

Frankie & Johnny

Catholic Parish of East Coast Bays

Christmas Edition 2024





EAST COAST BAYS CATHOLIC PARISH

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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.

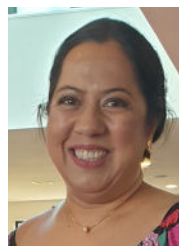
With love and blessings,
Fr Carlo



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)

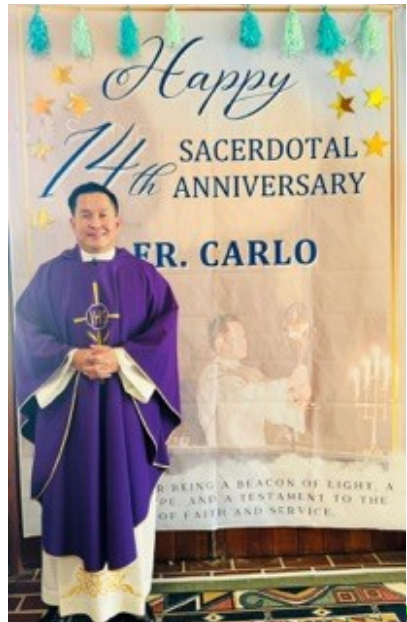


Celebrating the Priests

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.

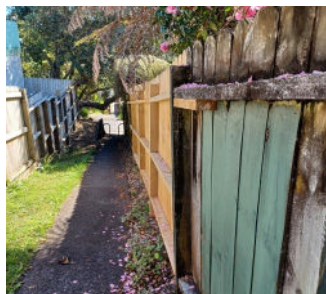
Many blessings, Beate



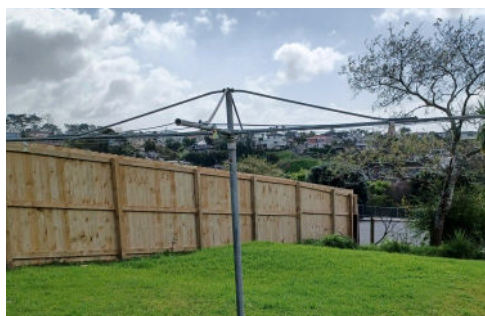
Maintenance Projects 2024

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

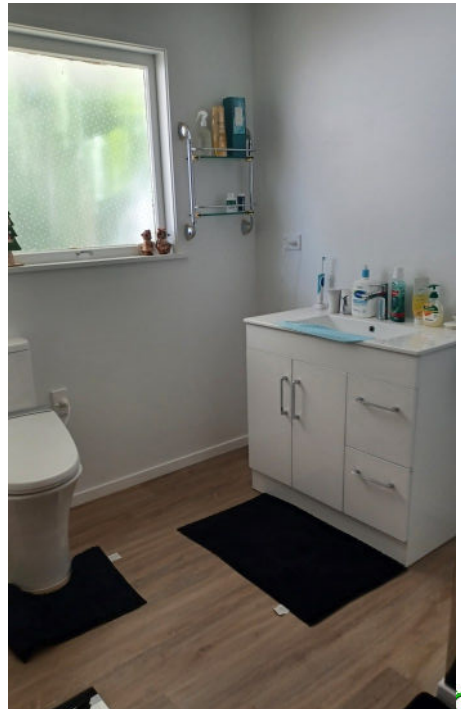


Presbytery

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

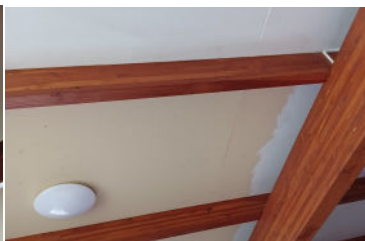


Presbytery—Renovation Main Bathroom

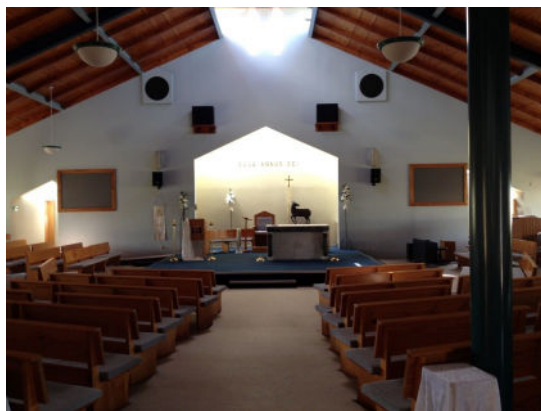




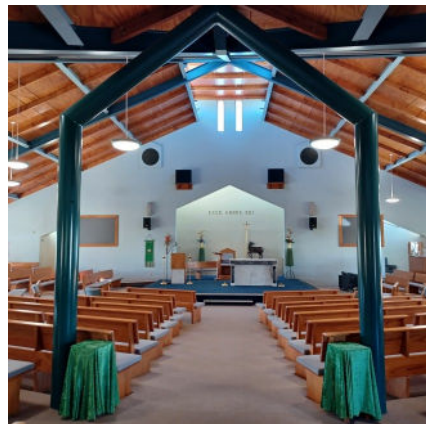
Lights— the new lights are brighter and more economic...



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

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](http://baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz) contact 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

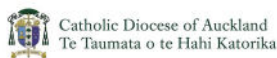


First Holy Communion in St Francis Church

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.



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 20 minutes 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 welcome 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

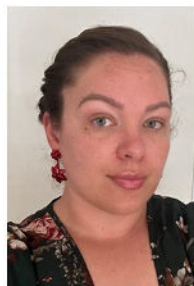
Our Vision: Inspiring a loving, caring, Christ-like community



Cathy Flynn
Chairperson



Nola Lopes
Vice-Chairperson



Tam Fatialofa
Secretary



Mary Huang
Liturgy Convenor



John Pereira
Interfaith Relationships



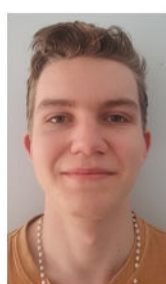
Nonnah Nuñez
Bi-/Multicultural Convenor



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.



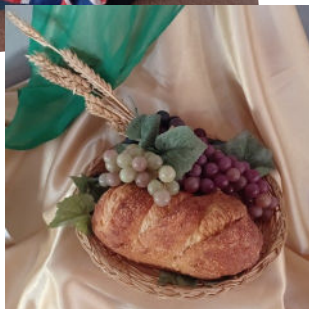
Question 2:

When was the first Advent Wreath used?

A: 1768

B: 1839

C: 1948



A Busy Year for the Hospitality Team



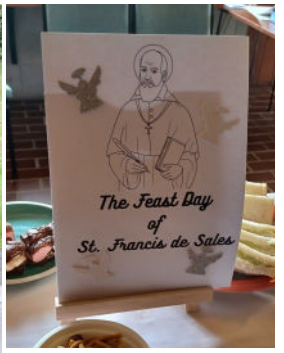
Question 3:

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 2nd 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



Vatican II Architecture & St John's Church Beate Matthies

Church buildings inspired by Vatican II
The example of our St John the Baptist Church
Tuesday, 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.

Liturgy of the Word Randall Ramos

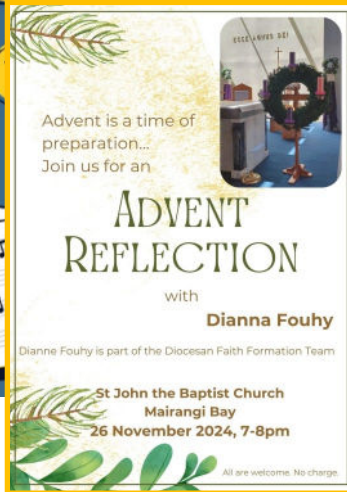


Fr Chris Skinner SM

*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:

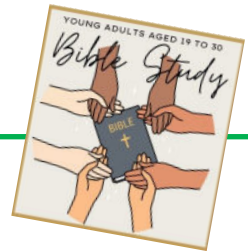
Baptism Team: baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz
Sandra Armstrong & Emma Anthony

Database Team: volunteer@ecbcatholic.org.nz
Jo Ramsay & Anthony Moorcroft

Sacramental Programme Team: sacraments@ecbcatholic.org.nz
Iona Breinhorst, Amanda Dixon-Mclver, Blaize D'Souza

Roster Team: roster@ecbcatholic.org.nz
Iona Breinhorst & Amanda Dixon-Mclver

RCIC/RCIA Team: 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.

**We
NEED YOUR HELP!**

We are looking for
Singers
Choirs
Musicians
To join the team!

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.

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, Elleonora Titana Walker, Anthony James Wareham

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., Isaac 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.



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



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

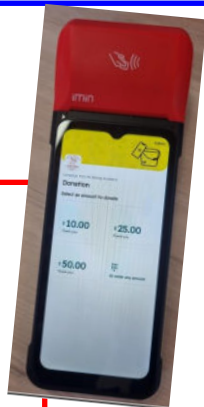
For all baptised children aged between 7 years and 18 years as of **June 2025**, who would like to register, please visit parish [website](#) to express your interest.

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