SUNDAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER: (From Sunday 30 December)
Mass 6:00pm, (Saturday Vigil),
8:00am, 10:00am. (Sunday)

RUAKAKA
10:30am Mass 30 December, 6,13, 27 January.
10:30am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion 20 January.

HIKURANGI
8:00am Mass 6 January.
10:00am Mass 20 January.
10:00am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion 30 December, 13 and 27 January

WHANGAREI HEADS
10:00am Community Service 30 December.
6:00pm Vigil Mass Saturday 5 January
8:30am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion 13, 27 January.

NGUNGURU
5:00pm Mass Sunday 30 December.

MAUNGATAPERE & MAUNGAKARAMEA
No Mass or Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion until February 2019.

MAORI MIHA
No Maori Miha until February 2019.

WEEKDAY MASS AFTER CHRISTMAS

Week day Mass, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8:00am to Thursday 31 January.

The usual weekday Mass programme will resume on Friday 1 February 2019

From after Christmas until normal programme resumes,
Sacrament of Reconciliation will be by appointment.
(You may like to contact one of the priests after weekday Mass)

The Parish office will be closed from
1pm Friday 21 December
and reopens 8:30am on Tuesday 22 January 2019.

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, Gopika Kuruppath, Evar Davis, Adrian Durcan (*Adelaide, brother to Anne and Reg Sweeney)*

Recently deceased: Vic Treacher, *(husband of Joan),* Patricia (Pat) Hayes

Anniversaries: Harry Aben, Jack Cebalo, Ken McKay, Graeme Palmer, Peter Cox.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish

ST FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH
Hato Werahiko Kaweria
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

CHRISTMAS ISSUE 2018

Buon Natale

There is something wonderful and enriching in learning another language. Through the language one gets a deeper insight to a culture. While we simply say "*Happy Christmas*" – I suspect that for most people the connection is with the Father Christmas. But I notice that in our country even he might be going out of vogue in terms of what is socially acceptable.

There is to me something simple about the Italian greeting: **buon** means good. **Natale** means Birth (as in neo natal unit for prem babies). So to wish some one Buon Natale we might think more explicitly about the good birth of Jesus.

I didn't send many Christmas cards; but I did use the St Vincent de Paul Cards which have *"Put Christ into Christmas"* on the Envelope.

Sadly, Christmas is becoming notably more frantic. I heard on the Radio today that the most stressful time is 12:59 p.m.!! Trying to serve the Christmas Dinner??

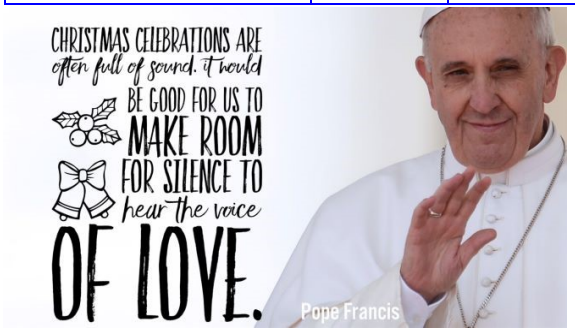
Thank you to you all for all you gift of yourselves to build up the Body of Christ whose birth we celebrate.

Our prayer for each of you is for a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas and New year.

As you may know, I will be away in Rome – returning in early March.
I will pray for you all.

Chris Martin s.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE 24th (Monday)	5:00pm 6:00pm	VIGIL MASS FAMILY MASS	Ngunguru } St Francis Xavier
	11:30pm	CAROLS	} St Francis Xavier
CHRISTMAS DAY (Tuesday)	12:00am	MIDNIGHT MASS	} St Francis Xavier
	8.00am	MASS	} St Francis Xavier
	10.00am	MASS	} St Francis Xavier
	7:30am	MASS	Whangarei Heads
	9:00am	MASS	Maungakaramea
	10:30am	MASS	Ruakaka
	10:30am	MASS	Hikurangi



Solemnity of Mary The Holy Mother of God.

You are invited to start the New Year in a prayerful way. All are welcome to attend Mass at SFX Church 8am Tuesday 1 January 2019.

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion.

The plans for Christmas Masses are on the wall in the gathering area of the Church. We still need Ministers for Midnight, 8am and 10am Masses. Please write your name on the plan if you are available. Please look to see what Mass you are rostered on and arrive at least 15 minutes prior to Mass and process in as usual with the priest.

Proclaimers of the Word for Christmas Masses.

6pm: K O'Reilly, M Newton,
Carols: C Beentjes, H Grey
Midnight: D Roughan, A Williams.
8am: C Stenberg, L Croucher.
10am: L Luna, P Butler

From the Parish Pastoral Council.
May the miracle of Christmas fill your heart with joy and peace.

Thank you to those who have visited us in the Parish Office over the past year. It has been a pleasure to have been of service to you all. We have enjoyed meeting new parishioners and also the many new families. For the many kind parishioners who have helped in the office and considerably lightened our work load, we thank you.

"*Volunteers wear working boots but leave a trail of angel footsteps*"

May the timeless message of Christmas fill your heart and home with joy now and throughout the coming year.

Janet and Glennis.

CHRISTMAS THOUGHT: May God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas, which is love; the radiance of Christmas, which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice; the belief in Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

Parish Pastoral Council Elections. We received three nominations for the three vacancies on the Parish Pastoral Council. Congratulations to Madeleine Armstrong, Sharlene Crawford and Brad Clifton. Rahul Rejumon has been co opted to represent the Youth and Ben Lim has been co opted to represent the Filipino community.

A warm invitation for all families to join with the parish in celebrating Mass on Christmas Eve at 6pm in our Church. Any child wishing to be part of the Gospel dramatisation should come dressed as an Angel or Shepherd and sit with your families till you are called.

Christmas Masses and Holiday Timetable. Additional copies are available in the foyer. Also online at www.whangareicatholic.org.nz

The Society of St Vincent de Paul wish to thank parishioners for their generous support this year with donations and food. Huge thanks also to the families of St Francis Xavier school who donated food through their Mufti days To those who have purchased gifts to be given out for Christmas, we thank you so much for your kindness and spirit of giving. A lot of families will now have a CHRISTMAS! *We wish you all a blessed Christmas. Anna Williams*

Thank you from the Catholic Caring Foundation. The Foundation would like to sincerely thank all parishioners for their prayers and support of Bishop Pat's Foundation, throughout 2018. Through your support, the Foundation was able to give grants to over 50 organisations who care and support families and communities in need throughout the diocese. We couldn't have done this without your support. Thank you. We wish you and your loved ones a blessed and safe Christmas.
www.caringfoundation.org.nz

The statue of "Our Lady" in our Church has now been bolted to the wooden shelf.

Welcome Newcomers - please make yourself known to a greeter before Mass. Please take a *New Parishioner Pack* from the Church foyer, fill out and return to the Parish Office.

Parking for Christmas Masses. There is extra parking available in the School grounds on the courts and in the Marist clubrooms car park.

Baptism Course. The next Baptism Course is Sunday 3rd and 10th February 2019 2pm – 3.30pm. Please contact Janet at the Parish Office after 22 January 2019 to register for this Course.

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.

Blaze and Flame Youth Groups.
A huge thank you to our parish for the wholehearted support that you have given us over the past year. It is very much appreciated.

Merry Christmas from St Francis Xavier Catholic School. The staff, Board of Trustees and children wish to pass on their thanks to the parish community for their support over the past year. God bless you all and have a wonderful, Holy Christmas.

It costs $5,270.24 to run the parish each week. This week we received $5,512.80 from all collections. Thank you.

Please remember the Parish in your Will