



St. Francis de Sales
8 Finchley Rd, Torbay

NEWSLETTER

PARISH TEAM:

Priest:

Fr Carlo Cruz - Parish Priest
fr.carlo@ecbcatholic.org.nz

Deacon:

David Marshall
deacondavenz@me.com

Office:

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

Bushra Bashouri
Office & Communications Assistant
bushra@ecbcatholic.org.nz

Dewshan Fernando
Liturgy Coordinator
dewshan@ecbcatholic.org.nz

PARISH OFFICE:

Phone: 09 478-4565
Website: www.eastcoastbayscatholic.org.nz
Email: office@ecbcatholic.org.nz
Address: 395 East Coast Rd, Mairangi Bay
The Parish Office is located at the back of St. John's Church and is open Mondays—Fridays, 10am—1pm

ADORATION:

1st Friday/month: 6-9pm at St. John's
Thursdays: 10.30-11.30am St. Francis

RECONCILIATION:

St. Francis: Saturdays, 8.00-8.45am
St. John's: Saturdays, 4.30-5.15pm

MASS TIMES:

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

*Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
except on Feast Days, there will be a Mass.

MONTHLY MASSES:

CHILDREN : 3rd Sunday: 9.00am Mass
St. John's Church. Children to please arrive by 8.30am. Contact Lindy lindy@willplan.co.nz
if you would like to receive a reminder email.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY :

1st Friday/month at 6pm -
followed by Adoration—St John's

RETIREMENT VILLAGES

3rd Friday/month: Fairview 11.00am
4th Friday/month: Hugh Green 11.00am

FURTHER CONTACTS:

Children's Liturgy: Bill barsfamily@xtra.co.nz
Passionist Family Groups: Shelley & Graham
Ward 027 3886114 gandsward@xtra.co.nz
Music: Matt matthewdavis26@hotmail.com
RCIA: rcia@ecbcatholic.org.nz
Safeguarding: Iona safeguarding@ecbcatholic.org.nz
Baptisms: baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz
Secular Franciscans: Lysa 021 612171
St. Vincent de Paul: Anne G. 027 3210729
Youth: Dina & Tam youth@ecbcatholic.org.nz



St. John the Baptist
87 Hastings Rd, Mairangi Bay

REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT : Fr Carlo

We have always read and heard John the Baptist's fiery words of conviction, leading people to repent of their sins to be ready for the coming of the Messiah. He castigated scribes and Pharisees for their injustices. He spoke out firmly against King Herod who took his brother's wife for his own. Yet now, he sounded like he had misgivings about Jesus as the awaited One. From his prison, where Herod had held him since he was arrested, John the Baptist sent his disciples to Jesus with a single question: "Are you the One who is to come, or should we look for another?"



The imprisonment he was going through could have shattered John's strength, physical and otherwise. His human spirit, no matter how strong, is still human, and it has its own limits. John could have thought: If he was doing God's work, and if Jesus was the powerful Messiah who comes from God, why is he not benefitting from this might and strength of God? Why did Jesus not work for him a miracle of deliverance from Herod and from prison? The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised — but what about him who had served God with the spirit of Elijah?

Prayer life goes through a cycle of ups and downs, but also the whole of our spiritual life. There are times for progress, for stagnation, for slow phase, for regress. Nothing is sure until we have finished our travel in this world. We need patience and perseverance in everything, and even with ourselves.

*Keep me in Your loving hands, Lord, that I may continue persevering in my journey to You.
Amen.*

Lord Jesus, we thank You for the gift of Fr Carlo and his priesthood. On his **Ordination Anniversary**, we pray for deep faith, burning love, and unwavering hope for him. Bless him abundantly, that he will always be guided by the Holy Spirit to strengthen him in his vocation, and fill his heart with ever increasing joy and zeal for his ministry

Amen



Upcoming Parish Events

Wednesday, 24 December, Christmas Children Mass, 5.30pm St Francis Church

Wednesday, 24 December, Christmas Eve Mass, 8.30pm St John's Church

Thursday, 25 December, Christmas Masses: 9am St John's Church, 10.30am St Francis Church

Wednesday, 31 December, New Year's Eve, 9.15am St John's Church

Thursday, 01 January, New Year's Mass, 10am St Francis Church.

Rite II Reconciliations around the North Shore Parishes—7pm

St Mary's, Northcote - Tuesday, 16 Dec.

St Thomas More, Glenfield - Wed, 17 Dec.

Maria Assumpta, Beach Haven - Fri, 19 Dec.

Rite 2 of Reconciliation (also called the Second Rite of the Sacrament of Penance) is a communal celebration of confession in the Catholic Church, where people come together as a community to prepare for forgiveness — but each person still confesses individually to a priest and receives individual absolution.

14/12/25 Third Sunday of Advent

Ps.146, P155

1. Isaiah 35:1-6,10

2. James 5:7-10

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

21/12/25 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Ps.24, P32

1. Isaiah 7:10-14

2. Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Matthew 1:18-25

CATHOLIC SCHOOL PREFERENCE FORMS

Fr Carlo will be available to sign the forms for parishioners on **Wednesdays between 10.30am -12 noon for a 10 minute slot**

Please make an appointment:

office@ecbcatholic.org.nz

No appointments during school holidays until Feb 2026

Please remember our sick in your prayers

Jenny F; Jenny J; Kim C; Jean A; Jim A; Peggy J; Wayne L; Louise D; Maria J; Kevin D; Wan L; Cooper; Cecile A; Emmy H; Elizabeth W; Oliver H; Pam W; Evelyn D; Heath B; Wolfgang Von S; Diane S; Sarah B; Key Sg; Verity R; Rima S; Pat G.; Anna J; Mary J; Wane J; Michelle P; Ross C; Miles C.; Iain R.; Kyle P.; Audrea W; Leo K; Maureen A; Marion W; Robert W.; J. D; Julie Th; Shenal G; K L; Mary J.; Ghada B.; Ann J.

Please let us know if you need prayers.

Morning Tea All are welcome

After 9.00am Mass at St John's Church, contact Nicki on 0211198153 if you would like to be part of the team.



On 21 December, after 10.30am Mass at St Francis Church, there will be a special morning tea to celebrate Fr Carlo's Ordination Anniversary. It will be organised by the Filipino Group.

There is **NO** morning tea after 10.30am Mass at St Francis Church on 14 & 28 December.

Angel Giving Tree

This year the presents will go to the Catholic Mid-North Parishes (Okaihau, Rawene, Moerewa, Paihia, Kaikohe, Russel) and Kaitia Parish. The presents will be picked up on 14 Dec 2025.

Please consider the environment when wrapping the gifts



Christmas Masses

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

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

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

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

New Year Mass

Thur, 01 Jan, 10am: St Francis

Please note:

The office will be closed from 24 Dec 2025 to 12 Jan 2026.

Many blessings for Christmas & Happy New Year

MASS MINISTRIES:

20/21 December 2025

5.30pm: St. John's

Sacristan: Mary H.

Greeter (Door): Amanda Dixon-McI.

Projectionist: Ethan E.

Welcome/Prayers: Lindsay B.

Readers: Kathleen M., Lindy W.

Holy Communion: Joanna N., Joshua G., Marcella von S., Maria N., Tusi H.

Altar Servers: Sophie H., Oscar Ch., Elena R., Teresa R.

7.30am: St. Francis

Sacristan: Farida T.

Greeter (Door): Gina H.

Projectionist: Douglas S.

Welcome/Prayers: Emma A.

Readers: Paul D'S., Vicky R.

Holy Communion: Yong D., Kathleen G., Linda A.

Altar Servers: Angela D., Liliyanna R.

9.00am: St. John's

Sacristan: Margaret Mc., Farida T.

Greeter (Door): Volunteer

Welcome/Prayers: Children Mass

Readers: Children Mass

Holy Communion: Michael B., Thomas B., Pria P., Ronin P., Tony Sm.

Altar Servers: Mason S., Millie Y., Florence Ch.

10.30am: St. Francis

Sacristan: Stephanie R.

Greeter (Door): Volunteer

Projectionist: John D.

Welcome/Prayers: Christopher N.

Readers: Alyssa M., Catherine van V.

Holy Communion: Belinda L., Helen S., Lynne L.

Altar Servers: Madeline A., Joshua & Rosemary G., Rickson K.



Passionist Family Group

Are you thinking of joining a Passionist Family Group? If so, [please get in touch with us](#). The rest of your group is waiting to meet YOU! Please contact Shelley & Graham on 0273 886 114, put your enrolment form in the collection basket or contact the [office](#).



Have you recently changed your address or contact details?

Are you new to the parish?

Would like to receive our notices and newsletters by email?

Would you like to support us? Please help us to keep the database up-to-date.

[Please register with the parish](#)



Regular Parish Activities

Friendship and Craft Group, every Wednesday, 1-3pm, Fr Quinn's Chapel, St John's Church (Judith 0278252319 or Ally 0211077980), All welcome.

The Living Water Prayer Group, every Monday, 7.15-9.00pm, St John's (Nola 0276666857 or Maurice 02102525371)

Meditation Group, every Monday after Liturgy of the Word, If you are interested in joining our Group, please get in touch [with us](#). The location might change short term.

The Secular Franciscans, every 2nd Sunday/month, 4pm, St John's (Lysa 021 612171)

Legion of Mary, every Wednesday, 4.30-5.30pm, St John's.

White Flower Café, every Tuesday, 9.30-11.30am, 88 Clyde Rd

Bible Study for Young Adults aged 19 to 35, every Friday except 1st Friday of the month, 7-9pm, Mike Byrne Room, St Francis Church contact Levi Sharpe youth@ecbcatholic.org.nz

Facebook/Videos: Pictures might be taken at special events. Please let us know if you don't like your personal photos to appear on social media.

Thank you



PLEASE REMEMBER TO SWITCH OFF YOUR PHONES



Collections/ Donations

Collection (05 December – 11 December): \$7,469.80

General Donations/Fundraising: \$200

Fundraising Roof (Total): \$37,456.00,

The costs for the repair were: \$51,566.00

Fundraising Screens (Total): \$5,267.70

The cost for the screens in both Churches: \$21,805.85

Current Fundraising projects:

1. Roof St John's: **"Roof"**
2. TV Screens for the Churches: **"Screens"**
3. Presbytery upgrade: **"Presbytery"**

If you can, please continue to donate to these huge costs by using the references above.

Donations 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.

For any questions, contact beate@ecbcatholic.org.nz

PayWave Machines are available at the back of both Churches.

The money raised through PayWave on the first weekend of the month will be used for maintenance.

Thank you to all of you who have supported us in our planned giving campaign. It is great to see how many of you have adapted their financial contribution to our parish. If you haven't been able to adjust your contributions and would like to do so, there are still green cards and orange leaflets with the necessary information at the back of both churches.

THANK YOU!

Baptism dates:

1st Saturday/month, 11am at St John's

Next Baptism Course

03 March 2026, 7.00-8.30 pm

Please note that there will be **No Baptism** in the Parish in January 2026 and during Lent.

Upcoming Baptism dates:

Saturday, 07 Feb 2026 and Saturday, 02 May 2026

For further information, please see the website.

To Register: baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

We are currently in need of tinned veges, rice, weetbix, muesli, tinned fish, pasta sauce, biscuits, tinned fruit, and sandwich spreads. Thank you very much for all the wonderful donations. If you would like to make a monetary donation our bank account is - 12-3059-0241398-00, Name: **St Vincent de Paul Society**. Email your details to: treasurersvdpecb@gmail.com for a receipt. If you, or someone you know, might benefit from a helping hand, please contact Debbie in confidence for a food bag or other assistance. Ph 021 745 225. We are here to help.



Bible Study for Youth Adults (19-35y) Fridays, 7-9pm

(Except on the 1st Friday of the month).

Location: Mike Byrne Room

St Francis Church. [Register here.](#)

Contact: Levi Sharpe youth@ecbcatholic.org.nz



There will be **NO** Adoration in St Francis Church until **February 2026**.

There will be **NO** Evening / Anniversary Mass in St John's Church in January 2026.

Adoration in St John's Church, Fri, 02 Jan 2026

Gift Shop

New Collection of Rosaries, Christmas Wood Craft, Christmas Cards and much more are available now in our Parish Gift

Shop. Opening hours:

Monday– Friday, 10am-1pm

Please contact the [office](#) for appointment outside the opening hours.



Available now in the Office and at the back of both Churches
Columban Calendars 2026, \$15 each
Bible Diaries 2026, \$25 each
Daily Mass calendar 2026, \$5 each

Please **DO NOT** double park in the car park and block the access for drop-offs and Emergency vehicles. Additional Parking for those attending **St John's Masses on the weekends** is available on the school netball court, please take **Penzance Rd** and drive beyond the School Hall to park.

We are looking for **Parking Wardens** to organise parking during all Masses. **Especially Christmas Masses**. Contact [office](#).



"Let this Christmas, be the reason someone feels at home."

De Paul House will be supporting over 330 children and 242 adults and seniors. Any help with our Christmas Appeal for gifts/ toys/gift vouchers or food would be most appreciated. Help us bring the joy of Christmas and the hope of the season to those most vulnerable in our society, homeless and financially poor.

May you and your family be blessed with the joy, peace and hope of Christmas. De Paul House 92 Onewa Road, Northcote. Ph 4805959, admin@depaulhouse.org.nz



Titipounamu Study & Joy

Tabernacles - where to place them? with Prof.em. Thomas O'Loughlin.

The recording of the online presentation is now online at:

www.studyjoy.nz/2025/12/03/tabernacles-in-the-catholic-church/

Interview on the Christmas Story - Comparing the Gospel of Luke with the Gospel of Matthew. Shippet from a broadcast with the late Kieran Fenn fms

www.studyjoy.nz/2022/12/08/kieran-fenn-fms-shippets-from-muffin-talks/

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz



DIOCESAN NEWS & NEWS from the VATICAN



Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a year of Jubilee with the theme: **"Pilgrims of Hope"**, giving voice to his desire for the year to foster a greater sense of global sisterhood and brotherhood, solidarity with the poor, and caring for the environment. Visit www.jubilaum2025.va

THE JUBILEE PRAYER (FOR 2025 HOLY YEAR)

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

Welcome everyone to a time of reflection on Pope Leo XIV's recent Apostolic Exhortation to all of us on love for the poor, 'Dilexi Te'. Meet on Zoom, 7 – 7.40pm, all Wednesdays in Advent, to simply read short passages from Pope Leo XIV's message to all of us, and to ponder his words. 'Come and See'. Contact Dianna Fouhy, Faith Formation Team, Auckland Diocese, to register diannaf@cda.org.nz

Advent – a season to prepare for the coming of Jesus. Take time to ponder His Word; to Love him in the quiet of your heart.

Sunday Gospels 7pm Saturdays and Meditation daily 6.15am through Advent, on Zoom.

Contact Dianna Fouhy, diannaf@cda.org.nz



Pope LEO XIV:

"Hope is source of joy no matter our age... let us lovingly pass on the faith we have lived for so many years.. In this way, we will be signs of hope, whatever our age."

For more info from the Vatican News and Pope Leo XIV Visit: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/new/2025-11/pope-at-audience-19-november-2025.html>

Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Ministry:

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

Catholic University Chaplaincy:

Contact Daniel – daniels@cda.org.nz

Liturgy magazine by the Diocesan Liturgy Centre is available [online and for free](#).

For queries contact: liturgycentre@cda.org.nz

Catholic Caring Foundation's Christmas Appeal
Give a gift to help families and people in need. Please support the Caring Foundation's Christmas appeal through your donations and prayers. Your donation will have double the impact! "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God". visit www.caringfoundation.org.nz or call (09) 360 3012.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS THIS ADVENT

You are invited to prepare for Sunday Mass by reading and reflecting on the Scripture we will hear that weekend. Marist priest Fr Frank Bird has for several years been helping people make those preparations through his Living the Word project. Visit www.livingtheword.org.nz/pray

Midnight Christmas Mass in the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph: 24 December, 10.30pm, Christmas Carols, 11pm Vigil Mass (ends Midnight).

Christmas Day, **4.30pm**

New Years Eve Vigil, **11pm**

For more info visit:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/>



Bishop Steve invites everyone to celebrate the Closing Mass of the Year of Jubilee.

Sunday, 4 January 2026, 11am at the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph. All welcome



Advent – a season to prepare for the coming of Jesus. Take time to ponder His Word; to Love him in the quiet of your heart.

Sunday Gospels 7pm Saturdays and Meditation daily 6.15am through Advent, on Zoom.

Contact Dianna Fouhy, diannaf@cda.org.nz



Prepare for Advent and Christmas at the **St Joseph's Gift Shop**. Come see us at our new location in Albany Village or visit us online at www.stjosephscentre.co.nz



Carmel College Enrolments for 2027

Open 27 January 2026

Close 13 March 2026

Any questions to Jane Meurant

admin@carmel.school.nz

Gospel for kidz
A Religious Education Resource for Parishes



Kidz Corner
For info click [here](#)

Marriage and Family Life Marriage Preparation

Engaged / Planning a wedding?

Catholic Diocese of Auckland - Approved Marriage Preparation Course.

Book your Course early, 1 year and 18 months for overseas wedding. Register & Book here: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/our-courses/>. For more information contact: Gerry at: gerrys@cda.org.nz M: 021 02247442

