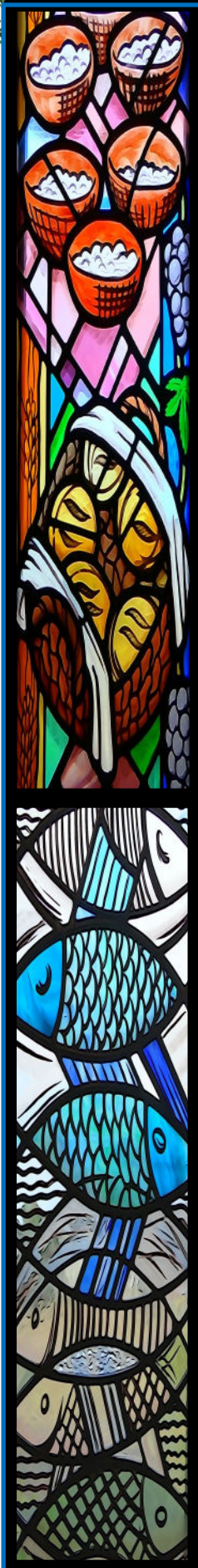


FRANKIE & JOHNNY

CHRISTMAS EDITION 2023



EAST COAST BAYS
CATHOLIC PARISH



EAST COAST BAYS CATHOLIC PARISH

Fr. Carlo Cruz fr.carlo@ecbcatholic.org.nz

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Dcn David Marshall deacondavenz@me.com

Beate Matthies beate@ecbcatholic.org.nz
Operations & Finance Manager

Liturgy & Pastoral Coordinator (TBA)

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Volunteer Teams:

Baptisms baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz

Database volunteer@ecbcatholic.org.nz

Rosters roster@ecbcatholic.org.nz

Sacraments sacraments@ecbcatholic.org.nz

Safeguarding safeguarding@ecbcatholic.org.nz

Mass Times:

	St Francis	St John's
Tuesdays	10.00am	-
Wednesdays	-	9.15am
Thursdays	10.00am	-
Fridays	-	9.15am
Saturdays	8.00am	5.30pm (Vigil)
Sundays	7.30am 10.30am	9.00am -

Reconciliation: Sat, after Mass Sat, 5.00pm

Adoration: Thu, 10.30am 1st Fri/month, 6pm

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm

www.eastcoastbayscatholic.org.nz



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



Dear brothers and sisters,

I wish you all my Prayerful Greetings as we enter the Christmas Season. The story of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ is a reminder to us all that God came to live among us, to be close to us, and to save us from our sins. Jesus gave us himself as a gift to us. It is a story that still rings true today. Even in the midst of what's happening in our world, Jesus is with us. He is close to us because he lives in our hearts where he continues to be a gift to us. Jesus does not keep us at a distance from Him. Because of His presence in each one of us, we are also present and connected to one another.

As we celebrate the Nativity of Jesus, we remain eternally grateful to God for all the blessings, especially for the gifts of life, family, and our community. I take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely as you have been such a blessing to our parish by being active and continually supporting us with your gifts of time, talent and treasure. My special gratitude goes to all the volunteers in our different ministries who do such a wonderful job in serving the various needs of our parish with much enthusiasm and commitment. I hope and pray that you will have a wonderful and blessed time during this Christmas Season. May God bless you abundantly during this Christmas as well as during the New Year.

Now let us pray for God's Blessings:

God, our Creator, we pray for joy in our hearts, hope in our God, love to forgive, and peace upon the earth. We ask for the salvation of all our family members and friends, and we pray for your blessings on all people.

Lord, fill us with the wonder of Blessed Virgin Mary, the obedience of St. Joseph, the song and the joy of the angels, the eagerness and gladness of the shepherds, the determination and the worship of the magi, and the peace of infant Jesus in the Manger.

I pray for all the families of our Parish, your loved ones, especially in this season of Christmas. May Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you all now and forever. Amen

Blessings,
Fr Carlo

My dear Parishioners here in the East Coast Bays Parish.

We are coming to the end of the year 2023, and so it's a great time to reflect on all that has happened in 2023. Much to think about. And so very much to be thankful for. We are on this missionary journey together, hearing the call of Jesus to have Him at the centre of our lives – in our heart – and live the Christ life fully every day. We all have received special gifts from God, and these gifts are to be shared. Here in this parish I am so blessed to witness the way the great Commandment of God – 'love of God and neighbour' – is very much lived out.



The way you give of yourselves to care for those in need, and how you serve in the parish in so many ways – Really Wonderful. As we celebrate the Birth of Jesus this Christmas, we thank God for this special Gift, and continue to build our Faith Community day by day. May God's blessings fill you all with His love & care. Thank You, Jesus, for Your loving care. Amen.

Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Fr. Emile



Kia ora

This **Frankie & Johnny** has been a last minute project and has been carried out on request of some parishioners who have asked to continue the tradition of an end-of-year magazine.

As you are holding it in your hands or are reading it on the screen, please remember that this is just a snapshot through the parish life at East Coast Bays.

There have been so many parishioners who have contributed immensely to the parish life—some in the background and some more visibly. They have supported me in looking after the premises, have participated in working bees, have helped in the office, have made sure that things went smoothly during Mass etc.

I am reluctant to name anybody in particular as I don't want to miss any of these volunteers. So, this magazine is dedicated to all those who have actively contributed to the parish—and to those who would like to contribute in the future.....

There are many ways of getting involved. If you read further, you might find a group or an activity that could inspire you.

Please remember to [check the website](#) for more information on groups and events in the parish.

Many blessings,

Beate



Farewell to Fr Aleiandro



Welcome to Fr Carlo Cruz



Fr Umile - Fische神父 (Assistant), Michael Bravenboer (PPC Chair), Fr Carlo Cruz (Parish Priest), Juny Rogers (Finance Committee Chair)

The **AGM Parish Report** is still available on the website at [About Us](#).



Michael Bravenboer



Judith Lunny



Thomas Breinhorst

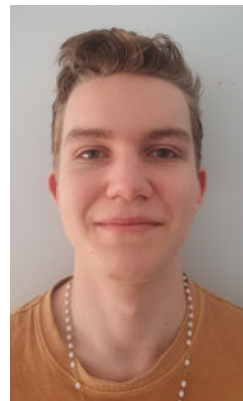
**There are two new PPC groups:
the Hospitality Group and the Youth Group.
Do you want to join them or support them every now and then?**



Tam Fatialofa



Joseph Marr



Henry Sharpe



Cathy Flynn

News from the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is currently investigating a couple of major projects:

1. The Presbytery
2. Audio-Visual Systems in both churches
3. Drainage improvements (St Francis)

While the projects 2 and 3 will depend on evaluating reasonable quotes and then taking decisions as good stewards, the first project is the project that has been postponed for many years.

Some parishioners might remember the dreams of a new purpose-built presbytery in the times of Fr John Webb (more than 10 years ago). As a result of these plans to replace the building, only necessary maintenance has been carried out in the presbytery since.

The Strategic Working Group and the current Finance Committee have identified two options to move towards a presbytery that is “fit for purpose”:

- 1. Full-fledged refurbishment, incl. re-wiring and replacing all windows (and possibly the roof).**
- 2. Replacing the current presbytery with a pre-fab building.**

Both options would result in a presbytery that could accommodate 2 priests and a visitor, i.e. 3 separate ensuites and one shared living space.

Depending on the extent of renovation necessary, the replacement might be cheaper than the refurbishment.

As soon as the Finance Committee has tangible figures and plans for the presbytery, the parishioners will be invited for a Special General Meeting to decide on the way forward.

In order to tackle the big project of renewing the presbytery, it will be paramount to have the support of the parishioners. We invite you to start fundraising for the presbytery. We have a special bank account for Fundraising activities. The donations to this account will be used only for the purposes that you identify in your reference, e.g. **Reference: Presbytery**

East Coast Bays **Fundraising Account** 02-0108-0707702-003

We keep track of these donations on our website at:

<https://eastcoastbayscatholic.org.nz/2023/02/10/fundraising-projects/>

Thank you for your support.



Snapshots of some Groups in the Parish

See more on the website at [ABOUT US](#)

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

We have had a busy year supplying 142 food parcels to people in our parish area. This has increased significantly since the middle of the year and consequently we have struggled to keep up with foodbank supplies. We are fortunate that



there has been an excellent response to our food drive and we are very grateful for all the help.

There are donation slots for St Vincent de Paul in the church foyers.

Is God calling you to walk in the footsteps of

St Francis of Assisi?

You are invited to join the Secular Franciscans for their regular meetings at St John the Baptist Church, every 2nd Sunday of the month at 4pm.



The Living Water Prayer Group

We believe in the authority and teachings of the Catholic Church; we believe in the works of the Holy Spirit in our lives & we believe that God speaks to us through His Word – the Bible. We meet every Monday at 7:15pm to deepen our relationship with Jesus and each other through praise & worship, learning, prayer, and fellowship. We have different ministries like Intercessory, Healing, Caring, Hospitality; that help us grow spiritually & share the Good News.

Passionist Family Group

PASSIONIST
FAMILY GROUP
MOVEMENT



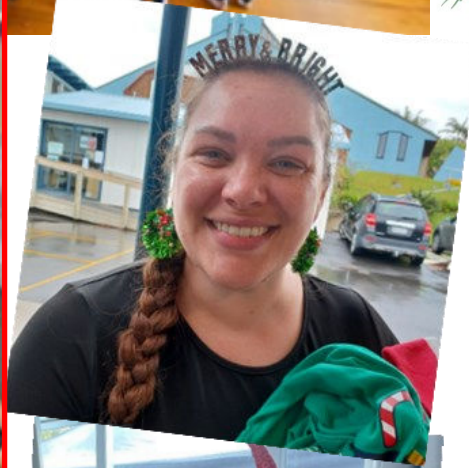
Family Groups have been active in the parish for over 20 years. Each of the nine groups meet monthly for no or low cost activity. These gatherings allow people to get to know one another, form friendships, have fun and quite simply joyfully experience Christian life with others.

Passionist Family Groups are for everyone, no matter what age or family circumstances.

Our motto "A Family for All".



Parish Christmas Celebration 2023





Parish Formation 2023

Faith Formation

Dcn Steve Fraser & Dianna Fouhy

Ministry of the Word

Suzie McCarthy

Altar Servers

Fr Carlo Cruz

Extraordinary Ministry of the Eucharist

Fr Mark Napa

3 Steps for Life

St John Ambulance



**In case you don't know
where the Defibrillators are...
They are in the Sacristies!
The school also has an AED on site.**

Many thanks to all our volunteers in the parish!

We have some volunteers who are part of teams that are using a parish email. So, please know that they are volunteers who might not always answer to your emails immediately.

Baptism Team: baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz
Sandra Armstrong & Emma Anthony

Database Team: volunteer@ecbcatholic.org.nz
Jo Ramsay & Anthony Moorcroft

Sacramental Programme Team: sacraments@ecbcatholic.org.nz
Iona Breinhorst, Amanda Dixon-McIver, Blaize D'Souza, Lindy Williams

Roster Team: roster@ecbcatholic.org.nz

The **Living Water Prayer Group**, along with a few parishioners, led the 2023 **Alpha programme** in the parish.

Sharing the Alpha course with their parishioners has led to great fellowship as each session began with delicious food and a cup of tea. It has created a church community where they can continue to discuss and grow in their faith. Alpha has brought new members seeking Jesus to the church and rekindled the faith, giving a better understanding of the Holy Spirit to others.



Finally, the 17 participants and 8 facilitators forged great friendships, and they have decided to continue meeting every month to keep the flame of faith alive.



Would you like to be part of a new Team?

We are looking for volunteers who can share the tasks in these groups:

- ◇ **RCIA Team:** Welcoming new members is one of the most wonderful experiences in the life of the Church. Resources and support are available. See: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/rcia/>
- ◇ **Liturgy of the Word:** Lay leaders of the Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion. Taking turns and/or leading this wonderful ministry. Training and support are available.
- ◇ **Liturgy Committee:** Planning the liturgical celebrations together with our priests. Training and support are available.

Baptisms

Ellia A., Evan A., Rome B., Stefan B., David C., Ethan C., Ben C., Madeleine C., Dione D., Sophie D.S., Giara F., Remi F., Karmelee F.B., Natalia F.B., Cleo H., Sunshine K., Madison K., Carter K., Joseph M., Liam M., Jack M., Zoe M., Renata N., Nathan O., Julia O.S., Elodie R., Destielle S., Regan T., Summer U., Oliver W., Penny W., Theodore W.

Confirmations

Thomas C., Samantha C., Clemente Y., Holly C., Bronson C., Jeric D.C., Lewis D., Lorelai F., Emma G., Santiago G., Nicolas G., Zack H., Michael H., Nina H., Sophie H., Mark J., Sean J., Hara K., Aiden K., Lydia K., Silvia K., Rosie K., Angelina L., Alexander McC., Emma M., Avisha M., Mira N., John P., Kevin S., Dominic S., Trinity S., Henry S., Coralee S., Wonai S., Ventresco S., Zara T., Helena VanH., Andre W.

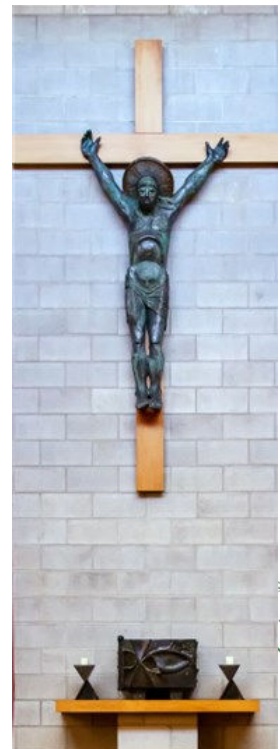
Funerals

Julia Brown, Carol Byrne, Carmel Carter, Kevin Darragh, Marie Davie, Gerard Denny, Betty Dunlop, James Flanagan, Brian Flynn, Josephine Ford, Jessica Forrest, Wendy (Maloney) Gemmell, Margaret Greene, Kazimiera Kolodzinski, Siok Hian Lauw, David Morkel, Johanna Ranner, Judith Senior, Catherine Stanaway, Colin Swindale, Damien Wannenburg, Janette Young.

Paul Dibble

designed the Crucifix and Tabernacle in St Francis Church.

He passed away on 05 Dec 2023. May he rest in peace.



Betty Dunlop

Betty was fully involved in all aspects of our church. She was a delightful lady who worked in the background for many years. Whenever there was something to do, she took it on and didn't expect acclamation.

As we approach the end of another blessed year, it is with immense gratitude and joy that I reflect on the journey we've undertaken together at St John's School. This year has been a testament to the unwavering spirit of our school community, marked by growth, faith, and a deep sense of togetherness.

At the heart of our school is a commitment to nurturing the spiritual development of our students. Throughout the year, we have engaged in meaningful religious education, prayer and liturgy, fostering a deep understanding of our Catholic faith and Josephite Character. Joining with the parish, we celebrated together at the weekly Parish Masses as well as gathering as a whole school community for our Special Feast Days. A highlight this year was the introduction of both a blessing Mass for the beginning of the year and a twilight Whānau Mass on a Friday evening.



This year, our community has come together in remarkable ways. The collaborative efforts of parish, parents, teachers, and students have strengthened the bonds that make St John's School a special place. Our community events, fundraisers, and social outreach initiatives have not only supported our school but also extended a helping hand, both financial and practical, to those in need, reflecting the true essence of Catholic teachings.

As we express our gratitude for the many blessings of this year, we also look forward to the opportunities that the coming year holds. Together, as a united and faith-filled community, we will continue to nurture the minds and spirits of our students, guiding them on a path of academic success, spiritual fulfilment, and community service.

Marina Binns, Principal - Tumuaki, St John's School

Parish Sacramental Programme

[Registration by 24 February 2024](#)

Some features of the new Sacramental Programme in the parish:

- ◇ All Sacraments are taught in one Programme.
- ◇ The Sacramental Programme is run by a Parish Team.
- ◇ The families are included in the celebration of Reconciliation.

Goal: More support for non-Catholic parents through the parish community.

Remember 1998? Computer networks were becoming more common but **Liz George** was probably using a stand alone desktop computer, St John's School roll was much smaller than it is now, no-one had heard of Bluetooth or cloud computing or YouTube and Facebook. That is what life was like when Liz joined the parish team. Soon, we felt her influence in sacramental programmes, creative additions to our Liturgy and her calm presence in the office. Liz knows everyone, knows something about most of them and has provided her special brand of support to many grateful people over the years. With all this going on, she and Doug have raised three gorgeous and talented daughters and Liz has maintained her outside interests.



During her time living and working in our parish, Liz has seen big changes in our parish demographics and the different spirituality that accompanied that. How many parish priests have stepped through the front door of the presbytery during her time serving our parish? You count because she has not had time to!

Liz, thank you for your unstinting service to our community. You are many steps closer to Heaven for your effort! May you enjoy a rest, improved health and time to enjoy your interests.

Ewa and Tomasz will be moving out of Auckland early in 2024. Ewa and Tomasz joined us at East Coast Bays a very long time ago – I think it may have been around 2011 but it may have been even earlier. They have made an enormous contribution to music at our parish in their work with rosters, programme selection, Children's Mass, organizing Holy Week and Christmas services and above all, their lovely music at Mass. Thank you, Ewa and Tomasz. You will be missed. Please do come back and visit from time to time. (Mihály)

Invitation to the Friendship Craft & Coffee Group

East Coast Bays parish is a caring community and as part of its work to promote friendship and support for parishioners, the **Friendship Craft and Coffee Group** was developed.

The initiative began with one or two people and has developed and grown as the year has gone on. The ladies bring their own craft, which is varied and demonstrates a variety of skills. The group provided numerous articles for Fr. Alejandro's stall to support fund raising for Damian's care during his struggle with cancer before he returned home to God. Later in the year again support for the Parish was forthcoming when the group supplied morning tea for the gardening working bee.

This is a happy group of people (not gender specific) who enjoy friendship, socialising, and skill and are ending the year with a potluck dinner to celebrate enjoyment, and the growth of the group.

Thank you all for participating in the Angel Tree initiative!

This year the presents received went to De Paul House and to the Catholic parish in Kaitaia.



Baptism Preparation—next course: 13 Feb 2024

The course has 3 aims:

1. To provide an opportunity where families can come aside from the busyness of their day to focus on this special milestone and to prepare for it through discussion and reflection.

2. To connect families whose child is being welcomed into the church.

3. To look at the origins of Baptism, the church's teaching on Baptism and the role parents have as first educators.

Baptisms are held at 11.00am on the 1st Saturday of the month at St John's and the 3rd Saturday of the month at St Francis's. There are no baptisms during Lent. The baby/child is presented to the church at a Vigil or Sunday Mass prior to the baptism.

Baptism preparation courses are held regularly throughout the year.

See also: <https://eastcoastbayscatholic.org.nz/2023/03/09baptism/>



Timetables

Christmas / New Year Mass Timetable

4th Sunday of Advent (usual Sunday Masses):

Saturday, 23 Dec, 5.30pm (Vigil Mass)

Sunday, 24 Dec, 7.30am/9.00am/10.30am

Christmas Masses

Sunday, 24 Dec, 5.30pm: St Francis (Children's Mass)

Sunday, 24 Dec, 8.30pm: St John's (Christmas Eve)

Monday, 25 Dec, 9.00am: St John's (Christmas Day)

Monday, 25 Dec, 10.30am: St Francis (Christmas Day)

New Year Mass

Monday, 01 Jan, 9.15am: St John's (New Year's Day)

The office will be closed from 25 Dec 2023 to 12 Jan 2024.



Baptism Preparation—next course: 13 Feb 2024

Parish Sacramental Programme 2024

Registration by 24 February 2024

Many blessings for
Christmas
& Happy New Year