into our parish family those baptised in February:
Arei Abiada, Gabrielle Castor, Railey Interino, Ariel Diwa.

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.

World Day of Prayer for Women. 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. **Theme: "I Will Give You Rest: Come"**. There will be an offering taken up for Nigeria. There will be refreshments following the Service.

Filipino Mass here in our Church on Sunday 29 March at 5pm. All welcome.
Every Wednesday at 6pm, our Filipino community pray a Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help in the side Chapel of our Church. All welcome.

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.

LENTE 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.

Preparation Programme for Baptism and other Sacraments (Yr 4 to Yr 8). Queries to the Parish Office 437 7902. Registration forms available from the Parish Office. **Registrations close 13 March.** **Information and Orientation meeting** for all the Parents/ Guardians on 19 March, 6pm to 7pm here in our Church. The 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.



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.

St Paddy's Art 'N' Music Fun Day on Sunday 15 March 2 - 5pm at Holy Family Catholic Church and grounds, Peter Snell Drive, Ruakaka. This is not a fundraiser but a gathering of the wider Ruakaka and Whangarei community to join together for fun, fellowship, food and entertainment. We also have an Art and Crafts Sale featuring the talented works of local artists including paintings, pottery, ceramics, plants, flower arrangements etc.

Parishioners; Father Mark, Sharlene Crawford (SFX), Annie Hemsley, Chrissy Maassen, Wanda Beehre, Nora Butler, & Jo (from Dargaville) will have their handiwork on display and for sale. There will be a 'Plant and Produce' table and anyone wanting to bring plants to sell, needs to ensure that plants are properly potted and labelled. People can purchase these items with a koha. Free sausage sizzle available throughout the event.

John Mellsop is our MC, with items performed by the Holy Family Music Group, Filipino Community, Pam and Kerrie (Langs Beach), Line dancing, Irish dancing, and the Walking Group singing "Fields of Athenree". All welcome and wear something green in honour of St Patrick!



St. Francis Xavier Catholic School News. Our year 4 cohort had trips to Reotahi this week. Special thanks to all parents and adults who were able to help with these trips.

The trips can only go ahead when there is sufficient adult support. We also hosted our *Open Afternoon* which was a great success. This was an informal opportunity for our families to meet teachers and staff and hear more about what classroom routines and school expectations are. Have a blessed week. God bless. *Bernadette Hall (Principal)*

Joshua Men's Fellowship will gather on Tuesday 17 March at 6pm here in our Church. All men very welcome.

Our Parish Foodbank is no longer associated with The Society of St Vincent de Paul. All future monetary donations should be addressed to Foodbank, with receipts issued upon request. We currently need cereals, rice and pasta or refer to the list in the Church foyer.



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

Christian Meditation meet every Wednesday in the Side Chapel of our Church, 4.30pm - 5.30pm. All welcome.

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.