

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				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.					

Daylight Saving ends at 3am on Sunday 5 April. Turn clocks back 1 hour. 

Choir practices - Thursday 12 March 4.30-6pm. Thursday 19 March 4pm-5.30pm

Join a pilgrimage to Medjugorje from 05-18 June 2026. Contact Patricia at www.mirpilgrimages.co.nz | E: info@mirpilgrimages.co.nz | Mob: 027 3525 217. See notice board.

Prayers please for these people and their families.. and those who are sick and their caregivers especially: Ken Doran, Les Barker, Margaret Baker, Zane Jones, Kieran Orcaza, Murray Hall.

Recently deceased: Iris Kilduff (*mother of Chris Findlay*, Ben Hutton (*son of Katrina and Raymond, former Pompallier Catholic College student*), Kathleen Love (*Grandmother of Nikki*), Jane Smith (*sister of Dave Smith*).

Anniversaries: Reign Puriri, Sr Judith Leydon RSM, Eli Hankins, Pauline Patterson, Paul Sorensen. 



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

8 March 2026 Year A

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

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Pastor's Note 3rd Sunday Lent Year A

Today's readings focus on water and thirst, but what exactly do water and thirst mean in the gospel context? It's not just water as we know it that Jesus is talking about, but the saving love of God poured out into our hearts enabling us to find life and peace.

Thirst stands for the absence of God in our lives – that unsatisfied longing within every human heart. St Augustine talks about 'Our hearts being restless until they rest in God.' Since the pleasures of life fail to satisfy the thirsting human spirit, the only remedy is a relationship with Jesus who provides a mysterious type of water producing a well - spring of life within us.

What it took five husbands to teach the Samaritan woman, we learn from the mistakes of over indulgence in drink, drugs, gambling, promiscuity and so on. Her conversion gives us great hope because in human terms a worthwhile life was beyond her. Yet her past did not hinder her from coming close to Christ.

Jesus won her over by gently leading her out of herself and raising her mind and heart to higher things. At Jacob's well a man, by asking her for a drink of water, restored a woman's dignity and changed her life.

When we were baptised we received this saving water of life for the first time. It was a mere beginning which planted us, seed – like, in the garden of God. As life goes on we need to be constantly in touch with the fountain of living water which Jesus gave us – otherwise we wither and the miracle of growth in godliness does not take place.

Today Jesus asks us to have a look at how we are living out our baptism. If we are suffering from thirst his spirit is always at hand to refresh us and lead us in our search for the unending, the unchanging and the eternal.

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. March 13, 20, 27 March. We need someone to lead on the 20 and 27 March. Please phone the Parish Office if you can lead. It will be cancelled otherwise.

Pax Christi will be running the Caritas Lenten Reflection Programme every Monday during Lent from 5.50pm to 6.30pm in the side room of the Church. All very welcome.

Sacramental Programme:

Preparation programme for Baptism and other Sacraments (Yr 4 to Yr 8). Registration forms available from the Parish Office. Registrations close on **13 March. Information and Orientation meeting** for all 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. Thank you.

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.

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

Can you help? Our parish lunch for the parishes of Te Tai Tokerau following the Chrism Mass on Monday 30 March. We are in need of parishioners to help with setting up and serving. A task of simple hospitality. Please contact the Parish Office if you can assist. Thank you.

The Whangarei Josephite Companions invite you to 'Prayer Reflection and Lunch' on Saturday 14 March in the St. Joseph's Room at St. Francis Catholic School from 11am - 1:30 pm. Please bring a small plate of food to share. Whangarei Josephite Companions are also leading the Stations of the Cross on Friday 13.3.26, at 6pm. Everyone is welcome. Queries to Jane text/ph. 021 163 4058

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.

Triennial General Meeting of the Hato Werahiko Kawerio Roopu Katorika Māori (Catholic Maori Committee), is on Sunday 3 May 2026 at 12 noon in the Parish Hall. There will be morning tea in the Hall following Easter Sunday Miha Māori. Please bring a plate to share.

DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARY

- o **Sunday 15 March:** Fourth Sunday of Lent.
- o **Tuesday 17 March:** St Patrick's Feast Day
- o **Thursday 19 March:** St Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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.

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!

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



Our Parish Playgroup meet every Tuesday during term time, 9am to 11.30am in the Parish Hall. Bring along your preschoolers and join in the fun. Gold coin donation. Enquiries to the Parish Office.



St. Francis Xavier Catholic School

Crafty Cuppa – Multigenerational Sit & Knit! Join us on Thursday 19 March from 12.00–1.30pm in the Saint Joseph's room (St Francis Xavier School) for a 'sit & knit!' Students, staff, extended whānau & parishioners are all welcome. Bring along your current craft project (knitting, crochet, weaving, beading, colouring etc) and enjoy a cuppa and creative connection together.

Optional: bring a completed project to share on our inspiration table. We'll also have a uniform mending table set up to support our second-hand uniform pool — volunteers please bring a sewing machine; uniform-coloured thread and buttons will be provided. Enquiries: rosie@sfx.school.nz

News: Our students are settling into their class routines and making new friends. We had a great senior school swimming sports day at Pompallier College. We are grateful to Pompallier College for always making their pool available for our swim sports. We have two professional development days coming up. One is a Religious Education Day and the other is Mathematics. We continue to pray for those people who are in need of prayers. May God help heal any sickness. Have a blessed week. God bless. *Bernadette Hall (Principal)*

The Foodbank (previously known as SVDP), thanks you for your continued support. There a list of required food items in the church foyer. Our current needs are cereal, tinned spaghetti, baked beans, and tomatoes. Monetary donations will be receipted by the Foodbank upon request.

Holy Ravioli! Attention all young adults! I will be starting a weekly catch up over the course of Lent up until Holy week. Meet me at 5pm Mass on Saturday and afterwards we'll go down to Amici to have dinner and hang out! - Pearl

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



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.