



St. Francis de Sales
8 Finchley Rd, Torbay



EAST COAST BAYS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

PARISH TEAM:

PRIESTS: **FR. CARLO CRUZ**
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LITURGY & PASTORAL
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PARISH OFFICE:

Phone: 09 478-4565

Website: www.eastcoastbayscatholic.org.nz

E-mail: office@ecbcatholic.org.nz

MONTHLY CHILDREN'S MASS:

3rd Sunday: 9.00am Mass St. John's
Church (except for the month of January).
Contact Lindy lindy@willplan.co.nz

MASS TIMES:

	ST FRANCIS	ST JOHN'S
Monday	-	9.15am
Tuesday	10.00am	-
Wednesday	-	9.15am
Thursday	10.00am	-
Friday	-	9.15am
Saturday	8.00am	5.30pm
Sunday	7.30am, 10.30am	9.00am

RECONCILIATION:

St. Francis: Saturday after 8.00am Mass
St. Johns: Saturday 5.00pm before Vigil

MONTHLY MASSES:

RETIREMENT VILLAGES

3rd Friday: Fairview 11.00am

4th Friday: Hugh Green 11.00am

FURTHER CONTACTS:

Children's Liturgy: Bill barsfamily@xtra.co.nz

Family Groups: Lindsay & Colin 021 082 95605

Music: Matt matthewdavis26@hotmail.com

RCIA: Deacon Dave 021 210 0642

Safeguarding: Iona safeguarding@ecbcatholic.org.nz

Baptisms: baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz

Secular Franciscans: Linda 479-6469

St. Vincent de Paul: Anne 479-8840

Youth: Joseph M.

St. Johns School: 09-478-7734



St. John the Baptist
87 Hastings Rd, Mairangi Bay

REFLECTION FOR THE 4th SUNDAY OF Ordinary Time: Fr Carlo

In today's Gospel, we hear a declaration of the true identity of Jesus: "I know who you are — the holy One of God!" Biblical scholars call it an indirect theophany, i.e., a manifestation of the Divinity of Jesus by another other than God Himself. It is just ironic that such declaration came from an unclean spirit that possessed a man in the synagogue. In response to such declaration, Jesus rebuked the evil spirit sharply and commanded, "Be quiet! Come out of the man!" Jesus obviously was not flattered by the declaration.

In some other parts of the Gospels, Peter also made an indirect theophany when, in response to Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" he declared in behalf of the Apostles, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). Jesus commended Peter for such declaration. It is worth noting that Jesus said to Peter, "Blessed are you, Simon..." while to the evil spirit Jesus said, "Be quiet!" Both Peter and the evil spirit made the same declaration. But the same declaration received a different response from Jesus.

What accounts for the difference? The evil spirit simply made a declaration of fact. Peter made a declaration of faith. The devil cannot avoid the fact. Jesus is God. But it is simply a dry fact for the devil. Even if he does not want to, the devil has no choice but to acknowledge it. The devil may have even uttered it in fear.

For Peter, it was different. It was a declaration borne out of love, out of a personal relationship with Jesus.

Every Sunday, we go to church and profess and declare our faith in the living God. But we are not simply there to declare a fact. If we do that, our declaration will be no different from that of the devil. We need more than a declaration of fact. God does not need to be reminded of the fact of His divinity. He does not need a massage to the divine ego. He knows it from eternity. But God does long to hear a declaration of faith and love from His children. So what is it for us — fact or faith?

Lord, You have no need of my praise, but my desire to thank You is itself Your gift. My prayer of praise adds nothing to Your greatness but makes me grow in Your grace.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SWITCH OFF YOUR PHONES

Liturgy of the Word on Mondays

Please note:

On Mondays there is no Morning Mass.

We will have Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion.

You are all invited to join us 9.15am at St John's Church. Thank you to the lay leaders who have already stepped up to help.



Thank you to all of you who joined, celebrated and helped us on Sunday for **St Francis de Sales Feast Day** and Fr Emile's birthday. A special thanks to the hospitality team.

Legion of Mary

You are invited to attend our morning tea on **Sunday 11, February** after 10.30am Mass to celebrate the Feast Day of **Our Lady of Lourdes** at St Francis de Sales, Torbay.

Our Legion of Mary Group are hosting this jointly with our Indonesian Group.



28/01/24 4th Week in Ordinary Time

Deut. 18:15-20, Psalm 95, p.104
1Corinthians 7:32-35
Gospel of Mark 5:1-20

04/02/24 5th Week in Ordinary Time

Psalm 147A p.156
1.Job 7:1-4,6-7
2.1Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23
Gospel of Mark 1:29-39 Creed

CATHOLIC SCHOOL PREFERENCE FORMS

Fr Carlo and Fr Emile will be available to sign the forms on **Wednesdays, 10am - 12 noon & 1-3pm for a 15minute slot. Please make an appointment through:**
office@ecbcatholic.org.nz

Please remember our sick in your prayers:

Bruce R; Joanna R; Jill C; Stacey; Jenny F; Jenny J; Kim C; Jean A; Jim A; Murray F; Shirley B; Ivy P; Suzanne Y; Peggy J; Verena K; Anthony T; Mary M-G; Wayne L; Deny C; Yvonne D; Marinai K; Myra B; Louise D; Eileen M; Eileen McG; Maureen N; Eugene; Sanny L; Maria J; Kevin D; Tony J, Katarina L., Wan L

Baptism Preparation Course:

Tuesday 13 Feb, 7pm.

Registration is necessary.

See the website at <https://eastcoastbayscatholic.org.nz/2023/03/09/baptism/>

Contact baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz

Presentation of a child to the Christian Community.

We will be welcoming Rae-Lynn and Faith to the Parish Family during the 9am Mass at St John the Baptist this week. Please welcome them and their families.



Stations of the Cross

Fridays in Lent, 7pm in both Churches.

We are looking for volunteers who would like to lead them. Please contact the office at

office@ecbcatholic.org.nz



ADORATION

The first Friday of the month, 6-9pm
(St John's church)

Thursdays, 10.30-11.30am
(St Francis church)



January: There is no Exposition of the Holy Sacrament

The Parish Office is currently closed on Wednesdays.

MASS MINISTRIES:

03/04 FEBRUARY 2024

5.30pm: St. John's

SACRISTAN: MARGARET McL.

WELCOME: CARL E.

PROJECTIONIST: ETHAN E.

GREETER: KATHLEEN M.

READERS: AMESH W., THARUSHI W.

Holy COMMUNION: BARRY R., TUSI H., ANN R.,
DEBORAH E., CRYSTAL P.

7.30am: St. Francis

SACRISTAN: TONY J.

WELCOME: VIVIENNE W.

PROJECTIONIST: TONY J.

GREETER: EMMA A.

READERS: HENRY S.

Holy COMMUNION: LYNNE S., LINDA A.,
MARIA J.

9.00am: St. John's

SACRISTAN: THERESA B.

WELCOME: VOLUNTEER

PROJECTIONIST: JANE V.

GREETER: SANDRA A.

READERS: IBRAHIM N., LAWRENCE R.

Holy COMMUNION: MIKE W., MAURICE L., MICHAEL B.,
RAAD N., RICHARD B.

10.30am: St. Francis

SACRISTAN: VOLUNTEER

WELCOME: GEOFFREY C.

PROJECTIONIST: ELENA R.

GREETER: VOLUNTEER

READERS: HIPOLD D., JOSEPH A.

Holy COMMUNION: HELEN S., STEPHANIE R.

CRAFT & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Wednesday, 14 February,
1-3pm (St John's)

For more information, please phone
Judith at 027 825 2319.



THE LIVING WATER PRAYER GROUP

Invite you to join us **Mondays 7.15 - 9pm**, at St John's church.
For more information, please contact Nola 0276666857

WEEKLY DIARY:

SUNDAY - 28 Jan—Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time

MONDAY - 29 January—St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr

9.15am **Liturgy of the Word, St. John's Church**

7.14pm **Living Waters, Prayers, St. John's Church**

TUESDAY - 30 January

10.00am **Mass, St. Francis Church**

WEDNESDAY - 31 January—St John Bosco, Priest

9.15am **Mass St. John's Church**

THURSDAY - 01 February—The Conversion of St Paul

10.00am **Mass, St. Francis Church**

FRIDAY - 02 February—The Presentation of the Lord

9.15am **Mass, St. John's Church**

SATURDAY - 03 February

8.00am **Mass, St. Francis Church**

Fundraising Account for donations specifically towards the upgrade of the presbytery.

East Coast Bays Parish Fundraising account:

02-0108-0707702-003 (BNZ), Reference: 'Presbytery' and your gifting number.

For questions or feedback: office@ecbcatholic.org.nz.

Our Parish Office needs support!

If you are friendly and welcoming, have a high level of written and spoken English and are IT savvy you might like to consider applying for one of the positions.

Position 1: Office & Communications Assistant

To support the office team in communications activities and processes for the parish and ensure all parishioners are kept informed and supported through different channels of communication. This includes preparing the weekly newsletter and assisting with the updating of the parish website and social media.

Position 2: Liturgy & Pastoral Coordinator

Prepare the efficient delivery and coordination of all sacraments and liturgical celebrations which enhance the parish community of East Coast Bays Parish. This role includes supporting and coordinating processes, programmes and volunteers, and making sure that the parish's liturgical and pastoral needs are met.

Hours: 12-15 hours/week (with some flexibility)

Location: 395 East Coast Road, Mairangi Bay
Detailed Job Descriptions are available on request.

Contact: beate@ecbcatholic.org.nz

Sacramental Programme 2024

Registrations close on 28 February 2024

Our sacramental programme encompasses the education for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion. Materials are prepared to support this education and future development. We aim to help families and individuals see that the Sacraments of The Catholic Church have an ongoing place in our lives and can bring our parish community closer together.

For information and registration see: <https://eastcoastbayscatholic.org.nz/2023/04/04/2023-east-coast-bays-parish-sacramental-programme/>

Parish Collection: 19-25 Jan 2024: \$6,203.53

Donate to East Coast Bays Parish:

02-0108-0707702-000 (BNZ)

Please indicate your gifting number for a donation receipt at the end of the financial year.

If you don't have one, contact beate@ecbcatholic.org.nz

If you see any damages or maintenance concerns on the parish buildings, please contact the office or drop a note in one of the donation/feedback slots in the back of the churches. **Thank you**

LENT 2024

14 February is Ash Wednesday

9:15 am and 6.00 pm Mass at St John's

Please bring your palms from last year to the Church. There will be a basket in the Church foyer.



RCIA Programme

Are you interested in becoming part of a team welcoming new members to the church and the parish community?

Training is available.

office@ecbcatholic.org.nz

Is God calling you to walk in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi?

The Secular Franciscans meet at St John's Church every 2nd Sunday of the month at 4pm.



Contact: Linda Atkinson 09-4796469

Titipounamu Study & Joy

Bible Stories—What do they mean?

Join us in unravelling Bible stories and looking for answers within a group, and with Bible Scholar Kieran Fenn fms. Sunday, 04 Feb, 03 Mar, 07 Apr & 05 May 2024, 5-6pm (Zoom). Koha.

The Mystery of Miracles

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/01/11/the-mystery-of-miracles/>

Mondays, 08/15/22/29 April 2024, 7-8.30pm

\$25/session or \$80/series incl. study material.

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz



DIOCESAN NEWS & NEWS from the VATICAN

Bishops' Lenten Appeal 2024 envelopes are now available in the foyers.

This year's theme is 'The time is now!'



What about the Synod? The Synod on Synodality was not just a meeting in Rome in October. This week the Synod Secretariat issues guidelines *Towards October 2024* for how local Churches continue the journey together exploring the question "HOW can we be a synodal Church in mission?". Regional opportunities for holding conversations around this theme will be held post Easter that the diocese might participate in this phase. To find out more head to <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/synod/>. Details about the sessions will be available early 2024.

WAITANGI DAY 2024 MIHA All are welcome to celebration of Mass in Te Reo Māori and English to pray for our nation as we acknowledge the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in 1840.

Miha (Mass) will be celebrated at Whaiora Marae, 14 Ōtara Road, Ōtara beginning with a Pōwhiri at 8.30am on Tuesday 6th February 2024. Following Mass there will be refreshments and a talk on Te Tiriti o Waitangi. For more information email ManuelB@cda.org.nz

Past, present members of the **Diocesan Commission for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations**, and those interested in these aspects of Church life are invited to a meeting to explore how the diocese moves forward in these important relations particularly in light of the Synod's call to engage. Bring your interest, enthusiasm and ideas. Wednesday 7 February Poynton Room Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 6.30-8.00pm. RSVP pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz by 5 February

A conversation with Monsignor Tomáš Halík. Help my Unbelief! How can we find the "Galilee of Today"? Ordained secretly as an underground priest, Tomáš Halík is now theologian at Charles University Prague. Come and listen to Mons Halík. St Columba Centre 5 February 2024 7.30pm. Followed by supper. Please RSVP Fr Merv Duffy m.duffy@ctc.ac.nz by 2 Feb

Approved Diocesan Marriage Preparation Course

Are you getting married? Please book your Diocesan Marriage Preparation course here: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/our-courses/> Please book 1 year (if getting married in NZ) or 18 months (if getting married overseas) in advance of your wedding date. The 3-part course takes about 32 hours to complete and is usually spread over 3 months.

For more information email: marriageandfamily@cda.org.nz or call Gerry on M:021 02247442.

Pope Francis:

"Our life must be centred on what is essential, on Jesus Christ. Everything else is secondary."

Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Ministry:

www.facebook.com/AKCYM, www.instagram.com/acym2

Catholic University Chaplaincy:

Contact Robbie – robbiedlv@cda.org.nz

JOSHUA Catholic Men's Fellowship

First meeting for 2024:

Wed 31 Jan at St Josephs Centre, Takapuna. All men are invited to join for a cuppa and fellowship.

NZ Catholic available in the foyer.

Price: \$4.

The next issue will be available at the end of January.

Pay in cash or online to the parish account.

