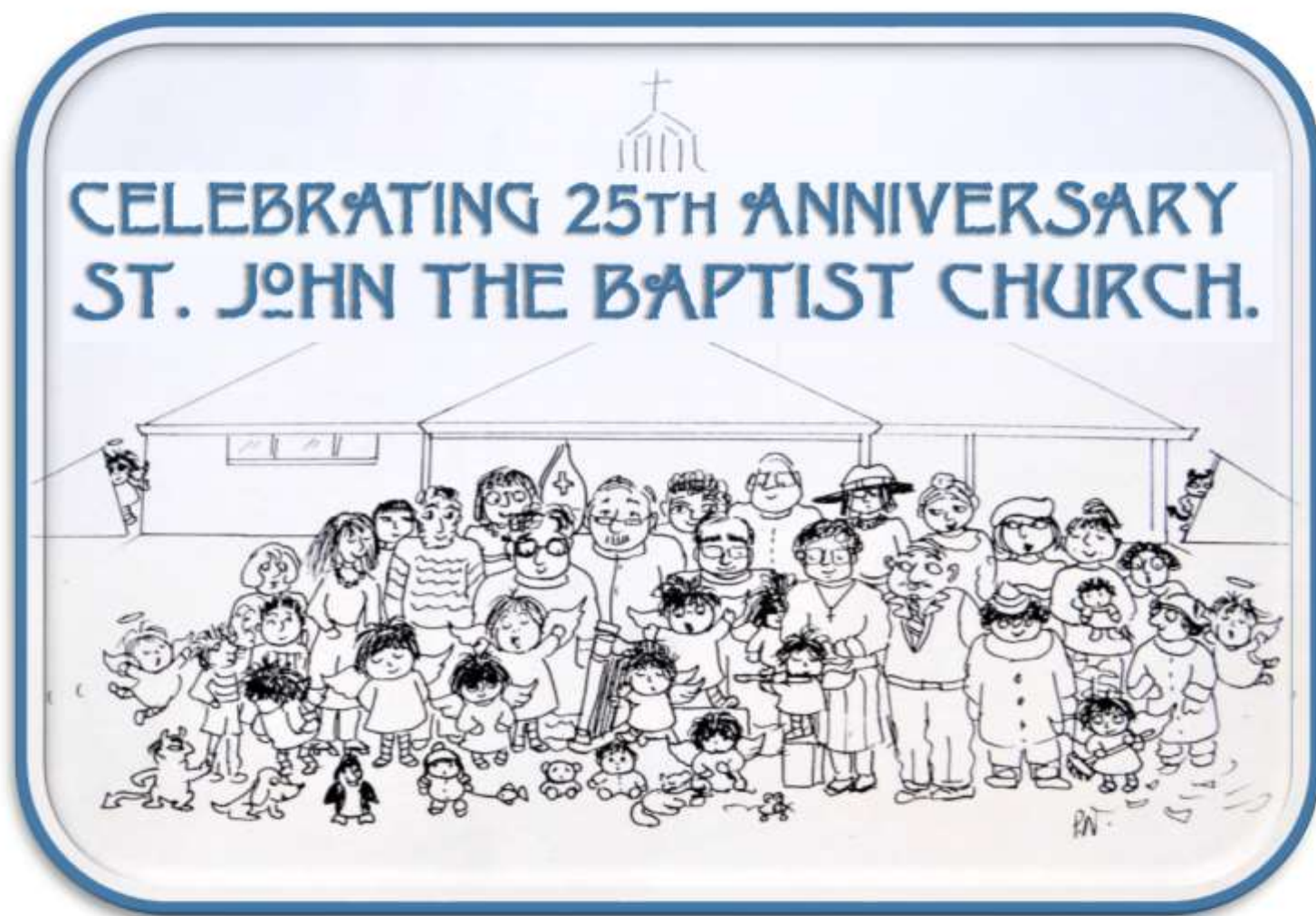


CATHOLIC PARISH OF EAST COAST BAYS



Taken from

*“A Commemoration of St. John The Baptist, Blessing & Dedication of our
New Church, September 11, 1994”. Cartoon drawn by Patsy Nealon*

FRANKIE & JOHNNY

CHRISTMAS
EDITION 2019

EAST COAST BAYS PARISH

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<https://www.facebook.com/ECByouthgroups?ref=hl>

NORMAL MASS TIMES (check diary for changes)

St Francis Church

St Johns Church

Monday 8.00am Liturgy

9.15am

Tuesday 8.00am

9.15am Liturgy

Wednesday -

9.15am

Thursday 10.00am

-

Friday 10.00am

9.15am

Saturday 8.00am

5.30pm Vigil

Sunday 7.30, 10.30am

9.00am

Reconciliation: St Francis Church:
Saturday after 8.00am Mass

St John's Church:
Saturday 5.00pm before Vigil



St. John The Baptist Church,
87A Hastings Rd, Mairangi Bay



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

2020 PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

located behind St. Johns Church

Tuesday: 9.00am – 4.00pm

Thursday: 9.00pm – 4.00pm

Meetings by appointment;

Enquiries by phone & email

at other times.

CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will be closed
Tuesday 24th December and
reopen on Wednesday 15th
January 2020. Emails and
voice messages will be attended
to periodically.

PARISH COUNCIL 2019

GOINGS-ON AND ON-GOINGS

In case you were wondering, your parish council has been in existence for almost 2 years now. The council comprises Carolyn MacDonell who is the chairperson, Lindsay Brand, Liz George, Therese Leslie, Barry Rogers & Kerry Bergin as well as our 2 priests, Frs Raphael and Marchellino. We have been meeting every month since Feb. 2018 with a 2 month break over Christmas last year. Over this time, we have instigated several social events, courtesy of Lindsay Brand & her team of willing & able helpers including a number of celebrations to recognize the 40th anniversary of St Francis Church in October 2018 & the 25th anniversary of St John's Church in September this year. These events enhanced the community spirit already evident at East Coast Bays. You can appreciate that running 2 churches, an office & a presbytery is no mean feat. Barry Rogers has almost singlehandedly managed several R&M items over the last 2 years including a new presbytery carport roof & flooding at St Francis. The parish office has been reorganized thanks to Carolyn MacDonell and staff and visitors appreciate the more workable, welcoming layout.

Liz George has once again successfully fulfilled the demands of her liturgy & pastoral portfolio ensuring

sixty plus young parishioners and their families are the richer for investing in our sacramental programmes. We have all benefitted from meaningful & prayerful liturgies especially at the great feasts of Easter and Christmas. An exciting new initiative from the Council has been unveiled at Masses in Nov. this year. Marion Breinhorst, together with input from Therese Leslie who holds the Communications portfolio, has developed a parish app. Check it out "ECB Catholic Parish" in the app store. Anything & everything you wish to know about the parish can be found on the app including the latest newsletters, notices, events & daily readings. Therese has also been hard at work updating our parish database with the ultimate goal of achieving seamless communication from the parish office to you and from you to the parish office.

There have been housekeeping matters attended to as well, the most significant of which has been the development of the Parish, Pastoral & Financial Plan which will be presented to the parish community in early 2020. This impressive document covers the goals, achievements and aspirations of the current Council as well as anticipating the requirements of new Council members. To that end, the current council is directing its energies to developing a succession plan to enable an easy transition for new councillors into the important role

GOINGS-ON & ON-GOINGS continued

of “giving clarity and structure to enable our priests to facilitate the connection with the East Coast Bays community with Jesus as the centre” which is our stated mission. As a Council, we are grateful for the support of all of our parishioners. We are always open to new ideas and suggestions so please feel free to contact us.

Our contact details are available on the app or on the parish information sheet.

As the church of St Francis delights in the new nativity figures blessed at the 40th anniversary celebrations earlier this year, we wish you all the blessings of Christmas with the hope that we may have some new faces join us.



Fr. Raphael Lobo
Parish Priest

Fr. Marcellino Park
Assistant Priest



Carolyn MacDonell
Chairperson



Kerry Bergin
Secretary



Thérèse Leslie
Communications:



Lindsay Brand
Hospitality & Social



Barry Rogers:
Capital Works



Liz George
Pastoral Assistant

For information on our council members go to our ECB parish app.

Mission statement:

Giving clarity and structure to enable our priests to facilitate the connection with the East Coast Bays community, with Jesus as the centre.

“THE CHRISTIAN MISSION HAS ONLY ONE focus: TO change individual’s lives so that they can change the world”. Pope Francis

“Ask JESUS what HE WANTS from you AND BE BRAVE.”

Pope Francis

PARISH APP

Marion (app manager)
app@ecbcatholic.org.nz

HOW TO DOWNLOAD AND REGISTER FOR THE PARISH APP.

Step 1. Head to either the Apple App Store or Google Play depending on your phone type to locate the App.



In the search tool bar type: east coast bays parish app Select and download the app with this icon

Step 2. Once the app has downloaded open the app by locating the icon on one of your phones home pages. The initial download may take a while. You will see the loading screen. Once the loading is complete you will be directed to the Login Page.



Step 3. Choose to Register at the bottom right of the screen. Type in your email address and choose a password. You may be contacted by the App Manager, Marion Breinhorst, if there is a different email address as we take security seriously.

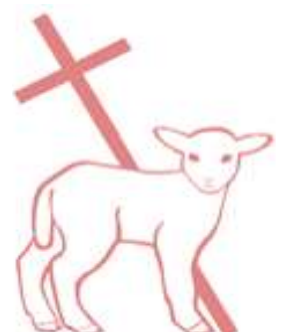
Once the app approves your registration, you will be taken to the Notifications page.



Step 4. Select which notifications you would like to be notified of. To later change your notifications please use the drop down menu on the top right of the app, select notifications and change as you like.

Step 5. Explore your app. App features include:

- Liturgical tools like a prayer book, readings & Order of the Mass
- Notifications for different groups
- Notifications about social events
- The Parish Calendar
- Shortcuts to contacting the office, the priests and staff
- Links to various organisations for support and education
- The newsletter



SOCIAL & HOSPITALITY

BY Lindsay Brand

The Social & Hospitality committee were involved in the organisation of a number of events throughout 2019. The aim of the committee is to organise events, where ECB parishioners can meet and get to know each other in fellowship, while having fun and creating a spirit of community.



A Paschal Meal was shared together the week before Easter. The traditions behind this celebration were explained by a Jewish friend, who shared his cultural influences and background, in order to enrich our knowledge of the Last Supper.



On the 20th July, a Mid-Winter Christmas cocktail evening was held at St John's school hall, for ECB parish members to enjoy the warmth and elegance of lights and love, as an early Christmas experience. Cocktails were enjoyed with sounds of Christmas cheer.

August 18th saw talented ECB members, giving up their time to entertain parishioners in song, piano & drums. A musical afternoon was attended by eager parishioners, who hummed and sang to familiar tunes & well-known musical items. Grateful thanks to Keith and Bridie Wicks and their wonderful granddaughters, Jess and Mia, who led the activities, with Ben Fernandes joining in and acting as MC for the afternoon.



A 'Grease' party was held on the 21st September, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of St John's church. Long standing parishioners shared stories of the early days of the church building, with newer members of ECB parish. Burgers & chips were enjoyed, by Pink Ladies & T-Birds, kitted out in traditional gear. A fun-filled evening was had, with Olivia Newton John & John Travolta, harmonising in the background, while rock-'n-rollers twisted the night away, before disembarking to watch NZ vs SA rugby world cup match!



On the 19th October, a Barn Dance was organised by the Social & Hospitality committee, in conjunction with Family Groups. The Howick Square Dance group, led by caller, Martin Griffiths, ensured everyone's left feet, were synchronised and that fun could be had, injury free. A picnic style meal was shared at each table, with an array of foods and drinks visible. The youth of the parish sold 'Sausage Sizzle', as part of their retreat fundraiser.



***We encourage all parishioners to attend and
build memories together in 2020!***

ECB YOUTH



Core Team at LT Training Convention



XLT Night at St. John's Church

This year was full of blessings for ECB Youth Group. From the beginning of 2019, we have prepared to start **'Life Teen' program**. 'LT' is a youth ministry movement started in USA. The goal is to lead teens closer to Christ, it involves relational ministry, & well-organised fun activities. In April, seven young adults formed a 'LT' Core Team we attended the 'L T' Convention held in Auckland. As young adults we were so blessed to encounter Christ away from our busy lives.

The first **Life Night** in July was a social night where we focused on inviting parish teens to join us. 14 teens & 7 young adults were engaged in activities & team building.

We hosted the special XLT, an adoration night at St. John's in June. We invited St. Joseph's leaders to give a talk & lead the praise & worship. Also, we participated in

special events including the regional day (Remain Steadfast 2019), Diocesan young adult retreats, and Youth Masses (co-hosting March & November Masses at St. Patrick's). Thanks to the leaders from other parishes and Auckland Catholic Youth Ministry, we had blessed time during the year. Along with that, we had some fun playing bowling and beach BBQ too!

We will start 2020 with Life Teen Summer Camp which will be held in Otaki, Wellington in January. Eight teens and young adults will encounter and experience God with hundreds of teens from the whole of New Zealand

Life Nights are on every third Saturday after the Youth Mass at 5.30pm at St. John's Church. ECB Youth Choir led by Schevon served for the vibrant music at the Youth Masses which attracted more young people.



First Life Night at St. Johns Church

I would like to thank our Core members, Marion, Kyndra, Nicole, Daniel, Karam, and Rino for their efforts and passion for teens which made everything come true. I really appreciate active participation of those teens who are present and involved in our church! Also, thanks to all parishioners for your support!

ALL TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US AT OUR YOUTH MASS, YOUTH CHOIR AND LIFE NIGHTS



CORE MEMBERS:

Anyone who is over 18 yrs (No age limit! Anyone young in their heart!)

& willing to share gifts of:

accompanying, catechism, hospitality, design, fundraising, speech, photograph, behind-the-scene experts, music... Benefits are: warm feelings, growing community, and Blessings!

Application closes in Feb, 2020

Contact Marie 022 530 0740
youth@ecbcatholic.org.nz

The youth leaders have always put such wonderful amazing effort for this year's youth group fun activities! And at the same time teaching me life lessons that really impacted me as a person. I've made new friendships throughout the church and community and I'm so glad that joined the youth group this year! Can't wait for 2020 youth group!

Dina Aziz (Year 11)

So far, I have truly enjoyed my experience at the church's youth group and choir. It is something I look forward to every month. Through youth group I got to meet & interact with new members of my church & take part in various activities that allowed me to socialise with many other youths, which helped towards deepening my knowledge and belief in Christ. I have made quite a few friends which is one factor that makes me look forward to the youth programme every month. One highlight so far was the XLT Night where I got to listen to peoples inspiring stories and take part in the Eucharistic Adoration. I am privileged to be in a community where I am always welcome and that offers individuals like me to learn more and deepen my Christian faith.

Erin Lee (Year 10)

ADVENT - Reconciliation: 7.00pm Tuesday 10th December at St. Johns, Mairangi Bay.

ADVENT & THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

(Reconciliation) by **Fr. Brian Carpenter**

December 10, 2012

Catholics refer to Advent as a season of joyful anticipation. Many use this season as a time to prepare for Christmas day, when the birth of Christ is celebrated. Yet Advent is not merely about the anticipation of Christmas. It is a season that focuses on our anticipation of the Parousia, the second coming of Christ. Advent, as the first season of the Church's liturgical year, reminds us that we are a people who are constantly awaiting for Christ's second coming, that day when all things will be renewed in Christ. During Advent, the Scripture readings heard at Mass often focus our attention on anticipation, and what it is we are to be doing as we anticipate Christ's second coming. During the second Sunday of Advent, the Gospel reading focuses on John the Baptist, whose mission was to prepare the people of Israel for the first coming of Christ. The most notable aspect of John's ministry was his proclamation of a baptism of repentance. People flocked to John in order to be baptized in the Jordan River, a river believed to be the descending river of God. In this river, people were baptized as

a sign that they desired to be washed with the vigorous force of God's grace. It was the sign that they were changing their lives, & returning to the commands of the Lord. The repentance the Church proclaims, however, differs from that of John the Baptist. Whereas John's baptism was symbolic of a person's desire to repent, the Church has been endowed with the power of the Sacraments. The Sacraments are not merely symbols, but actually bring about the realities they express through symbols. So whereas the people baptized in the Jordan by John were symbolically cleansing themselves from sin, people who participate in the Sacraments of the Church, such as Baptism and Penance, are actually cleansed of their sins. There is a great irony in that many Catholics fear the sacrament of penance. This is likely caused by an undue focus on sin. People tend to focus on the portion of the sacrament where they confess their sins, rather than on the more important component whereby their sins are forgiven. The goal of the sacrament is not to focus on sin & make people feel guilty. Rather, through the sacrament, people can turn their back on sin, & instead focus on God. They become free from the burden of their sins, and thus can see God more clearly.

St. John the Baptist Church 25th Anniversary



Fr Paddy Collins. Parish Priest 1983 – 1994

It is my prayer that our church in Mairangi Bay will be a special sacred place for you and your children's children. In it too,

just as He did in the Cenacle, Jesus will stand among us, feed us with the Bread of Life, strengthen us with His Spirit and send us in our turn on the same mission to the world of our day.

Ideas for the layout of the church matured slowly because of many delays. In the early years I had consultations with Fr. Eugene O'Sullivan O.P more recently with Fr. Pat Brady. The liturgical group and I visited many churches and studied the ideas of the experts in the environment & Art Newsletter. We hope that in the finished church you will find a treasure house of "things old and new".

With the opening we celebrate a new stage in the growth of our parish. May it continue to grow and "like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ". (1 Peter 2:5)

(taken from 'A commemoration of St. John the Baptist, Blessing & Dedication of our church September 11, 1994)

MEMORIES OF FR. PADDY:

"Fr. Paddy loved music & had a wonderful sound system which he sold off to fund his trips to Ireland to visit his mother. He then purchased a new one on his return." "Fr. Paddy, Fr. David Nolan and Fr. Leo Doyle went out sailing every Monday, sometimes the boat was berthed in Mangawhai, sometimes in Orakei. They holidayed off Waiheke Is. or Te Kouma in the Coromandel."

When the new parish magazine was being put together the first editor Patricia was asked by Fr. Paddy ...What shall we call it? Jokingly, she thought of the famous song of the time 'Frankie & Johnny'. He didn't seem to know the song but said... "that will do!"

Fr. Paddy was a very generous man and is responsible for the organ at St. John's and more recently the baby grand piano at St. Francis.

ALTAR IN ST. JOHNS CHURCH.

On the 13th November 1922, I, James Michael, bishop of Olympus & Coadjutor of Auckland, consecrate this altar in honour of St. Joseph and I enclose in it relics of the holy martyrs St. Denis, St. Prime, St. Fredegonde, St. Victorinus, St. Boniface, St. Hermolaus and I granted to each of the faithful, in the accustomed manner of the church, a fitting indulgence of one year to those who visit it today and forty days to those who visit it on the anniversary day of this particular consecration. Taken from 'Let the Wilderness rejoice' ECB 1938-1998 by Pat Soar

Commemoration of St. John The Baptist, Mairangi Bay.

Taken from Blessing & Dedication September 11th 1994.

You've seen the new Church, attended the dedication – now take another look, because there's more to the Church of St John the Baptist than meets the eye.

First up, you should have had a pretty good view of today's ceremonies and access to the altar would have been, despite the large numbers, relatively easy. That, says Fr Collins, was all part of the architect's brief, in that a good, modern church aims to invite active participation by all the congregation. The shape of the sanctuary is such that while the altar is most prominent, the ambo has its own special place and is not relegated to the sideline.

"This," explains Fr Collins, "brings out the close relation of the Liturgy of the Word to the Liturgy of the Eucharist, 'two parts of the Mass which make up a single act of worship. 'The chair is at the centre rear, flanked by two curved benches for other ministers, in the style found in early churches. This arrangement avoids the isolation of the priest, and completes the family circle of worshippers gathered around the altar.'"

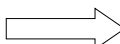
"We have also sought to give the church its own special character," continues Fr. "The main wall facing the Hauraki Gulf echoes the shape of Rangitoto Island and hints at the

shape of the tent or tabernacle of God's presence accompanying his people on their journey through the wilderness."

The colours within the church have significance too, relating to St John who preached in the desert, providing a spiritual oasis there. Hence desert sand in the carpet and interior walls; the blue of the water in the baptistry and main roof beams; and the green of the trees and foliage nurtured by the oasis, in the roof arches.

Perhaps the most important reference to St John are his most important words "Ecce Agnus Dei" (*Behold the Lamb of God*) which can be seen on the rear wall of the sanctuary. He spoke those words when he pointed Jesus out to the crowds, and the words are repeated today when the priest shows the host at communion.

On the same wall is the lamb, holding the victorious processional cross symbolizing Christ, sacrificed but risen. The cross is modelled on the Cross of Cong, the most famous of early Irish crosses – it is set with five red stones, symbolizing Christ's wounds. Other references to St John include the immersion pool at the right of the church, the window behind which can, on special occasions, feature trickling water, emulating baptism.

Continued 

The four stained glass windows – by Auckland artist John Abramczyk – feature, in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, the multiplication of the loaves & fishes; & in Our Lady's Shrine, the burning bush symbolizing Mary's divine motherhood & virginity, & the symbols the sun, moon & crown of twelve stars mentioned in the Apocalypse. The charcoal Stations of the Cross have been done by Bethell's Beach artist

Maria Whitchombe-Shingler. The main altar, of best Italian Carrara marble, was a lucky find at the former Brown Josephite Convent in Grey Lynn: and in the weekday Mass chapel is the altar from the chapel of our own St Joseph Sisters, a donation which adds nice continuity to the relationship between the Order and the parish. Recognizable to regulars at the hall Masses is the tabernacle, refurbished.



Bishop Denis Browne preaching at the opening Mass, September 11th 1994



Bishop Denis Browne receives the keys to the new church, September 11th 1994

PRESBYTERY (Taken from *The Catholic Church in ECB 1938-1998* by Pat Soar)

Early in 1960 the Hastings Road-East Coast Road corner section had been purchased from Mr W J E Mayhill & it was intended to build a permanent presbytery there. In the late 1960s the priests lived at various times at 87 Hastings Rd (purchased from Nurse Freeling) & at 89, both of which were old dwellings. In 1973 the parish priest, Fr Gaines, decided that it was cheaper to buy 395 East Coast Rd which Mr & Mrs E W A King wanted to sell, than to build a new presbytery next to a busy intersection. The house is ideally situated above St John's School & next to the church site. At the time of purchase the asking price of \$34,500 was considered high. How the value of housing has increased! In July 1973 the Auckland Diocese bought the two Hastings Road houses and some adjoining land from the parish for \$80,500 which in effect wrote off the Diocesan Development Fund loan. These houses were rented out & eventually sold by the Diocese in the early 1990's to provide loan money to build the new **St Jim the Baptist Church**. Miss K M McVeagh's property at 393 East Coast Road was sold to the parish in June 1976 & became the site for the proposed new church. At the time nobody thought it would take so long to be built, but the focus of the parish was shifting north towards Torbay where a church was needed. (Editors note: Had to leave the St. Jim in !!!)

Nativity at St. Francis de Sales 2019

By Chris Ingram

On the hot, sunny, summer day of 8 December 2018, Ken and I left on a Christmas adventure. A 3week holiday in the wintry world of Germany and Holland. Our travels included a seven night Christmas Markets, Rhine, river cruise visiting many old churches and cathedrals along the way.

The first thing that struck us, other than the cold, was the magical beauty of being in a winter wonderland and the possibility of having a real, white Christmas.

The size & grandeur of the cathedrals is overwhelming. Totally unimaginable to someone from a small, young colonial country like New Zealand. The history is amazing.

It was early Advent while we travelled so each cathedral was in the process of setting up their nativity scene to varying degrees of completeness.

The one thing all the nativity sets had in common was that they were a good size in relation to their environment. Each one with its own special layout. On Christmas morning we celebrated mass at a small cathedral in the Centrum, Den Haag - RK Parochie Maria Sterre der Zee, H Jacobus de Meerdere - a few short blocks away from our accommodation. Mass in a foreign tongue, the same but different. We ventured along after mass to view the nativity scene, tucked along the sanctuary wall side of the cathedral. It was simple but beautiful. Baby Jesus in his manger. The reason for the season. We arrived home in Auckland on New

Years Eve. In the morning we would wake up to 2019.

Our first Sunday back was Epiphany, 6 January. The Three Wise Men made their appearance at St Francis de Sales.

Have you noticed though that our three wise men statues are a different size in relation to the other nativity pieces? They are smaller.

A discussion with a parishioner after the mass posed that exact query to me.

“Why are they a different size? They look wrong. Why doesn’t the parish get some new ones?”

After the mass as I was putting the pieces away, I noticed they were in need of fresh paint and a general clean. I took them home and tidied them up before packing them away for the year. Our heritage. Our nativity set.

As the summer progressed, I kept thinking of the beautiful nativity scenes we had seen in Europe. I felt we needed something better. I wanted our wise men to fit in. I took a look at one of New Zealand’s trusted online shopping sites and keyed “Three Wise Men” into the search box. Nothing came up so I keyed “Nativity Set” and was rewarded with:- ‘New Christmas Nativity Set - Extra Large Size - Polyresin - 11 piece set.’ It had the added comment: ‘This beautiful 11 piece set will add colour and beauty to your home, church, hospital, mall this Christmas season. Size 42” (107 cm). Ready to view in Birkenhead.’ I took a screenshot, printed off the copy and took it to Father Lobo. I had reservations about the size of the set but figured Father will

Know what to do. Well, he went, he saw, he bought.

We had a service to bless the pieces during 10.30am Mass on 21 July and they were packed away waiting for the festive season.

Now, that the festive season is here We organised a meeting of some key personnel at St Francis and made a plan. Ken has been working on a display platform. He drew his initial outline on our garage floor. It seemed too small so, he made it bigger! Next step, trial on site fitting . Frances Smith our wonderful resident artist has been busy painting a background. We are looking forward with anticipation.

It's going to be fantastic!



Felix Navidad
at St Johns Sunday 8th December 2019, 1.00pm

Come and join us for an afternoon of Christmas Cheer and Fun with our youth performing a Nativity Play, a variety of Solo Artists singing Christmas Carols and finishing off with afternoon tea for all, Bring a plate.

Entry : Gold coin donation
Dress code : Christmas theme

For any enquiries:
Jenny Kingham 0274652271, Fr Marchellino 021113185
Marie Hwang 0225300740

Coast To Coast Rosary
Sat 7th December 3pm

for Life and Faith

under the mantle of Our Lady of Assumption

At St. John the Baptist Church



PARISHIONERS

By Ann Jones

CATHERINE MCCrackEN

On Sunday 10th November, at the 10.30 Mass a very special presentation was made to very special member of our parish, Catherine McCracken. Earlier that week Catherine celebrated her 40th birthday, so the parish thought this would be a very good opportunity to acknowledge her many years of altar serving at St Francis church in fact, over 25yrs! I think we would all agree she does this with such reverence and grace.

Catherine, we thank you for your faithful dedication. You are very much loved & appreciated. God Bless.



Our parish would like to acknowledge another very special lady...our Pastoral Assistant, Liz George. November this year marked 20yrs since

Liz took up this role. She has worked tirelessly in the parish office and outside, having a very close relationship with St. John's school. Liz loves the children and they respond so well to her. On Nov. 5th the school put on a morning tea in her honour, which was well attended by teachers, staff, & parishioners. Liz doesn't like to be in the limelight, so didn't spread the word. However, we cannot let this occasion go by, without saying a huge thank you to her, for all her pastoral care, which goes far beyond her call of duty. Liz knows most families in the parish and is always ready to lend a listening ear, to offer support & love, & a big hug when words are not enough. Liz also puts many hours into the sacramental programs. Another of her talents is her creative ability, especially her photography, and those beautiful reflective slides we see on the power point at our Masses / liturgies are her arrangements.

So, a big Thank You Liz! We treasure you. May God surround you with His love and blessings over the next 20yrs (hopefully still in this role!!) We love you & truly appreciate your servant leadership. You are a wonderful example to us all.



PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUPS

Article written by Lindsay Brand

Passionist Family Groups began in NZ June 1988. They are well established, with effective leaders across each diocese. Working with them is Templestowe based Fr Brian Traynor CP. Over many years he has worked with partners in developing healthy leadership models with the movement. ECB celebrated the 30th anniversary with a Barn Dance last year. The true meaning of Passionist groups were seen in action, where people of all walks of life gathered together in fellowship & fun. The emphasis of Family groups is on building relationships, so the groups are about 'being' rather

Each group is encouraged to get together once a month for a low cost or no cost activity. These gatherings allow people to get to know one another, & then in natural ways, group members begin to create bonds with others. With the building of bonds comes the opportunity to form friendships, have fun, extend acceptance & support, & quite simply & joyfully experience Christian life with others. The emphasis is on allowing everyone to be part of the 'family'.

If you are interested in joining a Family group, or finding out more about this movement, please contact Colin and Lindsay (021 0829 5605) – Family Group coordinators in East Coast Bays

HAPPY HOUR

Happy Hour was set up many years ago as an event for our senior parishioners to get together. It is still held fortnightly on Wednesday at 1.00pm although, it has moved from the St. Johns school hall to Hugh Green Retirement Village at 105 Apollo Drive, Albany, on the 2nd floor. (refer to the parish weekly newsletter for dates and contacts)

These days the majority of the residents are from the retirement village, we have some that come from other villages, and parishioners who come to play bingo, enjoy the singing, the friendship and the afternoon tea.

Volunteers set up the chairs & tables and assist the staff with those who have difficulties. Music & singing can be heard periodically before and in between games. Bingo is a 'real winner' with Chocolates given as prizes. Everyone is welcome! contact Christine on 479-7694



MOTHERS PRAYERS:

All mothers welcome, meet third Friday of each month in school terms. 1.30-2.30pm to pray for our children and grandchildren, and our school communities.

St. Vincent De Paul Society



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was introduced to New Zealand in 1868, just a few years after being set up by its founder, Frederic Ozanam. The young Frenchman had been challenged at the University of Paris to “undertake works which show your faith”. This led to a Conference of Charity which, at its first meeting, decided to adopt as its patron Saint Vincent in recognition of that great man’s dedication to those in prisons and in hospitals. And visitation of the poor, the sick, the lonely and the deprived has remained a principal work of the Society ever since.

In New Zealand we have an active membership of around 5000 “Vinnies” in over 250 Conferences and Centres spread across the country. Around 100 of the Conferences are made up entirely of younger members.

The Society’s purpose & scope is simple – personal contact with those in need. We’re urged to seek out the poor and offer any form of help which alleviates suffering or deprivation – & promotes human dignity. But how can we help the poor (& where are they?) in a relatively affluent area such as East Coast Bays? The answer lies in the significance of the word “poor”. The poor **are** amongst us. But not all are financially poor. Yes, some have financial difficulties, temporary or otherwise. For example, the principals of several of the ten or so ECB Primary Schools have sought help for under-stress young families as the costs of education continue to rise. But the “poor” in our neighbourhood can include many more - the sick, the hungry, those who are lonely,

depressed, bed-ridden, bereaved, or cold in winter.

Some would appreciate a visit & a talk; some would welcome a load of firewood, some would love to receive a food parcel. We’re limited only by our own imagination – and a scarcity of requests from the needy - when it comes to helping the poor in our neighbourhood.

Neighbourhoods comprise neighbours.

The Pope has exhorted us to pray that we may love God and our neighbour “with full dedication”. Who is our neighbour? A dictionary definition is “a person who lives very close by.” So **all** ECB residents are our neighbours, regardless of their religious persuasion, ethnicity, social standing, health, gender, sexual orientation, or political opinions.

To conclude, we ECB Vinnies consider ourselves to be a “Rapid Response Unit”, able to respond quickly & effectively to genuine requests for help from any of our East Coast Bays neighbours.

BUT WE, TOO, NEED HELP!! We have undertaken a once-a-month Saturday stint at the Beachhaven Opportunity Shop. We welcome with open arms new helpers – men, women or teenagers; especially newcomers to the Parish, those for whom English is a second language, and retirees – in fact, anyone who can spare us a few hours on a Saturday once a month. Likewise, but closer to (ECB) home, we welcome – again with open arms - any parishioner who is able to help us with our Visitation/Foodbank/Rapid Response work for an hour or so once a month.

Our First Point of Contact is through the Parish office at St. John’s on 09 478 4565.

CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S MASS AT ST JOHN'S

Every 3rd Sunday of the month, St John's 9am Mass is a dedicated Children's Mass. Children are invited to arrive by 8-30am and are encouraged to take an active role in the Mass by reading a prayer of the faithful, a reading or Mass introduction or bringing up the offertory gifts as well as joining in with the singing. ***We love to see new children coming to participate, so mark the 3rd Sunday of every month on your calendars or log it in to your phone diaries and come along and help us make this an extra special Mass for our children.***

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS

at St Francis Church on Tuesday 24 December at 5.30pm. Come dressed up as shepherds, angels or maybe the Christmas star! Bring your parents; relatives; friends and neighbours.



For enquiries about our **CHILDREN'S** Ministry, email Linda Williams

at lindy@willplan.co.nz

PARISH CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Our **Parish Children's Choir!** School aged children from Primary, and Intermediate schools are invited to join this choir which helps to lead the singing at both St John's 9.00am and St Francis' 10.30 am Masses. We look forward to welcoming new members, both boys & girls who love to sing as we continue to build our choir in 2020.

ANGEL GIVING TREE

Please support our Angel Giving tree again this year. Last year was so successful with gifts being sent to a parish in the North. If you wish to participate...

- * Choose an angel card from the tree in the church foyer.
- * Buy a suitable gift for a boy or girl in the age range described on the back of the card.
- * Place the gift under the tree or drop it into the parish office by Sunday 15th December.
- * The Giving tree supports less fortunate children in Auckland.



www.GiveWellCo.nz



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

In Faith and Service

Just a brief note to update you on the East Coast Bays CWL. Although we have amalgamated with Northcote & Takapuna Branches we still support & communicate with our two mission stations.

Firstly: the education of two girls at Api Fo-ou College in Tonga. Originally a girl's High School run by the SMSM sisters, on the same site as the Boy's High School which the Marist Fathers opened. Now the sisters (*SMSM nuns*) have moved on & the schools are now a co-educational school for all, called Api Foo u College which means "New Home".

Secondly: St Joseph's Parish on Aitutaki by sending money to Bishop Paul Donoghue for their various needs, be it bibles, overhead projector, transport for Catechists to their training, laptops, etc.

Generally, funds were raised by Trading Tables of baking & produce stalls after Mass & an annual Street Stall, for many years. Nowadays we just have the Christmas Hamper Raffle & would like to thank you, our parishioners, for your generous help & support you give us each time, which allows our two girls to complete their education.

ANOINTING MASS



Our annual Anointing Mass is usually held in November. The sacrament is open to all who have health problems, due to illness or age, or impending surgery.

Through this sacrament the church supports the sick and the elderly in their struggles and continues Christ's work of healing. This sacrament expresses the sharing that each one of us has in the suffering of others.

MINISTERS TO THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

ECB parish ministry offers pastoral visits to people in nursing homes, or confined to private homes. The purpose of this ministry is to provide the sick with an experience of the care and concern of their faith community and also, to provide an opportunity to pray with others and to receive Eucharist. It is one way to keep the sick connected with our faith community.

Our parish has a wonderful team of people who take Communion on a regular basis to those who are unable to attend Mass .

Those who receive Communion maybe recovering from an illness, or those who are unable to get to Mass

If you wish to be added to this list please call the parish office

BAPTISMS IN ECB

By Shona & Liz

At our Baptism we become members of the Christian Community. Baptism is the first sacrament we receive, and it can be received only once.

This course helps prepare & support parents in a caring community.

Some course benefits are: diversity of people attending; sharing faith and life experiences; return of parents who have taken time out from the Church; large number of family and friends who attend the ceremony. It is encouraging to see so many having their children baptised.

It is a church requirement that one parent, (ideally both parents), attend a Baptism Course prior to the baptism of their **first** child. One parent must be a baptised Catholic. The course involves two one & a half hour sessions on successive weeks. Courses are held every two months.

2020 COURSE DATES ARE:

January 28th & February 4th

March 24th & March 31st

May 12th & May 19th

July 7th & July 14th

September 8th & September 15th

November 17th & November 24th.

Baptisms are normally scheduled for the first Sunday of the month at St Johns Church, and the third Sunday of the month at St Francis Church at 12.00 mid-day.

To enrol, either for the course, or to make a date for the baptism of a second or subsequent child, contact Liz during office hours, ph 320-3127 or email liz@ecbcatholic.org.nz

Children Baptised in our parish between December 2018 & November 2019

Maise Devereaux, Craig Stanaway, Daniel Jeon, Milla Waters, Anais Bunting, Celine De Guzman, Liam Potts, Bailey Hollis, Lorenzo Richarte, Malakai Magcaling, Christine Fernandez, Seohyeon Lee, Ha Nyi Heo, Jisun Park, Priscilla Zou, Sophie Shen, Victoria Zou, Maricarl Sia, Flynn McGregor, Abigail Prendergast, Stella Johansen, Blake Le Roux, Max Le Roux, Mila Pene-Josephs, Toby Fitzherbert, Jaina Morton-Jones, Emilia Banados, Grace Burns, Ella McDonnell, Angelo Arcano-Brown, Yido Choi, Yeohae Choi, Sadtibh Wakeman, Anjali Sumen, Vainga Lui, Latai Lui, Rihan Gibbons, Chloe Morton-Jones, Charlotte Morton-Jones, Olive Taramai, Sophie Hanley, Sean McKenna-Mahon, Lauren Tongga, Chelsea Fletcher, Amelie Stewart, Sebastian Zsadyani, Eliana Perera, Ella Mitchell, Aria Snowden, Angela Lee, Mikayla McCool, Brayden Luis, Elliot Lellman, Oscar Lellman, Tasis D'Souza, Gracia D'Souza, Leah Cho, Sophie Henderson, Ava Abbott, Kyla Aguilar, Bella Plews, Caoimhe Ronan, Eliza Riddell, Owen Beresford-Huey-Kher, Haesol Jung, Suhyun Jung, Jacob Kim, Jaime Kim, Thea Smith, Ella Ock, Anita Theunissen, Fynn Pollock, Saunte Kohler, Dandan Lu, Mingzhen Guan, Gilroy Morris, Mitchell Wisata, Keira Wisata, Michelle Yiu, Isabella Johnston-Nimmo, Eden Wilson, Thomas Dhaneesh, Ann Dhaneesh, Lily Kingston, Ruby Cachopa, Christopher Park, Ava Reade, Zander Glinkowski, Conor Johnson, Maya Curran, Beauden Simpson, Oskar Schmeier, Wooju Kang, Sadie Meurant, Addison Hughes, Nathan O'Carroll, Mia Oughton, Sienna Taylor, Hunter Hertz, Leo Jang, Julia Doh, Olivia Kim, Andrew Kim.

A BIG Thank you to Shona who prepares the parents for Baptism .

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

We remember all those who have passed away this year. We especially remember family members and friends who mourn their passing.

Byung Cho; John Dunn; Roma Roach; Patricia Drake; Ana Maria Scheirlinck; Craig Landon; Francesco Manica; Robert Youngman; June Fairclough; Debbie du Piesanie; Neville du Piesanie; Pauline Murphy; Lawrence Pope; Delia Ruane; Bill Wilson; Catherine Watt; Adrienne Shapland; Jerry Martin; Amber Rose Porter; Daniel Lanigan; Gamgug Kim; Carol Lynch; Marian Sorley; Jo Paardekam; Ila Scheckter; Lucio Kum Song; Henk van den Berg; Donald Woodward. Mihaly Zsandyi (Snr); Marian McSorley; Oonagh Fawkes; Peter Thomas; Diane Scogings.



This photo shows the Shrine at St. John's Church with the Order Of Service sheets of parishioners or family members who have passed away recently. **Book of Remembrance** (shown bottom right of photo) is always opened on the calendar date showing the names of passed parishioners and dates of their anniversary as far back as the early 1950's. It is updated by Michele Nash.

HOLY SOULS-CANDLE LIGHTING MASS

Saturday November 2nd we celebrated a special Mass of Remembrance on the Feast of the Holy Souls. Parishioners who have lost a loved one through the year are invited to light an individual candle in the name of their loved one. A candle is also lit on behalf of deceased children & grandchildren; Parents & grandparents; spouses, relatives & friends; Unborn & Miscarried; Parishioners; Teachers, students & staff of St. John's School; Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart; Priests who have served in ECB parish. Every family is able to light a candle for their intention. This year as the feast fell on a Saturday we asked people to stay after the 5.30pm Mass if they wished to remember and light a candle for a loved one. Over eighty candles remained lit through the night.



PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2020

Our Sacramental year commences with Reconciliation. We offer this to baptised children 8 years & older.

As our sessions are conversational, we require a parent to attend each session. Our hope is that the sacraments become more integrated into daily life.

Building our community for generations to come; meeting other families; getting to ask questions and discuss our faith are just a few of the benefits.

Sessions are held on **Sundays; 8.00-8.45am** finishing in time for 9am Mass. We encourage you to stay for Mass.

We follow the Diocesan program with our own flavour added!

RECONCILIATION TIMETABLE

REGISTRATION	SUN. FEBRUARY 16 TH
SESSION 1	SUNDAY MARCH 1 st
SESSION 2	SUNDAY MARCH 8 TH
SESSION 3	SUNDAY MARCH 15 TH
SESSION 4	SUN. MARCH 22 nd
CEREMONY	WED. MARCH 25TH ; 7.00pm

Again, in 2020 we are offering the Sacrament of Confirmation for those who wish to complete the Sacraments of Reconciliation; Confirmation; and First Holy Communion in one calendar year.

CONFIRMATION: (Younger group)

REGISTRATION	Sunday 24th May; 8.00am
SESSION 1	Sunday 7th June; 8.00am
SESSION 2	Sunday 14th June; 8.00am
SESSION 3	Sunday 21st June; 8.00am
SESSION 4	Sunday 28th June; 8.00am
REHEARSAL	Thursday 23rd July; 7.00pm
CEREMONY	Sunday 26th July; 3.00pm

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

REGISTRATION	Sunday 2nd August; 8.00am
SESSION 1	Sunday 9th August; 8.00am
SESSION 2	Sunday 16th August; 8.00am
SESSION 3	Sunday 23rd August; 8.00am
SESSION 4	Sunday 30th August; 8.00am
REHEARSAL	Sunday 13th September; 8.00am
CEREMONY	Sunday 20th September; 11.00am

CONFIRMATION: Year 9 & older.

REGISTRATION	Wed. April 1st	4.00pm
SESSION 1	Wed. April 29th	4.00pm
SESSION 2	Wed. May 6th	4.00pm
SESSION 3	Sat. May 12th	4.00pm
YOUTH MASS	Sat. May 16th	5.30pm
SESSION 4	Wed. May 20th	4.00pm
SESSION 5	Wed. May 27th	4.00pm
SESSION 6	Wed. June 3rd	4.00pm
Session 7	Wed. June 10th	4.00pm
SESSION 8	Wed. June 17th	4.00pm
YOUTH MASS	Sat. June 20th	5.30pm
SESSION 9	Wed. June 24th	4.00pm
SESSION 10	Wed. July 1st	4.00pm
REHEARSAL	Thurs. July 23rd	7.00pm
CEREMONY	Sun. July 26th	3.00pm

If you have any questions please contact Liz in the parish office.

ST. JOHNS PRIMARY



Kia ora Parish Whanau

Staff and students have had another wonderful, fun filled year of learning at St John's. I always think it is such a privilege to watch the holistic development of both our staff and students. Our staff are always seeking professional learning opportunities and our students simply love to learn!

This year we consulted with our community to review and refresh our school charter, mission & vision statement. Although, there was not a lot of change required to our vision for our school, we did see the need to add one more value. That is 'Wellbeing'. We recognise the need for our children and in fact, our whole community to have a deep understanding of holistic wellbeing (Hauora) Our Religious Education programme and the Gospel stories are excellent resources that give great examples of social, emotional, physical, and spiritual wellbeing (*Have I not commanded you? Be strong & courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*) (Joshua 1:9)

This year we welcomed the reviewers from the Catholic Schools Office into our school. They spent three days with us. We are very proud of the report that followed this process. *"The school provides many opportunities for each child*

to have a genuine & ongoing encounter with Christ, to grow in knowledge & understanding of Christ's teaching & to live a life of Christian witness within the Catholic Church" (External Special Catholic Character Review, 2019)

We are also very blessed to have the ongoing support of the parish with Father Raphael, Father Marchellino, Liz and Belinda who are such an integral part of our school & support the faith formation of our staff and students. One the highlights of our school year has been the baptism of one of our children. This beautiful ceremony was attended by all his classmates and two more baptisms have been initiated as a result of this very special occasion.

As always we have had many highlights with school excursions, great sporting results, a high performing choir, a very strong Kapa Haka group in both the senior and junior school, and an outstanding cultural festival and Junior Nativity show.

I was very fortunate to have been selected to participate in a NZ Principals delegation to China to learn more about the Chinese culture and education system so as to support the new Chinese students that are coming into our NZ schools. We have many beautiful Chinese students at St John's so I do hope that my new learning and understanding of their culture will help them to feel welcome and valued in our school.

We have also had some sad times this year with the passing of 2 of our beautiful fathers. Whilst tragedies such as these are so heart breaking, it is at these times that the incredible love in our community can be seen in action. **Together we are stronger.** I thank God for the privilege to lead St John's school for another year. God's blessings on you all.

Viki Trainor Principal



PARISH PICNIC



WAIAKE BEACH, Tor-
Sunday February 16th

11.30am onwards

Fun & games

Bring your
food etc.



CONVERSATION ENGLISH:

The English conversation group is an informal group of people from different nationalities who are wanting to improve their spoken English. We focus on topics of interest for everyone and discuss some of the cultural differences we find when living in New Zealand. Currently the members are from Korea, China and Indonesia and we are all enjoying learning about each other's countries and forming new friendships. We welcome new members into this very supportive group. Meetings

occur every Tuesday 1.0 – 2.0p.m. in the Father Quinn Chapel in Saint John's Church in Mairangi Bay. You are welcome to just turn up for the meetings or ph. Mary Finlayson on 444-7156 mary.finlayson@gmail.com

영어 회화

뉴질랜드에 새롭게 오셨거나 적응하시는 분들을 위해

영어 회화 스킬을 알려드립니다.

시간: 매주 화요일 오후 1시-2시

장소: 마이랑이베이 세인트 존 성당(St.Johns) 내 경당

더 많은 정보는

메리 핀레이슨 444 7156 으로 연락주세요.

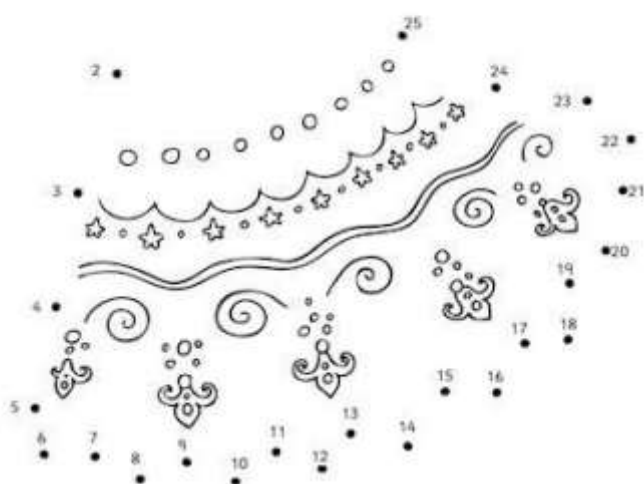
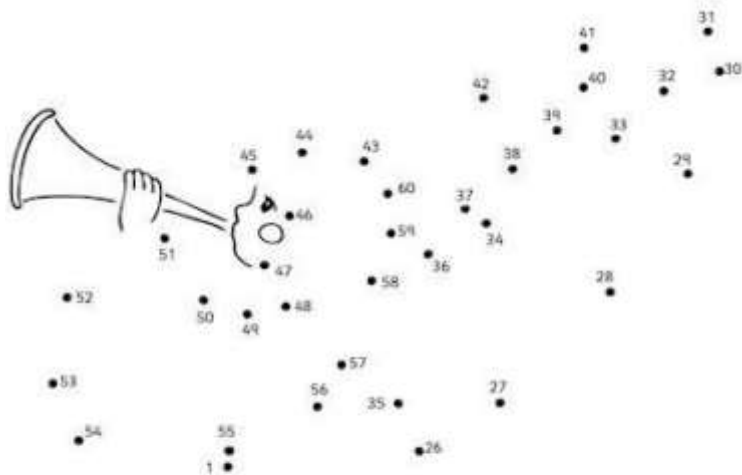


WORD SEARCH

CHRIST CHILD BABY BORN
SHEPHERDS ANGELS SING
HALLELUJAH SAVIOR JOY
KING PRINCE PEACE LOVE
MANGER HAY SWADDLING
MARY JOSEPH WISEMAN

Christmas Tree Maze

Can you find your way from the base of the Christmas tree all the way to the star?



- ◆ <https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/advent/calendars/advent-calendar-for-adults?p=1>
- ◆ <http://sacraparental.com/2014/11/15/top-10-christmas-picture-books-that-feature-jesus/>

REGULAR SESSIONS:

(check Newsletter for dates & times)

BAPTISM COURSE:

every 2nd month (Required for 1st child only) 2 Tuesday sessions.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

(School Terms)

St. Johns; 9am Mass;

St. Francis; 10.30am Mass

CHILDREN'S MASS:

3rd Sunday 9.00am at St. Johns .

YOUTH MASS:

 3rd Saturday 5.30pm Mass

ROSARY GROUPS: Tuesdays,
Wednesdays and Thursdays

LIVING WATER

Charismatic Prayer Group

St Johns church; Mondays;
7:30pm. You are invited to join us.

The group are willing to pray for your intentions. Write your requests & place them in the box in the foyer.



VOLUNTEERS!

IF YOU CAN HELP, CALL THE OFFICE

- * **Children's Liturgy:** By law we need two people to take each session so... we are always looking for people who want to share their faith with our young ones. Material provided.
- * **Altar Servers:** training provided. (must have made First Holy Communion)
- * **Computer Operators at Mass:** this ministry suits those who can operate a computer! Young and not so...
- * **Church Gardeners:** Claim a patch or help an existing gardener.
- * There are lots of areas that we need a helping hand with. Being involved is a great way to meet people and take ownership of your church.

PARISH GROUP CONTACTS:

FAMILY GROUPS:

Lindsay & Colin 021 08295605

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:

Bernadette 415-9044

HAPPY HOUR:

Christine 479-7694

SECULAR FRANCISCANS:

Kim 478-6032

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:

Anne 415-8820



facebook

Search:

East Coast Bays Catholic Parish: WELCOME

This is your place to connect and stay up to date with your parish. Please add news, prayers, requests or events and they will be published as soon as possible.

CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION:

for children aged 7-12 years old not attending a Catholic school. Sessions are held by appointment at St. Francis Church with Deacon Dave deacondavenz@me.com

ADORATION

MEDITATION & CONTEMPLATION

1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, ECB
87 HASTINGS RD, MAIRANGI BAY**

7.00 - 10.00PM

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

(RCIA), is a process developed by the Catholic Church for prospective converts to Catholicism who are above the age of infant baptism. Candidates are gradually introduced to aspects of Catholic beliefs and practices.

Leo Ong Parish Co-ordinator



Ph. 021 037 0072 or
ong8899@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS 2019

CHRISTMAS EVE – Tuesday 24th December

- 5.30 pm. - **CHILDREN'S MASS** – St. Francis de Sales
8.15 pm. - Vigil Mass – St John the Baptist Church
11.30 pm. - Carol s & Midnight Mass
 - St Francis de Sales

CHRISTMAS DAY – Wednesday 25th December

- 7.30 am. – St Francis de Sales
9.00 am. – St John the Baptist

ST. STEPHEN'S FEAST – Thursday 26th December

- 10.00 am – St. Francis De Sales

*Normal timetable resumes
from Friday 27th Dec*



New Year 2020

NEW YEARS DAY – Wednesday, 1st January 2020

- 9.15am am – St. John The Baptist

Normal Sunday / weekday Timetable resumes

Note: Liturgy of the Word with Communion at
St. Johns resumes in February.

To the householder: If any of your information has changed or you no longer wish to receive our magazine, we would greatly appreciate a phone call to our parish office. Please contact Belinda on 478-4565 ext. 2 or email office@ecbcatholic.org.nz