

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	6pm Sat Vigil 8am Sun 10am Sun (Miha)	6pm Sat Vigil (Youth Mass) 8am & 10am Sun	6pm Sat Vigil 8am & 10am Sun	6pm Sat Vigil 8am Sun 10am Sun (Family Mass)	6pm Sat Vigil 8am & 10am Sun
Ruakaka	10.30 am *Liturgy	10.30am Eucharist	10.30 am *Liturgy	10.30am Eucharist	10.30 am *Liturgy
Hikurangi	8:00am Eucharist	10:00am *Liturgy	10:00am Eucharist	10:00am *Liturgy	10:00am *Liturgy
Whangarei Heads	6pm Sat Vigil	8:30am *Liturgy	///	8:30am *Liturgy	10am. Combined Community Service
Maungata-pere	///	11am *Liturgy	///	8.30am Eucharist	///
Maungakamea	10.30am Eucharist	///	10.30am *Liturgy	///	///
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 Eucharist.	
Poroti, Miha	12 noon 3rd Sunday of Month: - Feb; April; June; Aug; Oct; Dec				
Pipiwai, Miha	12 noon 5th Sunday of the month				
Eucharist Weekdays and Other Ceremonies					
Monday 7am Eucharist	Tuesday 9am Eucharist; 12.10pm LOWHC	Wednesday 7am LOWHC; 12.10pm Eucharist	Thursday 7am Eucharist; 12.10pm LOWHC	Friday 7am LOWHC; 12.10pm Eucharist	Saturday 8am Eucharist
Exposition: Fri 6.15am; & 11am - Midday. Rosary: Sat 7.30am				Reconciliation Rite I : 11.30am Fri & Saturday. Rite II: 4th Wednesday 7.30pm	
6pm. Wednesdays of the month. Novena - Filipino Community. 5:30pm. 5th Sunday of month. Mass - Filipino Community.					

Parish to Parish Bed & Breakfast - since the first book was printed 15 years ago, many hosts have suffered health problems or downsized their homes. We urgently require more hosts in places all over the country. I would encourage anyone with a spare bedroom or two in their home to join us. The accommodation does not have to be 5-star - just clean, comfortable and welcoming, as well as being able to provide a light breakfast. The aim is to provide Catholic hospitality and make new friends. The hosts charge a fee of \$35 for one person, or \$30 per person for 2 or more per night. For further information contact Marie Anderson on +64 3-359 5541 or email marie.ian@xtra.co.nz.

Prayers please for these people and their families... and those who are sick and their caregivers especially, Maryann Rundlett, Fr Tom O'Connor SM, Gail Banks.

Recently deceased: Janette Sorensen (*wife of Paul*), Hugh Holmes (*Sth Africa, brother of Pam Neveling*), Rita Urwin (*Auckland, beloved daughter of Truus Cox*).

Anniversaries: Mrs Shankar.



St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish

Cnr. Kamo Road and Park Avenue, P.O. Box 8061, Kensington, Whangarei
Phone: 437 7902. Fax: 437 7904. House: 437 5266.

PARISH STAFF: Fr Chris Martin sm (pp), Fr Peter McDermott sm,
Fr Trevor Tindall sm, Fr John Craddock sm.
Janet Ponifasio, Glennis McSherry.

Deacons: John Kooge, Jim Nees, Nimo Ponifasio.

Online at: www.whangareicatholic.org.nz Email: sfx@whangareicatholic.org.nz

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 December 2018 Year C

Next Week's Readings: (Second Sunday of Advent)

Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1: 3-6, 8-11; Luke 3: 1-6

What would you like for Christmas this year?

As our thoughts turn to Advent and preparing for Christmas, there is so much around us urging us to buy. "Have you got your stocking stuffers?" was one sign that jumped out at me in a shop. It all adds to the pressure and stress at this time.

A lovely part of Christmas is giving and receiving of gifts. I know that sometimes we may really struggle to find the right gift for someone but usually they are well received if we give them with love. I wonder though just how often do we translate a certain passivity on to God: of hoping the right gift will be given to us and so we don't ask? Have you ever thought of asking God for what you would like for Christmas? I don't mean a new dress or a set of golf clubs....but a spiritual gift ..maybe even a slightly miraculous gift? Like asking God to help mend a broken relationship or bring someone back that we have been estranged from? Maybe it might be the gift of patience with a difficult family member or a relief from a traumatic event. God ultimately is the giver of all good gifts. The greatest gift given was in a stable at Bethlehem. If we can claim that we are God's beloved children why would we not ask very specifically for what we need. Sometimes God I believe is waiting for us to ask in faith. Turning our hearts to God in this time of Advent is to wait expectantly for God to surprise us. May we all have a blessed journey through Advent.

Fr Peter



Sacrament of Reconciliation Pre Christmas Opportunities at St Francis Xavier Church

Friday 14 December 11:30am - 12 noon.

Saturday 15 December 11:30am - 12 noon

Wednesday 19 December – RITE II 7:30pm.

Friday 21 December 11:30am - 12 noon, 4pm – 5pm, 7pm - 8pm

Saturday 22 December 11.30am – 12 noon .

Ruakaka Reconciliation Rite II

Tuesday 11 December 7pm at Holy Family Church.

The Pope's Monthly Intentions.

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month. The Intention for December is **Evangelization – In the Service of the Transmission of Faith.** That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.



Rosary Crusade For Life and Faith

Next Saturday 8 December 3pm here in our Church

The New Zealand government is looking at reforming our Abortion Laws and legalising Euthanasia. In response, a group of lay Catholics have organised this Pro-Life (from conception to natural death) Rosary Crusade to be held on 8th December, the Feast of the immaculate Conception, at 3 pm. "There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that cannot be solved by the prayer of the Holy Rosary" Our Lady of Fatima

Fit for Mission. Advent is a time to prioritise God, overcome indifference.

Calling for nominations for three places on the Parish Pastoral Council

- o Nomination forms are available in the Church foyer or at the Parish Office
- o Nominations close Sunday 16 December
- o Voting will take place from Monday 17 December till Sunday 23 December.

Madeleine Armstrong and Sharlene Crawford's term of three years has finished so they are automatically standing down, but are available for re-election and Martin O'Sullivan resigned last December. Those remaining on the Council are: Camron Muriwai, Dcn Jim Nees, John Mellisop, Tom Joseph, Shaji Cherian and Bill Thiele.

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion. Are you available to minister at any of our Christmas Masses? There is a list on the table in the foyer (under the Roster). Please either tick the box for the Mass you are available for or email gpmccarrison@gmail.com If your name is missing from the list and you are willing to help, please put your name in one of the blank spaces at the bottom of the form or email Geradine.

IMPORTANT DATES

- o **Monday 3 December:** Feast Day of St Francis Xavier.
- o **Saturday 8 December:** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

THOUGHT FOR ADVENT: "May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives."

CAROL SERVICES "Get into the true spirit of Christmas"

♦ **Maungakaremea Shared Meal and Carols.** Today Sunday 2 December at Maungakaremea War Memorial Hall, Maungakaremea. Join us at for a shared meal at 5pm followed by a Carol Service at 7pm.

♦ **Onerahi Combined Carol Service.** Sunday 9 December at 7pm in the Onerahi Community Hall. All welcome.

♦ **Combined Anglican and Catholic Church Carol Service.** Sunday 16 December 5pm at the Anglican Church, (Christ Church) Regent. Come and join in this celebration of Christmas with family and friends!

♦ **Open-Air Carol Service Outside McLeod Bay Hall, Stuart Road, McLeod Bay.** You are invited to an open-air Carol Service on Sunday 16 December between 6.30 - 8.30pm hosted by Whangarei Heads Pioneer Church. The venue is Music by the Salvation Army band. Kai provided (sausage sizzle burger and salad). Please bring your own seating (chair/blanket etc)."

♦ **Carols at Whangarei Base Hospital.** Wednesday 19 December. Meet in the Chapel at 12 noon. All very welcome to come and spread good cheer.

No Choir practice on 3 December, we resume on Monday 10 December



Garage Sale - 8 December 2018.

A group of Pompallier College students are beginning to raise funds for an exciting school trip to Europe in 2020. They are going to have a Garage Sale in the Parish Hall on 8 December 6.30am. If you have any goods you would like to donate they can be dropped off to the parish Office before 8 December. Thank you for your support.

Society of St Vincent de Paul.

Parish Food Basket: Thank you for your continued support. Donations of tinned sweetcorn, tinned spaghetti, tinned carrots and tinned peas are our greatest need at present.

Meetings: The last meeting for 2018 is Thursday 6 December at 5pm in Eymard House.

Christmas Gifts: We are looking for **unwrapped gifts** for our Christmas parcels for teens and younger children. e.g. cars, balls, blocks, books, body wash, playing cards, hair and nail products. Chocolate and tinned biscuits are always welcome. Donations need to be taken to the Parish Office by Friday 7 December please. Gifts will then be delivered to families. Thank you.



Youth News Hearts Aflame Catholic Summer School. 4

January to 13 January 2019 10 epic days of prayer, community, formation and discernment for Catholics aged 18-35. www.heartsaflame.org.nz to register. See poster in foyer. **Flame Group** (ages 7-12 years) next meet on Wednesday 5 December 5.30pm-7pm.

St Francis Xavier Catholic School

is continuing their initiative to spread the Word of God and ensure that all new, new entrant families coming to our school will have a family Bible. Our school wishes to gift a Bible to each new entrant family. The cost of each Bible is \$34.99. If you are able to assist us towards the cost of this initiative please contact Maria Wilson at School.



It costs \$5,270.24 to run the parish each week. This week we received \$5,556.40 from all collections. Thank you.



Please remember the Parish in your Will