



**St. Francis de Sales**  
8 Finchley Rd, Torbay

## NEWSLETTER

### PARISH TEAM:

#### Priest:

**Fr Carlo Cruz** - Parish Priest  
[fr.carlo@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:fr.carlo@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

#### Deacon:

**David Marshall**  
[deacondavenz@me.com](mailto:deacondavenz@me.com)

#### Office:

**Beate Matthies**  
Operations & Finance Manager  
[beate@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:beate@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

**Bushra Bashouri**  
Office & Communications Assistant  
[bushra@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:bushra@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

**Dewshan Fernando**  
Liturgy Coordinator  
[dewshan@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:dewshan@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

### PARISH OFFICE:

**Phone:** 09 478-4565  
**Website:** [www.eastcoastbayscatholic.org.nz](http://www.eastcoastbayscatholic.org.nz)  
**Email:** [office@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:barsfamily@xtra.co.nz)  
**Passionist Family Groups:** Shelley & Graham  
Ward 027 3886114 [gandward@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gandward@xtra.co.nz)  
**Music:** Matt [matthewdavis26@hotmail.com](mailto:matthewdavis26@hotmail.com)  
**RCIA:** [rcia@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:rcia@ecbcatholic.org.nz)  
**Safeguarding:** Iona [safeguarding@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:safeguarding@ecbcatholic.org.nz)  
**Baptisms:** [baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz)  
**Secular Franciscans:** Lysa 021 612171  
**St. Vincent de Paul:** Anne G. 027 3210729  
**Youth:** Dina & Tam [youth@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:youth@ecbcatholic.org.nz)



**St. John the Baptist**  
87 Hastings Rd, Mairangi Bay

EAST



## REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT : Fr Carlo

When Pope Francis came for a pastoral visit to the Philippines, he had an evening with families at the Mall of Asia Arena. He gave an animated talk about faith and family, and he touched on St. Joseph as an exemplar. He said that families now face varied issues and concerns, and these often press us for some answers and plans of action. He said that to move with faith in those moments is to start with prayer. Prayer, however, is not just speaking to God. Rather, it is also giving space and time for God to tell us what He wants. The image of the sleeping St. Joseph shows us what prayer means: to sleep and allow God to speak to us in a dream. Pope Francis shared that he has an image of the sleeping saint on his desk at the Vatican. On many occasions, he said he would slip a paper under it that contains lists of issues or a letter that concerns him.



Our Gospel today is the biblical basis of Pope Francis' devotion to the Sleeping St. Joseph. Let us take note, though, that the narrative mentions certain important dispositions that Joseph had as he slept. Joseph slept not to escape but to seek God's guidance for his resolution and action regarding Mary's mysterious pregnancy. Escapism is never a godly resolution.

Joseph wanted to practice justice, to do what is right according to God's law and human propriety. We should never ask God to enlighten us on options that are unjust. God cannot contradict Himself.

Joseph woke up and did as the angel commanded him. We listen, we decide, we act. It is not good to allow ourselves to be dragged by events. When the divine instruction is clear, our call of faith is to act with great trust.

So the Sleeping St. Joseph did not sleep forever. Neither did he sleep longer than necessary. The Sleeping St. Joseph is also St. Joseph the Worker.

*Lord, help me to trust You with all my concerns. Guide me with Your wisdom. Amen.*

## 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

We welcome Fr Emile Frische  
who will Celebrate 5.30pm Mass  
**Saturday, 20 Dec.** St John's Church



Our latest edition of  
**Frankie & Johnny** will be  
available from this  
weekend on.

You can access the magazine  
when you click on the  
picture below.

Please note that we will have  
a limited number of hard-  
copies for those parishioners  
who have no access to the  
Internet or who prefer a  
hard copy.

### 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](mailto: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; J.D Maureen A; Marion W; Robert W.;  
Julie Th; Shenal G; K L; Mary J.; Ghada B.;  
Ann J.; Joanna R., Daniel M.

**Please let us know if you need prayers.**

### 28/12/25 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Ps.128, P139

1. Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14

2. Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

## 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 15th 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.

*Thank you*

## Sacramental Programme 2026

For all baptised children aged between 7 years and 18 years as of June 2026, who would like to register. Please visit parish [website](#) for more information and to express your interest.



## CHRISTMAS MINISTRIES

### Wednesday, 24 December 2025

#### 5.30pm: St Francis

**Sacristan:** Helen S.

**Greeter (Door):** Amanda Dixon-McI

**Projectionist:** Xavier H.

**Musicians:** Children's Choir

**Welcome/Prayers:** Children

**Readers:** Children

**Holy Communion:** Amanda Dixon-McI., Tusi H., Cheyse M., Lynne S., Stephanie R., Barry R., Stella J.

**Altar Servers:** Mason S., Dominic S.

### Wednesday, 24 December 2025

#### 8.30pm: St John's

**Sacristan:** Margaret Mc., Farida T.

**Greeter (Door):** Hilda D.

**Projectionist:** Aaron J.

**Musicians:** Matt Davis

**Welcome/Prayers:** Emma A.

**Readers:** Anastasia B., Nicky J.

**Holy Communion:** Joanna N., Lindsay B., Greg L., Tusi H., Pria P., Ronin P., Allarice Sch, Ricardo Sch.

**Altar Servers:** Aaron & Alena J., Malachi & Joshua Sch.

### Thursday, 25 December 2025

#### 9.00am: St. John's

**Sacristan:** Dewshan F.

**Greeter (Door):** Paul D'S.

**Projectionist:** Lucy K.

**Musicians:** Nola Lopes

**Welcome/Prayers:** Lynne B.

**Readers:** Sandra A., Lynne B.  
**Holy Communion:** Sandra F., Daniella B., Michael B., Jennifer K., Thomas B.

**Altar Servers:** Silvia & Dominic K., Millie Y., Meredith F.

### Thursday, 25 December 2025

#### 10.30am: St. Francis

**Sacristan:** Helen S.

**Greeter (Door):** Volunteer

**Projectionist:**

**Musicians:** Amor Dei Family Choir

**Welcome/Prayers:** Jaye Y.

**Readers:** Linda B., Sheila T.

**Holy Communion:** Stephanie R., Rodney J., Yong D., Barry R., Helen S., Greg L.,

**Altar Servers:** Joshua & Rosemary G., Myles B., Lorenzo M.

## MASS MINISTRIES: 27/28 December 2025

### 5.30pm: St. John's

**Sacristan:** Margaret McL., Farida T

**Greeter (Door):** Lynne B.

**Projectionist:** Ethan E.

**Welcome/Prayers:** Anastasia B.

**Readers:** Lindsay B., Tam F.

**Holy Communion:** Maria N., Tusi H., Jennifer K., Shaun du P., Joshua G.

**Altar Servers:** Pasene M., Rashane de M., Meredith F., Wonai Sh.

### 7.30am: St. Francis

**Sacristan:** Lynne S.

**Greeter (Door):** Lynne S.

**Projectionist:** Kevin D.

**Welcome/Prayers:** Carlo P.

**Readers:** Vicky R., Emma A.

**Holy Communion:** Rosana P.,

**Altar Servers:** Volunteers

### 9.00am: St. John's

**Sacristan:** Rose W.

**Greeter (Door):** Volunteer

**Welcome/Prayers:** Rachael O'B.

**Readers:** Sandra A.

**Holy Communion:** Tony Sm., Beverly H., Mark W., Cheyse M., Donna P.

**Altar Servers:** Silvia & Dominic K., Jason O.

### 10.30am: St. Francis

**Sacristan:** Helen S.

**Greeter (Door):** Hilda D.

**Projectionist:** John D.

**Welcome/Prayers:** Greg L.

**Readers:** Theresa M., Christopher N.

**Holy Communion:** Barry R., Stephanie R., Michael Y.

**Altar Servers:** Lorenzo M.

## Angel Giving Tree



Thank you to all those who have prepared the Angel Trees and those who have donated gifts for the children in the Mid-North Parishes and Kaitaia

## 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](mailto:youth@ecbcatholic.org.nz)



### Collections/ Donations

Collection (12 December – 18 December): \$7,746.25

General Donations/Fundraising: \$329.00

Fundraising Roof (Total): \$37,464.00,

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

Fundraising Screens (Total): \$5,467.70

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](mailto: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.

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**

**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](#)

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](#).



### 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](mailto: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: [treasurersvdpceb@gmail.com](mailto:treasurersvdpceb@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.



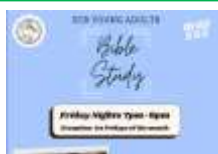
### Bible Study for Youth Adults (19-35y) Fridays, 7-9pm

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

Location: Mike Byrne Room

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

Contact: Levi Sharpe [youth@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:youth@ecbcatholic.org.nz)



**"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](mailto: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/](http://www.studyjoy.nz/2025/12/03/tabernacles-in-the-catholic-church/)

**A Christmas Party Story.** A short and true little story...

[www.studyjoy.nz/2025/12/07/the-holy-spirit-at-work/](http://www.studyjoy.nz/2025/12/07/the-holy-spirit-at-work/)

For more information: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.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**



## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)



### Pope LEO XIV:

"The family is the first place where we learn to love... Let every family be a small home church, where the gospel is lived with concrete love."



For more info from the Vatican News and Pope Leo XIV Visit:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/>

### Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Ministry:

[www.facebook.com/AKCYM](https://www.facebook.com/AKCYM), [www.instagram.com/acym2](https://www.instagram.com/acym2)

### Catholic University Chaplaincy:

Contact Daniel – [daniels@cda.org.nz](mailto:daniels@cda.org.nz)

Liturgy magazine by the Diocesan Liturgy Centre is available [online and for free](#). For queries contact: [liturgycentre@cda.org.nz](mailto: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](http://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](http://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



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](http://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](mailto:admin@carmel.school.nz)



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](mailto:gerrys@cda.org.nz) M: 021 02247442

