



St. Francis de Sales
8 Finchley Rd, Torbay

NEWSLETTER

PARISH TEAM:

Priest:

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

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
E-mail: office@ecbcatholic.org.nz
Address: 395 East Coast Rd, Mairangi Bay
The Parish Office is located at the back of St. Johns 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. Johns: 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

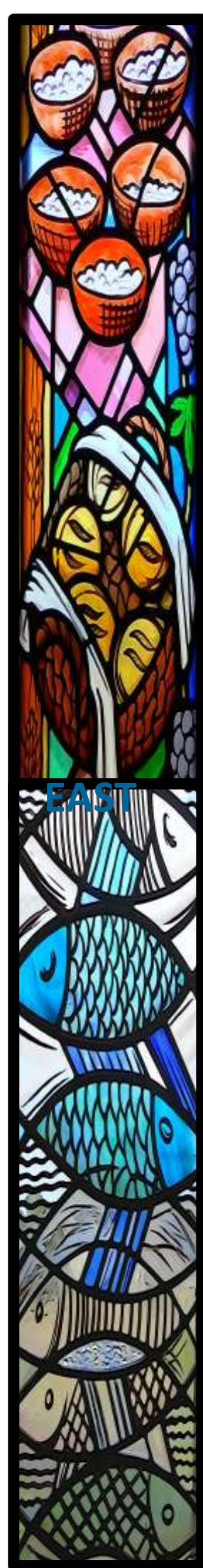
3rd Friday/month: Fairview 11.00am
4th Friday/month: Hugh Green 11.00am

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 IN ORDINARY TIME: Fr Carlo

Something in Jesus must have attracted some people to follow Him. Maybe they heard John the Baptist and thought He was the One whom John spoke of, that He was the One who would initiate the Kingdom of God. Or was it His personality, His love for the poor, the marginalised, the ones society considered as unacceptable citizens? Let us ask ourselves: What attracts me to Jesus?

Jesus began His proclamation of the Gospel in Galilee—at home, so to speak. He lived there for thirty years. He knew the people and many knew Him. And then came the scenes at the Sea of Galilee. He saw four brothers and called them to follow Him, and they left everything—their boats, their companions, even their father. Without knowing what the future with this Rabbi would bring, they cut themselves off from all that was familiar to them.

Matthew wanted to make it clear that following the call of Christ would demand a total cut from all that's familiar, with all its securities, and walk after Christ into an unknown future. In other words, following Christ would be an adventure.

When I entered the seminary decades ago, I did not dream that I would live and work in New Zealand. Like the four fishermen, I experienced ups and downs, but like them I never felt alone. He who called me never let me down. After all, following Jesus is following a loving person, not just a set of rules. We follow Him to love the Father who created us in His image. We follow Him to make our world a better place.

Following You, Lord, has made all the difference in my life—I love it! Amen.



This Sunday, 3rd Sunday in Ordinary time is the seventh **Word of God Sunday**. Pope Francis instituted this celebration in 2020 to encourage a deepening love and appreciation for the Sacred Scripture within the Church.



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.

Registration ends on Thursday, 05 February 2026



Fr Carlo will be away until **Tue, 17 February**.

Reconciliation & Vigil Masses: Fr Emile.

Saturday, 24 Jan, 8am Reconciliation and 9am Mass, St Francis Church, and

Sunday, 25 Jan, 7.30am Mass & 10.30am Mass, St Francis Church, will be celebrated by Fr Daniel Kulangara.

Sunday, 9am Mass, St John's Church, will be celebrated by Msgr David Tonks.

Next Adoration in St Francis Church: **Thursday, 19 February 2026.**

Adoration in St John's Church: **Friday, 06 February 2026, 6-9pm.**

Next Evening & Anniversary Mass **Friday, 06 March, 6pm, St John's**



Upcoming Parish Events

Sunday, 25 January, Feast of St Francis de Sales. Morning tea after 10.30am Mass, St Francis Church.

Saturday, 14 February, RCIA Rite of Sending, 5.30pm, St John's Church.

Tuesday, 24 February, Formation Evening. Everyone is encouraged to attend the **Reshaping Session** in St Joseph's, Takapuna, 7-9pm

25/01/26 3rd Sunday In ordinary Time
Ps.27, P36

1. Isaiah 8:23,9:3
 2. 1Corinthians 1:10-13,17
- Gospel Matthew 4:12-23

01/02/26 4th Sunday In ordinary Time
Ps.146, P155

1. Zephaniah 2:3;3:12-13
 2. 1Corinthians 1:26-31
- Gospel Matthew 5:1-12

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 until Wednesday, 18 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.; Sebastian Z.
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. Next Week, **Sunday, 01 February**, after 9am Mass, St John's Church. The South African Community will be hosting the Morning Tea.

Sunday, 25 January, after 7.30am & 10.30am Masses at St Francis Church, there will be a special morning tea to celebrate the Feast of St Francis de Sales.
Please bring a plate to share.
All are invited to join for this time of fellowship.

THANK YOU!

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](#).



Old Palms

Please bring your last year's blessed palms and place them in the baskets at the back of both churches by the weekend **Sat/Sun, 14/15 Feb**, to prepare the ashes for **Ash Wednesday, 18 February**.



"Have patience with all things – but first with yourself. Never confuse your mistakes with your value as a human being. You are perfectly valuable, creative, worthwhile person simply because you exist. And no amount of triumphs or tribulations can ever change that." (St Francis de Sales)



MASS MINISTRIES:

31 Jan/01 Feb 2026

5.30pm: St. John's

Sacristan: Amanda Dixon-McI.
Greeter (Door): Amanda Dixon-McI.
Projectionist: Ethan E.
Welcome/Prayers: Amanda Dixon-McI
Readers: Lindy W., Mary H.
Holy Communion: Joshua G., Maria N., Marcella von S., Tam F., Lindsay B.
Altar Servers: Sophie H., Meesol T., Isabella W., Alexander Mc.

7.30am: St. Francis

Sacristan: Farida T.
Greeter (Door): Farida T.
Projectionist: Douglas S.
Welcome/Prayers: Carlo P.
Readers: Linda B., Nicholas E.
Holy Communion: Emma A., Kathleen G., Rosana P.
Altar Servers: Angela D., Liliyanna R.

9.00am: St. John's

Sacristan: Rose W.
Greeter (Door): Volunteer
Projectionist: Lucy K.
Welcome/Prayers: Daniella B.
Readers: Donna P., Lawrence R.
Holy Communion: Gladson D'S., Godofredo P., Kevin O'C., Tony S., Michael B.
Altar Servers: Aaron & Alena J., Ava F., Millie Y.

10.30am: St. Francis

Sacristan: Lynne L.
Greeter (Door): Volunteer
Projectionist: John D.
Welcome/Prayers: Paul D'S.
Readers: Marie S., Mary Y.
Holy Communion: helen S., Barry R., Stephanie R.
Altar Servers: Anya & Ivo A., Joshua & Rosemary G.

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 to keep the database up-to-date.

[Please register with the parish](#)



Formation Evenings

Every 4th Tuesday of the Month, 7-8pm, St John's Church

Tuesday, 24 February 7-9pm, Reshaping in the Spirit of Synodality—St Joseph's, Takapuna. All are invited to attend.

Tuesday, 24 March, Lenten reflection. Speaker TBC

Tuesday, 28 April, Bible Society, St John's Church.

Tuesday, 26 May, Mary Untier of Knots, St John's Church.

Regular Parish Activities

The Craft and Friendship 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

Collections/ Donations

Collection (15 January – 21 January): \$8,808.44

General Donations/Fundraising: \$95.00

Fundraising Roof (Total): \$39,978.20,

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

Fundraising Screens (Total): \$8,829.80

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.

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.



Gift Shop

We have a great variety of Rosaries and Wood Craft items, as well as Holy Water bottles and much more.

Opening hours: Mon– Fri, 10am-1pm.

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



Columban Calendars 2026 \$15 each

They are available in the Office and at the back of both Churches

Bible Diaries 2026, \$25 each, only 2 copies left in the office.



Lost & Found

There are lots of drink bottles, (sun) glasses and even kid's shoes in our lost & found property box in the office.

Please note that we will keep items for one month only. After that, they will be discarded or donated to the Vinnies Shop.



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

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.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

We are currently in need of tinned fish, rice, weetbix, sandwich spreads and coffee.

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

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



Titipounamu Study & Joy



Franciscan Renaissance with Patrick Carolan Monday, 16 February 2026, 7-8pm. Zoom (Koha/Donation).

Register to receive the Zoom link:

www.studyjoy.nz/2026/01/08/franciscan-renaissance/

Crisis Pregnancy & Healing. Interview with Catherine Gillies

www.studyjoy.nz/2026/01/18/crisis-pregnancy-healing-muffin-talk-with-catherine-gillies/

For more information: 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

Weekly Mass on Shine TV

Next broadcast:

Sunday, 01 Feb. 2-3pm

Free to air Channel 25

Sky Channel 201

Each Saturday evening at 5.30pm

Sunday Mass is available for viewing. Check out [the link](#).



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

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship

Wednesday, 28 January 7pm

St Thomas More Church, Glenfield

Speaker: Bro Jerome Hardy, Topic: Testimony

All men welcome.



Auckland Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group Network

Praise in the Park

15 February 2026, 4-6pm

Selwyn Domain, Mission Bay, Auckland

For more details visit PRAISEINTHEPARK.NZ



North Shore - Reshaping in the Spirit of Synodality

Tuesday, 24 February 2026

7.00-9.00 pm

St Joseph Takapuna

10 Dominion St, Takapuna

This is an opportunity to explore what it means to walk together and listen to one another as major decisions in the Diocese are made.

Registration essential <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/reshaping-in-the-spirit-of-synodality/>



"I Will Give You Rest"

Friday, 06 March 2026

World Day of Prayer is an international movement of

Christian people in many different traditions that have a continuing relationship of prayer and service. People from various denominations gather in one another's churches to celebrate, using a Worship Service prepared by women of a different country each year. Women, men and young people share the language, customs and music of that country, right around the globe. <https://www.worlddayofprayer.org.nz/>



St Joseph's Gift Shop. Come see us at our new location in Albany Village or visit us online at www.stjosephscentre.co.nz



Rosmini College Enrolments for 2027

For all enrolment enquiries, please contact Eunice Barnard on 09 488 3750 or email enquiries@rosmini.school.nz



Carmel College Enrolments for 2027

Open 27 January 2026

Close 13 March 2026

Any questions to Jane Meurant

admin@carmel.school.nz

Pope LEO XIV:

"The world needs missionaries. It needs you to share the light and the joy that you have found in Jesus"



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

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



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



Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Ministry:
www.facebook.com/AKCYM www.instagram.com/acym2

Catholic University Chaplaincy:

Contact Daniel - daniels@cda.org.nz