

# Frankie & Johnny

Catholic Parish of East Coast Bays

Christmas Edition 2024





## EAST COAST BAYS CATHOLIC PARISH

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

**Fr Danko Bizjak** [fr.danko@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:fr.danko@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

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

**Beate Matthies** [beate@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:beate@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

*Operations & Finance Manager*

**Selina Limrick** [selina@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:selina@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

*Liturgy & Pastoral Coordinator*

**Bushra Bashouri** [bushra@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:bushra@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

*Office & Communications Assistant*

**General Enquiries** [office@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

### Volunteer Teams:

**Baptisms** [baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz)  
**Database** [volunteer@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:volunteer@ecbcatholic.org.nz)  
**Rosters** [roster@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:roster@ecbcatholic.org.nz)  
**Safeguarding** [safeguarding@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:safeguarding@ecbcatholic.org.nz)  
**Sacraments** [sacraments@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:sacraments@ecbcatholic.org.nz)  
**RCIA/RCIC** [rcia@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:rcia@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

**Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm.** [www.eastcoastbayscatholic.org.nz](http://www.eastcoastbayscatholic.org.nz)



# Christmas Message from the Parish Priest



Dear brothers and sisters,

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you.

Your love, support, and generosity have been a constant source of inspiration and strength to me throughout the year. Your commitment to our parish community is a testament to the power of faith and the importance of community.

I would like to extend a special thank you to our volunteers who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make our parish events and activities a success. Your selflessness and dedication are a true reflection of the spirit of Christmas.

As we celebrate the gift of Jesus, I pray that you and your loved ones will experience the joy, peace, and love that He brings.

Thank you again for your love and support.

May the love and light of Christ shine brightly in your hearts and homes this Christmas and always.

Let us pray for God's Blessing:

*Heavenly Father,*

*As we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude and love.*

*We thank you for the gift of Jesus, who brings light, hope, and joy to our world. May His presence in our lives fill us with peace, love, and compassion.*

*We pray for all those who are struggling, suffering, or in need. May the love and kindness of Jesus be a source of comfort and strength to them.*

*We ask for your blessings on our families, friends, and communities. May our celebrations be filled with laughter, love, and joy.*

*And as we remember the true meaning of Christmas, may we be inspired to live out the values of love, kindness, and generosity that Jesus taught us.*

*We ask this through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Jesus, our brother. Amen.*

With love and blessings,  
Fr Carlo



# Two new Staff Members & a new Assistant Priest—a new Team:

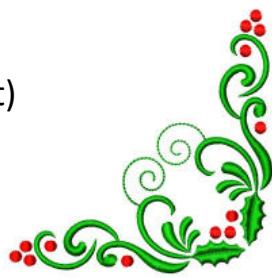


**Fr Danko Bizjak**  
(Assistant Priest & Croatian Chaplain)

**Selina Limrick**  
(Liturgy & Pastoral Coordinator)



**Bushra Bashouri**  
(Office & Communications Assistant)

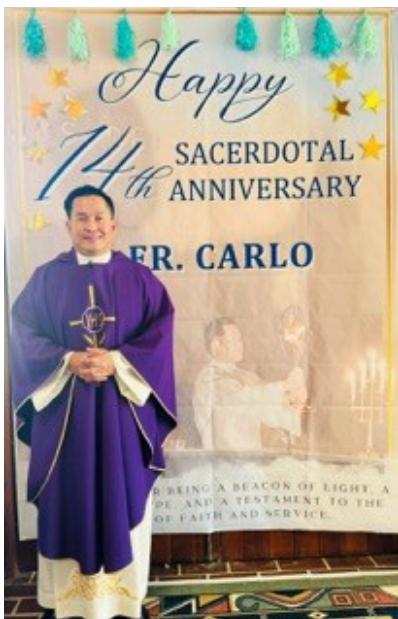


# Celebrating the Priests

## Farewell to Fr Emile



## Welcome to Fr Danko



# Update from the Operations & Finance Manager

Kia ora

You will see that we have had a number of **maintenance projects** this year. All of these projects have been urgent, and we would like to encourage you to continue donating towards our maintenance costs. It is important to keep our buildings safe, and this would not be possible without your generous support. Please note that the projects listed in this magazine are all projects to maintain and/or improve our buildings. These projects are all financed through your donations. The parish doesn't have a parish hall to hire out and therefore depends mainly on your donations.

The regular collections are used to run the parish, support the priests and the diocese. However, if you would like to contribute specifically toward maintenance, please do so by donating with your pledge number towards the project of your choice—or simply tag your donation with a key word that indicates the project. Please get in touch with me if you have any questions.

This **Frankie & Johnny** is only a snapshot of what has happened in the parish in 2024. There have been many activities and we are blessed to have a huge number of volunteers.

Did you know that there are at least 50 parishioners rostered each weekend? This doesn't include the many volunteers who work quietly in the background preparing Mass, decorating the churches, keeping the facilities tidy, weeding, preparing a cuppa and so much more.



A special thank you goes to **Tony and Maria Jardim** this year. After many years of faithful dedication and true care of St Francis de Sales Church, they have recently retired from this work. Tony has been my main contact person for anything regarding St Francis church.

There are many ways of getting involved. If you read further, you might find a group or an activity that could inspire you. Please remember to [check the website](#) for more information on groups and events in the parish.

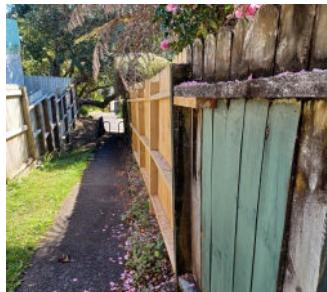
Many blessings, Beate



# Maintenance Projects 2024

**Fences**— nobody's favourites and not inexpensive, but they need to be kept safe...

*By the way, have you ever counted how many fences there are around the two churches and the presbytery?*



Grounds St Francis de Sales Church

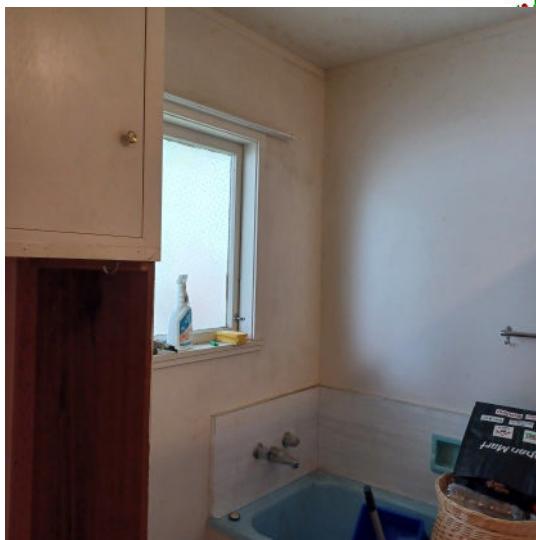


Presbytery

**Signage**— the signs at both churches were damaged...



# Presbytery—Renovation Main Bathroom

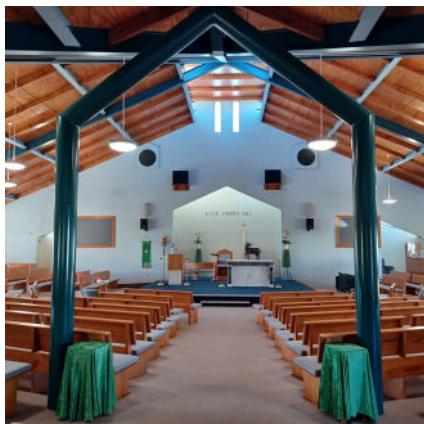




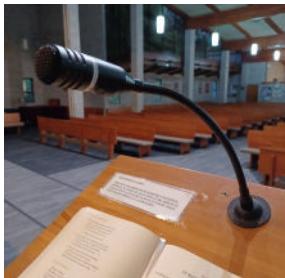
**Lights**— the new lights are brighter and more economic...



**St Francis Church**—replacement of lights in the church, new lamp shades and painting of the ceiling in the foyer.



**St John's Church**—new LED lights in the existing lamp shades have made a huge difference.



**St Francis Church**—a new microphone for the Lectern.





## Current Projects— St John's Church



**Roof Repair:** Replacing approx. 10,000 nails/screws, renewing the insulation around the flashings, repairs, washing, re-painting.



**Visual System:** The data projectors broke down a couple of weeks before Christmas. The old system (projector was 30 years old) is now replaced by two new LED screens.

**Donations towards our Maintenance Projects:**

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

Please indicate your pledge number for a donation receipt.

Contact: Beate Matthies, [beate@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:beate@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

# Sacraments in the Parish



*Baby Daisy-Jean's Baptism*

## Baptism Preparation Course:

- To provide an opportunity where families can come aside from the busyness of their day to focus on this special milestone and to prepare for it through discussion and reflection.
- To connect families whose child is being welcomed into the church.
- To look at the origins of Baptism, the church's teaching on Baptism and the role parents have as first educators.

We have a lot of fun, sharing incidents and special memories. For details see the noticeboard or our [website](mailto:baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz) contact [baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

## Sacramental Programme:

First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion—more than 60 candidates were prepared for these Sacraments by the parish's *Sacramental Programme Team*.



*First Reconciliation in St John's Church*



*First Holy Communion in St Francis Church*

# East Coast Bays Parish on Shine TV



Recording 21 August for broadcast on 25 August 2024—good turn out on a weekday with people dressed in their Sunday outfits.

Thanks to the school for their support.



 Catholic Diocese of Auckland  
Te Taumata o te Hahi Katorika

**Shine TV** is available  
on Sundays at 2pm  
or through the  
[Diocesan Website](#)



# Groups in the Parish

**Gamblers Anonymous North Shore** would like to thank St John the Baptist community for the use of your room at the church. The North Shore group has been meeting here now since 2000 each Thursday evening. We have had a number of people begin their recovery alongside those who continue their recovery. Paul A.



## Korean Prayer Group

Tuesdays, 10am  
Fr Quinn's Chapel, St John's Church



**Legion of Mary**  
Wednesdays, 4.30–5.30pm  
St John's Church

**Coffee Group**  
Tuesdays, 9.30am  
White Flower Cafe, Browns Bay  
Coffee sharing & laughter

## Meditation Group

Mondays, after Liturgy of the Word  
Fr Quinn's Chapel, St John's Church  
It involves 20minutes of silent  
meditation, and is open to  
everyone, Catholics and  
non Catholics.



## Craft Group

A weekly get together with friends from the church community. We enjoy different crafting pursuits, afternoon tea and much laughter as we craft.



It's a positive space of creativity  
and friendship and all are wel-  
come in this place.

Wednesdays, 1-3pm  
Fr Quinn's Chapel  
St John's Church



# Altar Servers



New Albs for the Altar Servers



**27 new Altar Servers were trained in 2024—thank you to all who were involved, and a special thanks to our new Altar Servers**



# Christmas Carols by Candlelight



If you missed this wonderful event, please watch the space—we will hear more from these musicians in 2025.

# Parish Pastoral Council 2024

## East Coast Bays Catholic Parish

**Our Vision:** Inspiring a loving, caring, Christ-like community



**Cathy Flynn**  
Chairperson



**Nola Lopes**  
Vice-Chairperson



**Tam Fatialofa**  
Secretary



**Mary Huang**  
Liturgy Convenor



**John Pereira**  
Interfaith Relationships



**Nonnah Nuñez**  
Bi-/Multicultural Convenor



**Marina Binns**  
St John's School



**Joseph Marr**  
Youth Convenor



**Henry Sharpe**  
Youth



**Tusi Hedditch**  
Hospitality



**Marcella von Stetten**  
Ecumenism Convenor



# Greetings from the Parish Pastoral Council

Hello, my name is Cathy Flynn, and I am a mum with three adult children, six beautiful grandchildren and have been a Parishioner in this Parish for 30 years.

We are a happy, invigorating, motivated new Parish Pastoral Team, with plenty of energy, motivation, and inspirational faith.

Our Convenors will endeavour to engage with our Parishioners, the Community (internal and external), and we will support each other as much as possible to achieve our portfolios.

With our Shepherds - Fr Carlo and Fr Danko, we are learning and developing how to out-reach to others in our Parish Community first, then externally to the greater Community where and when there is a need to share our Christian faith.

We wish you a blessed and joyful Christmas, and look forward to engaging with many of you in 2025.

Warm Regards,

Cathy

## Our Mission:

To build a loving, inclusive, caring Christ like community that inspires all to spread the message of Jesus Christ.

## Our Vision:

Inspiring a loving, caring, Christ-like community.

### Quiz

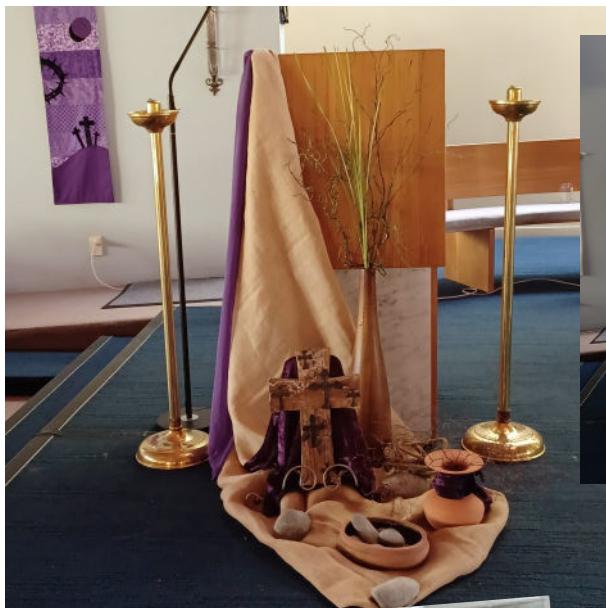
#### Question 1:

**Where was St Lucy born?**

- A: Sweden
- B: Italy
- C: Saint Lucia

# Decoration in our churches

A ministry that is often taken for granted... and yet reflects so beautifully the Liturgical Seasons and enhances our experience of Mass.



**Question 2:**  
**When was the first Advent Wreath used?**

- A: 1768
- B: 1839
- C: 1948



# A Busy Year for the Hospitality Team



Question 3:  
How many nationalities are represented on our PPC?

A: 6

B: 8

C: 10



# Some of the Groups in the Parish

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

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Over the past 12 months we have given out nearly 250 food parcels plus Christmas Hampers and Gift bags. We couldn't do all of this without the amazing generosity of the parishioners of our East Coast Bays Parish. As well, we have helped many families with the cost of school uniforms, cost of school activities etc and also personal and items for their help.

*Contact: Debbie (021 745 225) or Anne Gough (027 3210 729)*



## Passionist Family Group

The five ECB Passionist family groups while well established, are always looking to include new members. The groups continue to meet monthly, when possible, and hold low cost get togethers with the emphasis on socialising and supporting each other. This allows and encourages everyone to be part of the 'family' - family group motto is 'a family for all'!



*Contact: Shelley and Graham Ward (027 38 6114)*

## The Living Water Prayer Group

We meet every week to deepen our relationship with Jesus and each other through praise and worship, learning, prayer, and fellowship. We have different ministries like Intercessory, Healing, Caring, Hospitality that help us grow spiritually & share the Good News.

Mondays, 7.15pm, St John's Church.

*Contact: Nola and Maurice Lopes (027 66 66 857 or 027 777 5527)*

Is God calling you to walk in the footsteps of  
St Francis of Assisi?

The Secular Franciscans meet at St John's Church  
every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 4pm.

*Contact: Linda (09 479 6469)*



# Parish Christmas Celebration 2024



Question 4:

How many new Altar Servers were trained in 2024?

- A: 16
- B: 22
- C: 27



# Faith Formation



## Liturgy of the Word

Randall Ramos

### Vatican II Architecture

#### & St John's Church

Beate Matthies

Church buildings inspired by Vatican II  
the example of our St John the Baptist Church  
Today, 24 September 2024, 7-8pm  
Presenter: Beate Matthies



In this presentation, we will hear about the background of the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II) and some of the changes that resulted from this significant event.

As we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the blessing and dedication of St John the Baptist Church, we will see how much those who designed the church were inspired by Vatican II.

After the presentation, there will be an opportunity to share your experiences relating to the church.

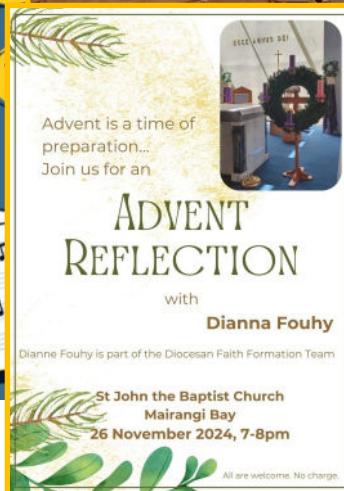
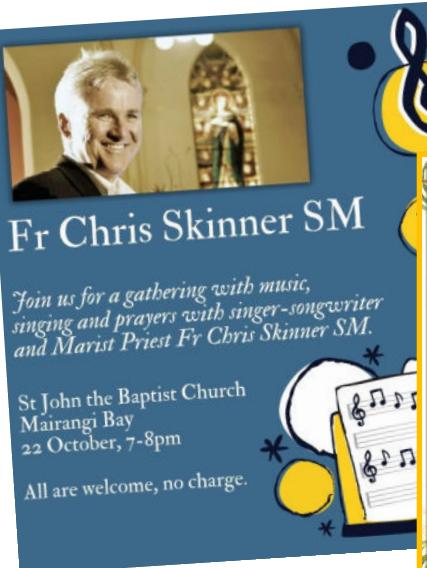


## Fr Chris Skinner SM

Join us for a gathering with music,  
singing and prayers with singer-songwriter  
and Marist Priest Fr Chris Skinner SM.

St John the Baptist Church  
Mairangi Bay  
22 October, 7-8pm

All are welcome, no charge.



## Faith Formation

Dianna Fouhy



New: Faith Formation on the 4th Tuesday/month  
St John's Church

# Volunteers

## Volunteer teams with parish email addresses:

**Baptism Team:** [baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz)  
Sandra Armstrong & Emma Anthony

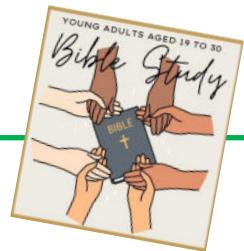


**Database Team:** [volunteer@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:volunteer@ecbcatholic.org.nz)  
Jo Ramsay & Anthony Moorcroft

**Sacramental Programme Team:** [sacraments@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:sacraments@ecbcatholic.org.nz)  
Iona Breinhorst, Amanda Dixon-McIver, Blaize D'Souza

**Roster Team:** [roster@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:roster@ecbcatholic.org.nz)  
Iona Breinhorst & Amanda Dixon-McIver

**RCIC/RCIA Team:** [rcia@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:rcia@ecbcatholic.org.nz)  
Emma Anthony, Leo Ong, Katie Pidgeon



## Volunteers needed:

Sacramental Programme  
Preparation Team



Are you  
able to  
help?

### Liturgy of the Word:

Lay leaders of the Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion. Taking turns and/or leading this wonderful ministry esp. on Monday or Tuesday mornings. Training and support are available.

### Gardening Team (St Francis / St John's church grounds)

You can work together with others or take care of your own little area—you can come every now and then, or on a regular basis. Get in touch and learn more about this rewarding ministry.



We are looking for

Singers  
Choirs  
Musicians

To join the team!



Question 5:  
**When does the  
Church Year start?**

- A: 1st of Advent
- B: 1st of December
- C: 1st of January

## Baptisms

Amira A., Henry A., Mabel A., Hezekiah Morie A., Ben A., Eli A., Coco Barton-G., Lester Ray B., Ryan B., Tineke B., Ronin B., Mariela C., Nicholas C., Esme C., Mackenzie C., Cameron C., Jake C., Leo C., Daisy-Jean C., Jered C., Hugo F., Jordan F., Olivia F., Remi Wynne F., Ezra F., Aiden G., Andrea G., Jasper H., Annalise H., Riley H., Hunter H., Ryle J., Ella J., Louie J., Eli K., Madison K., Fleur K., Gabriel K., Andrew K., Blake L., Corban L., Zachary L., Harrison M., Aaron M., Johnathan M., Coco N., Valentine O., Amelia P., Finlay P., Ethan P., Faith R., Kayden R., Milan R., Willow R., Lucia R., Alfred S., Hugo T., Cindy W., Jackson W., Beatrix Y., Logan Y.

## Funerals

Myra Buxton, Sylvia Catherine Calder, Wilfred Dowd, Peter Kelly, Clasina (Sanny) Leur, James Liu, Vinka Marinovic, Merle Marshall, Natasha McNeill - O'Keefe, Yvonne Prosee-Dixon, Antoinette Sanders, Janny Tjandra, Anthony van Veen, Eleonora Titana Walker, Anthony James Wareham



Memorial Masses for the deceased were held at all weekend Masses on the 2nd and 3rd of November 2024.

## Confirmations

Ayanessa A., Jacinth A., James B., Mia B., Ruby B., Joshua B., Murray B., Laura B., Maximo B., Jude B., Walter C., Imari Shin C., Izaac C., Rocio D., Drew D., Abbie D., Ethan E., Ricardo F., Maximilian F., Meredith F., Monty G., Carter G., Xavier H., Caoimhe H., Lorenz H., Aria H., Minjune J., Minseo J., Alena J., Declan J., Isabella J., Felipe J., Nicholas J., San K., Dominic K., Hailey K., Maggie-Rose K., Violet K., Annabel K., Zara K., Adrian L., Evelyn L., Saoirse L., Alyssa M., Lorenzo M., Arlo M., Lucy M., Alba M., Lachlan O., Calliope P., Katherine P., Kieran P., Tristian Jake P., Irene R., Ysabela R., Liliyanna R., Damian S., Daniel S., Trinity S., Elisha S., Kira S., Meesol T., Armand T., Mason, Jaye Y.

## Anointing of the Sick

New: All parishioners were invited to receive the Anointing of the Sick during all Masses on two weekends in 2024. This occasion was highly appreciated by the parishioners.

*By the anointing of the sick and the prayer of the priests the whole Church commends those who are ill to the suffering and glorified Lord.*



# Greetings from St John's School

## Some highlights shared by Marina Binns, Principal - Tumuaki:

- Matariki celebrations with shared kai, planting, and remembrance—a true connection with our bi-cultural roots.
- Advent wreath blessings, Lent appeals, and the End-of-Year Mass, where we honoured our graduating Year 6 students.
- Students actively embraced sustainability, nurturing environmental stewardship alongside vibrant produce and shared meals; learning to grow, harvest, and prepare fresh produce.
- Our school community flourished with the steadfast support of the PTFA, parents, Board and parish. Together, we enriched learning environments, celebrated milestones, and strengthened connections.

## More involvement of School Staff in Parish Committees since 2024:

Marina Binns, the Principal - Tumuaki, St John's School, is a member of the **Parish Pastoral Council** and Cara Mountjoy, the Director of Religious Studies (DRS) of the school is a member of the new **Parish Liturgy Committee**.



### CHILDREN'S MASS AT ST JOHN'S (9am, 3rd Sunday/month, except January)

Children are encouraged to arrive by 8.30am in order to allow plenty of time for them to practise their roles for the Mass which builds confidence as well as competence. Our music for these Masses is now lead by Cara Mountjoy the DRS of St John's School. Lucy Kim has joined the team for these Masses. We warmly invite all parish children to join us for these Masses in 2025 and to help make the 3rd Sunday of each month a special time of worship for the children in our parish.



## Baptism Dates 2025

The next Baptism Preparation Course is scheduled for Tuesday, 11 February at 7pm. Baptisms are held on the first Saturday of the month, 11am, at St John's church. For more info [see our website](#).

## Sacramental Programme 2025

For all baptised children aged between 7 years and 18 years as of **June 2025**, who would like to register, please visit parish [website](#) to express your interest.

### Quiz—Did you know it?

- Question 1: B
- Question 2: B
- Question 3: B
- Question 4: C
- Question 5: A

### New: Cashless payment is now possible in both churches.

*If you need a donation receipt, please register with the parish and donate with your pledge number per envelope or Internet Banking.*



## Christmas Masses

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

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

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

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

## New Year Mass

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

### Please note:

**The office will be closed from 24 Dec 2024 to 13 Jan 2025.**

Many blessings for Christmas  
& Happy New Year