



# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025**

**EAST COAST BAYS PARISH**

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# AGM 2025AGENDA

TIME	ITEM ON SCHEDULE
12.00	Tea, Coffee, Snacks and Socialising
12.30	Opening Prayer
12.35	Meeting open with approval of minutes from 2024 AGM
12.40	Addresses by: Nola Lopes (Chair) & Parish Pastoral Council Team Maurice Lopes (Chair) & Finance Committee Team Fr Carlo - Parish Priest
	Q & A to all reports
	Approval of reports
	PPC Member changes
	Nominations of any new PPC Members
	Future projects announced
	Launch new Parish Plan 2026 - 2028
	Closing Prayer and meeting end
	Feast of St Johns the Baptist celebration



# FR CARLO'S WELCOME



Dear brothers and sisters,

As we gather for our AGM today on the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, we are reminded of the centrality of the Eucharist in our lives. Jesus's presence in the Blessed Sacrament is a source of strength, comfort and inspiration for us.

I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to Fr Danko, who has served our community for the last 10 months. We bid farewell to him with appreciation, acknowledging his service. We pray for him as he moves to Avondale and wish him all the best in his future ministry.

I appreciate your dedication to our community, your service, and your generosity. Your commitment to spreading the Gospel and serving others is a testament to the power of faith in action. As we reflect on the past year, let's give thanks for the ways God has worked in our midst.

As we look ahead, let's continue to support one another, pray for each other, and work together to build a vibrant and loving community. May God's love guide us and inspire us to be beacons of hope in our parish community.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our parish community. May God bless our gathering and guide us in our mission.

And as St John Paul II said “*Let us remember the past with **gratitude**, live the present with **enthusiasm**, and look forward to the future with **confidence**.*”

Blessings,  
Fr Carlo

# PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR



The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is a collaborative body made up of the Parish Priest and a team of parishioners working together to discern and fulfil the mission of our parish in alignment with the Gospel. Guided by the Auckland Diocese mandate, the PPC's focus is pastoral: to foster spiritual growth, support mission, and build a vibrant, Christ-centred community.

*"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." – Proverbs 16:3*

Though this year has seen some changes in Council membership, we have remained faithful to our purpose, continuing to support and encourage many initiatives across the parish. Our work is grounded in prayer, trust in God, and a shared commitment to strengthening our parish life.

## Our Strategic Vision

"To cultivate a loving, caring, and Christ-centred community that embodies compassion, fosters spiritual growth, and inspires all to encounter Jesus Christ."

## Highlights of Key Initiatives (Since AGM 2024)

**Events & Celebrations** – We've organised numerous events that bring joy and foster togetherness. E.g. Grandparents' Day special blessings; Mother's Day blessing and bookmarks featuring emergency Bible verses; Father's Day blessing and celebration; blessings and lolly bags to celebrate Children's Day; Parish Christmas Party; Carols by Candlelight led by Ben and supported by various parish musicians; and milestone celebrations, including Fr. Danko's birthday and Fr. Carlo's 14th ordination anniversary.

**Fellowship after masses** – They allow friendships to flourish and give newcomers a chance to connect with others in a welcoming environment. E.g. café gatherings after Mass, bring-a-plate shared morning teas, and rice, pasta, and soup evenings – all fostering a space where community bonds grow and faith is strengthened.

**Fundraising Initiatives** – Efforts have been taken to support parish, community & charitable initiatives e.g. St John's 30th Anniversary BBQ and hamper fundraiser to help with roof repair costs, BBQ for medical support for a parishioner in need & Caritas Lenten appeal. We look to building on this momentum in the coming year.

**Hospitality Committee** – This dedicated team has been the backbone of our celebrations and fundraising events, providing essential support with setup, catering, and coordination. They organise major parish events such as the Parish Christmas Party, AGM 2024, Carols by Candlelight, the Multicultural Festival, and Anniversary celebrations.

**Liturgical Life & Faith Formation** – To deepen our spiritual life and grow stronger in our faith. These included the Rosary before Mass on 6 & 7 Sept '24, incorporation of te reo Māori in the Prayer of the Faithful, & participation in the Shine TV Mass, which offers spiritual connection for those unable to attend in person. We celebrate wedding anniversaries on the first Friday of every month, and we celebrate parishioners' birthdays on the first Sunday of each month.

We continue to enrich our communal worship through monthly Faith Formation evenings alongside RCIA, Baptisms, and sacramental programs. We invite more parishioners into a deeper relationship with Christ through Alpha and Life in the Spirit Seminars. We also maintain a strong focus on Safeguarding, which is essential to protecting the dignity, safety, and well-being of all, especially the vulnerable, within our parish community.

**Multicultural Engagement** – We celebrated our diversity through: Our first Multicultural Festival showcasing a variety of cuisines and cultures, Increased cultural involvement in liturgies and parish events, & started a parish cultural database so all cultures are represented in future cultural initiatives.

This ministry aims to ensure all feel seen, welcomed, and part of our parish family.

**Social Media & Digital Engagement** – Our communications team have Revived the parish Facebook page by actively sharing news and photos, Centralised event photos via a Google Drive for easy access and archiving and Ensured more timely updates and promotion of parish events and milestones. We hope to grow our digital presence further and are looking for support with a website refresh.

**School & Social Outreach** – Led by St. John's School, our young people and educators engaged in: Cans for Christmas Drive – donations to St. Vincent de Paul, Mission Day Fundraiser – supporting "I Am Hope" and The Hearing House & Kaitiaki Guardians – continuing care for the environment. This partnership models faith in action and inspires children's participation in social justice.

**Youth Ministry** – We are pleased to share that Youth Bible Study is now entering its second year. Our Youth Leadership Team has formed under the guidance of Dina and Tam. Investing in the next generation is vital, and we need your support to help give our young adults a space to experience and grow in their faith.

### **Opportunities to Serve**

Know that your involvement will strengthen our community and deepens our mission.

Music Ministry: Musicians are needed at the 5:30pm and 7:30am Masses (contact Matt or Parish Office)

Digital Space: We need a talented volunteer to help refresh our website

Alpha & Life in the Spirit Seminar: Seeking at least 10 individuals to assist with facilitating group discussions in upcoming sessions

Car Park Attendants: A health & safety priority – we need a team across all Mass times to drive this Health & Safety initiative.

Hospitality Support: Additional volunteers are needed to support hospitality teams at both churches

### **Gratitude & Acknowledgements**

We express our heartfelt thanks to:

Fr. Carlo, for his tireless leadership and his vision of a collaborative, inclusive parish

Fr. Danko, for his joyful energy and support over the past 10 months; we wish him well in his new parish at Avondale

I thank our current PPC members for their service:

Tam Fatiolafa (Deputy Chair), Dina Aziz (Youth Ministry), Tusi Hedditch (Hospitality), Nonnah Nunez (Multicultural), John Pereira (Social Media & Interfaith), Ms. Marina Binns, Principal, St. John's School

A special note of thanks to the PPC members who stepped down this year:

Cathy Flynne (Chairperson & Finance), Marcella Von Stedden (Ecumenical), Mary Huang (Liturgy), Henry Sharpe (Youth) & Joseph Marr (Youth/Bi & Multicultural). We are grateful for the passion, dedication, and faith each of you brought to the PPC.

Welcome to new members:

As we give thanks, I also join the rest of the Parish Pastoral Council in warmly welcoming our new members at this AGM. We look forward to journeying together in faith and service.

God Bless

Nola Lopes

Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson  
East Coast Bays Parish



# FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR



## Finance Committee Chair: Maurice Lopes

Catholic Parish of St John the Baptist of East Coast Bays  
Financial Year Ended 31st December 2024

**Members:** Fr Carlo Cruz (Parish Priest), Beate Matthies (Finance & Operations Manager),  
Barry Rogers, Tim Williams, Paddy Luxford, Chris Cuniffe

**Mission:** The Finance Committee collaborates with the Parish Priest to ensure the Parish has the necessary financial resources to maintain its facilities, support pastoral staff, manage budgets, and safeguard all income, expenditures, and assets in accordance with the Canon Law.

For the year ended **31 December 2024**, the Parish recorded a net operating deficit of **\$74,323**, a further decline from the 2023 deficit of \$65,741. While revenue rose **9.23%** to **\$414,393**, expenses increased **9.79%** to **\$488,716** driven by increased staffing costs from the addition of two part-time employees, on-going property maintenance, mandatory diocesan contributions, and limited income streams. **15%** (\$75,022) of the total operating expenses is depreciation a non-cash cost reflecting asset usage over time. It is included to capture asset value loss which contributes to the overall deficit. While the Parish holds a strong asset base which includes land and buildings, cash reserves remain low at **\$26,372**. To **break even**, the parish must fully cover expenses of **\$488,716**. Our church buildings and facilities are aging and require ongoing care and maintenance. We must therefore ensure that our donation income is sufficient to meet these ongoing expenses.

### Key Financial Drivers

— Recurring Deficits	— Donor Dependency
— Rising Operating Costs	— Aging Facilities requiring on-going maintenance
— Low Cash Reserves	— Presbytery Modernisation

Since COVID-19, the Parish has faced ongoing financial challenges. We’ve again incurred significant maintenance expenses this year, which include maintenance of St John’s roof, TV screens (both churches), presbytery bathroom upgrade etc. Although revenue has seen modest growth, 92% of this still remains reliant on parishioner donations, and expenses continue to exceed income. In recent years, the Finance & Operations Manager has enhanced processes and continues to seek ways to reduce expenses. However, rising costs still require steady contribution from our parishioners.

### Our Action Plan

Previous reports have highlighted the need to change our parish from maintenance driven to mission focused. The Finance Committee proposes the following actions to be undertaken over the 12 months post-AGM:

— Enhance Revenue Generation	— Undertake Targeted Maintenance & Capital Works Programme
— Improve Cash flow	— Obtain diocesan approval for proposed presbytery works
— Leverage Volunteer Support	— Secure the necessary funding for the presbytery upgrade

Maintaining a safe, healthy, and welcoming environment remains a priority. This means ongoing expenses related to the upkeep and maintenance of our parish buildings is essential.

### Future Key Projects

— Audio Systems Upgrade both churches	— Drainage at St Francis
— Mother Mary's Altar Fire Hazard	— St Francis Car Park Markings (work in progress)
— Donation Point – Customized Stand	— Presbytery Modernisation
— Fences at St Francis (bottom of parking)	— Fences at St John's (driveway East Coast Bays Road to Presbytery)

Refer to the Finance & Operations Manager's brief or parish office for further details.

### Conclusion

As a parish, we must stay engaged and connected. As members of the Finance Committee, we are appointed to provide guidance and support to the parish priest. We extend our thanks to all finance committee members for their ongoing dedication and valuable contributions. We welcome **Chris Cunniffe** to the team and look forward to his involvement. A special note of gratitude goes to **Barry Rogers** for his outstanding leadership as Chairperson. His dedication, wisdom, and stewardship have been a true blessing to our parish, and we are deeply grateful for the lasting impact he has made.

To help cover the costs of our maintenance work and projects, all donations should be directed to East Coast Bays Parish: **02-0108-0707702-003 (BNZ)**. Please tag your transaction with the name of the specific **Maintenance Project** you wish to support.



# PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL TEAM



Nola Lopes



Tam Fatialofa



Dina Aziz



St John's School Rep  
Principal: Marina  
Binns



Tusi Hedditch



Nonnah Nunez



John Pereira

# FINANCE COMMITTEE TEAM



Chris Cunniffe, Maurice Lopes, Barry Rogers  
Beate Matthies, Tim Williams, Paddy Luxford



# ST JOHNS SCHOOL



St John's School

Over the past year, our school has continued to flourish across all aspects of learning and community life, with numerous events and initiatives.

This year saw the introduction of the new Religious Education curriculum to Year 5 and 6—now introduced across all year levels, connecting the lives of children with their spiritual journey, and their role in the mission of the Church.

We celebrated Masses and liturgies together with the parish, both regularly and to mark special moments in the School and Liturgical Year including the induction of our school leaders, our Leavers Ceremony and the celebration of our School Feast Day.

Students have thrived through structured and engaging teaching and rich learning experiences both inside and outside the classrooms (including going inside a 12m inflatable whale in the school hall).

While academic excellence and faith development remain a priority, we have also maintained our commitment to social outreach. Our students have engaged in various service activities, including our annual Mission Fair, Kindness Day, and collecting items for families in need, reflecting our commitment to Catholic social teaching in action.

Through all this we have managed to have a lot of fun too; hosting our Nearest and Dearest at school, wearing our pyjamas to school, Opposite Day, a fabulous Mini Olympic fundraiser and Adventure Run to name just a few events.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in nurturing the growth of our students and our school community.

God bless,  
Marina Binns  
Principal-Tumuaki

[marinab@sjmb.school.nz](mailto:marinab@sjmb.school.nz)





# **THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS**

In our parish, we are truly blessed to have many dedicated individuals—our “secret agents”—who quietly and faithfully support the heartbeat of our church. Whether you serve in a visible role or behind the scenes, your presence and commitment do not go unnoticed.

You come and go with humility, always finding time to offer your gifts and support. Because of you, we are able to celebrate Mass, maintain a clean and welcoming church, enjoy beautiful gardens, and experience the warmth of a thriving parish community.

Your time, energy, and love for this parish are invaluable. From music ministry to liturgical roles, from hospitality to quiet service in the background—each of you plays a part in something greater. You help make our parish the wonderful, spirit-filled place it is.

Thank you for all that you do. We see you, we appreciate you, and we are grateful beyond words for your generosity.



# PARISH OFFICE

## AGM 2025: Report Operations & Finance Manager

This report covers the main items for the Church Financial Year (01 Jan-31 Dec 2024) which corresponds to the financial statement attached, but also includes some work that has been done or is work in process in 2025 to this stage.

### Operations

#### *Maintenance / Properties*

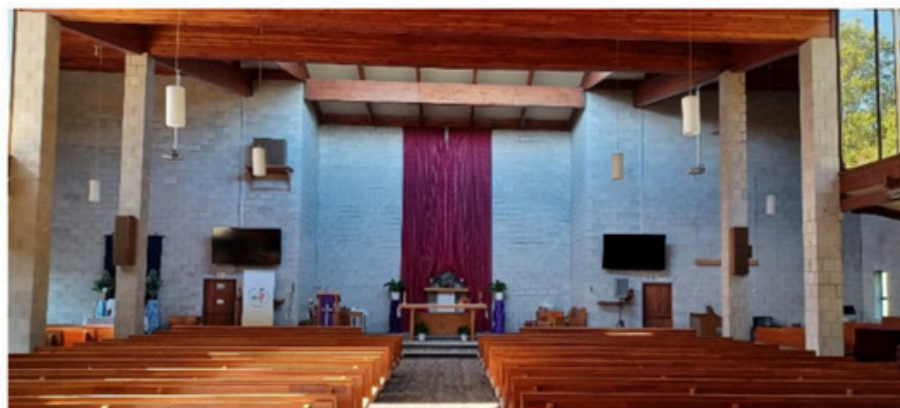
##### *Presbytery:*

- Replacement of faulty HRV System
- Replacement of the fence between the presbytery and the neighbour's property
- Renovation of the bathroom for the parish priest and adding guest toilet

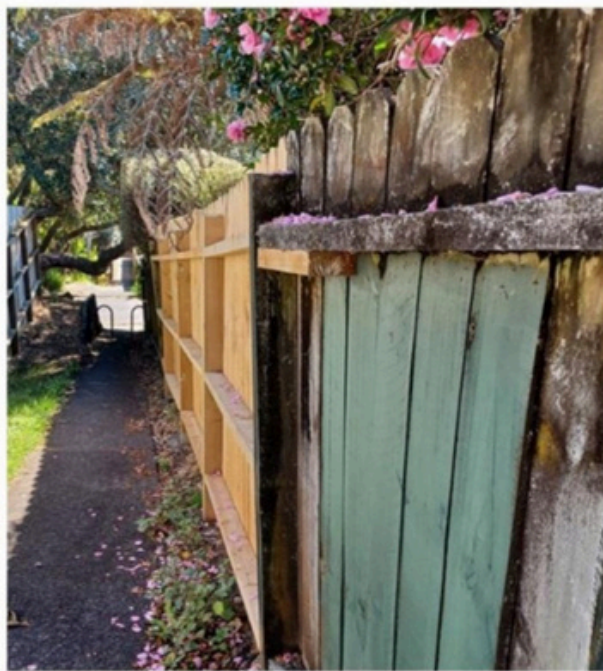


### ***St Francis de Sales Church:***

- Safe for St Francis
- Fence replacement (part replacement along walkway from Garden Lane)
- Painting of bathrooms and foyer ceiling
- Replacement sign at entrance Finchley Road
- Replacement of all lights in the church with LED lights
- New microphone for lectern installed
- Replacement hot water cylinder
- Professional deep clean of the church inside and out
- TV Screens (purchased and installed in April 2025)



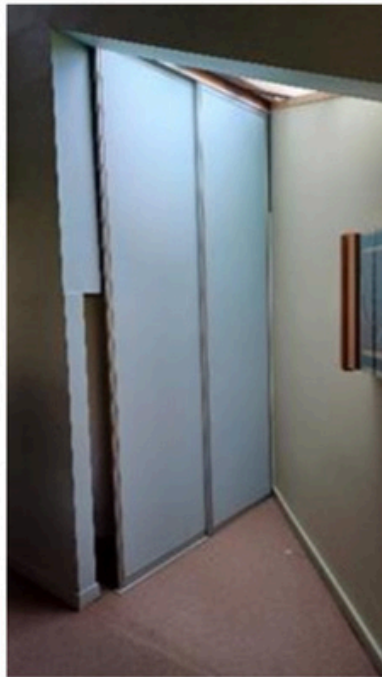
### **St Francis de Sales, Garden Lane pathway**





### ***St John the Baptist Church:***

- Replacement of lepel mic for the celebrant
- Extra fire extinguisher added next to the statue of St Mary
- All lights in the main body of the church have been replaced with LED lights
- Replacement of sign at entrance Hastings Road
- Replacement of alarm system (to comply with 4G technology) and locking system
- TV Screens
- Roof maintenance (repairs, replacement of screws and
- New sliding door next to organ after the projector equipment was removed





Roof repaired, washed, treated and painted. Gardens maintained by volunteers.

**Office:**

- Replacement of faulty phone system
- Replacement of Internet cabling

**Further Projects completed:**

- New donations points for cashless payments available in both churches and the office.

**Further Maintenance Projects planned:**

- Replacement of alarm system in St Francis to comply with 4G technology
- Carpark repair and marking at St Francis church
- Modernisation of presbytery, incl. replacement of rotten beams under deck

Thank you to all of you who have donated towards the running of the parish and the maintenance of its buildings. We appreciate your regular donations and the generous support of our fundraising projects.

The funds to pay for the repairs of the roof of St John's church have been paid from the parish savings so that the work could be carried out.

An update of raised funds are available on the parish website at

<https://eastcoastbaycatholic.org.nz/2023/02/10/fundraising-projects/>

Beate Matthies  
Operations & Finance Manager

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Parish of St John the Baptist of East Coast Bays Ecclesiastical Goods Trust

## Statement of Financial Performance

For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue from public	2.1	-	-
Donation and other revenue from members	2.2	382,786	355,818
Revenue from providing goods and services	2.3	12,000	11,000
Interest and other investment revenue	2.4	19,607	12,549
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>414,393</b>	<b>379,367</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Expenses related to public fundraising		-	-
Volunteer and employee related costs	3.1	159,688	136,052
Costs related to providing goods and services	3.2	6,886	2,398
Grants and donations made	3.3	118,885	110,365
Other operating expenses	3.4	203,256	196,294
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>488,716</b>	<b>445,109</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		<b>(74,323)</b>	<b>(65,741)</b>

# LITURGY COMMITTEE

The Liturgy Committee is led by Selina Limrick (Liturgy & Pastoral Coordinator) and meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month.

**FAITH FORMATION:** Since the last AGM, several faith formation sessions have been held to deepen our understanding of the Catholic faith, foster a personal relationship with Jesus, and equip us to live as intentional disciples.

March 2024	Faith Formation for Ministers of the Word and the Ministers of the Eucharist	Randall Ramos, Catholic Diocese of Auckland
May– July 2024	Alpha – 10 sessions & one Saturday.	Tam, Nola & The Living Water Prayer Group
October– November 2024	Life in the Spirit Seminar – 7 sessions.	Tam, Nola & The Living Water Prayer Group
September 2024	Church Councils and 30 years of St John the Baptist Church	Beate Matthies
October 2024	Music in the Liturgy	Fr Chris Skinner sm
November 2024	Advent Retreat	Dianna Fouhy, Catholic Diocese of Auckland
February 2025	RCIA	Sr Sian Owen rsj, Catholic Diocese of Auckland
March 2025	Caritas	Justine Delport
April 2025	Passionate Family Groups	Paul Traynor, National Coordinator Passionist Family Groups
May 2025	Pilgrims of Hope	Rebecca Taylor-Hunt, Director of the Catholic Enquiry Centre

**ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY** led by Ricardo Scharneck, focused on events that encouraged fellowship and deeper connections among the servers. Structured training sessions were introduced to build confidence and ensure consistency in altar service. In addition to serving at Mass, altar servers were encouraged to participate in other parish events, nurturing a spirit of community and long-lasting friendships. The dedication of the altar servers, the support of their families, and the commitment of the leadership team is a blessing to the East Coast Bays Parish community.

**MUSIC MINISTRY** led by Matt Davis and Mihaly Zsadanyi, the Music Ministry plays a vital role in the liturgy—uplifting the congregation and helping us encounter our Heavenly Father through worship. Over the past year, the leadership team, together with ministry members, has been actively onboarding new musicians and continues to seek additional support, for the 5:30pm and 7:30am Masses. We're grateful to welcome new additions such as Cara Mountjoy, Helen Ko and Ha Nyi Heo, who now support the 9:00am Mass.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH COMMUNION** includes the Ministry of the Word and Holy Communion by lay ministers. Both churches hold this service once a week — mainly led by Sandra Fisher at St. Francis and Anthony Moorcroft at St. John's. We are seeking new volunteers to support our current ministers to lead this important ministry.

**THE ROSTER TEAM** led by Amanda Dixon-McIver and Iona Breinhorst, has done an excellent job coordinating and maintaining our ministry rosters. Volunteers play a vital role in ensuring our services run smoothly, and the team is always looking for new members to join the various ministries. The roster teams ongoing support is greatly appreciated and helps keep our parish life vibrant and well-organised.

Thank you to all our volunteers—your time, energy, and dedication are deeply appreciated and make a lasting difference in our parish community.

Pastoral & Liturgy Coordinator  
Selina Limrick





# PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUPS MOVEMENT

## FOR 2024/2025

### Purpose

The Passionist Family Group Movement (PFGM) seeks to build a strong, caring parish community through friendship, support, and shared experiences. It provides a welcoming space for all parishioners to form genuine, lasting connections—creating a true ‘Family for All.’

### Highlights for the Past Year

The past six months have seen exciting growth in our parish’s Passionist Family Groups. In May, a new group was “born,” welcoming 15 households. Even more encouraging, another five families have already expressed interest in forming a second new group. This revival follows 37 years of PFGM in East Coast Bays, where many long-standing friendships were formed among older parishioners—friendships that continue to this day. This recent surge of interest from younger families holds the promise of restoring the number of active groups from four back to the higher totals we once enjoyed in our parish’s earlier years. We are also grateful for the strong support of Frs Carlo and Danko, who have helped us promote PFGM by allowing notices at Masses, the use of parish notice boards, and hosting National PFGM Coordinator Paul Traynor, who recently addressed the parish about the many personal and communal benefits of joining a Family Group.

### Plans for the Future

We plan to establish at least one more new group in response to the growing interest and to continue supporting and nurturing our existing groups. Our goal is to engage more parishioners, especially young families, and to keep passing on the successful Family Group model to the next generation—helping to deepen connections and strengthen the fabric of our parish life.

**Group Convenor :** Shelley & Graham Ward



# LEGION OF MARY KOREAN

## FOR 2024/2025

### Purpose

The four praesidia currently meeting at St. John’s Church—Mother of Mercy, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother Most Amiable, and Queen of Unity—exist to follow the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary by serving our local community in a spirit of humility, obedience, and love. Through both prayer and action, we seek the sanctification of ourselves and others. Our key activities include community outreach efforts such as visiting local nursing homes, providing meal delivery services, assisting with maintenance and repairs of parish facilities, and volunteering at special schools. These works aim to proclaim the Gospel and promote growth in faith in daily life.

### Highlights for the Past Year

Throughout the year, our weekly meetings have helped us maintain a consistent prayer life and deepen the spiritual connection among our members. We have been blessed to welcome new members into our praesidia, which has both encouraged potential growth within the Legion of Mary and brought renewed energy and motivation to our shared mission.

### Plans for the Future

Looking ahead, our primary focus is to help new members settle well into their roles and to expand the scope of our service by exploring new volunteer opportunities—especially those reaching out to individuals or groups with greater need in our community. Additionally, we hope to welcome more young people into our ranks, nurturing the next generation of leaders who will sustain and grow the presence of the Legion of Mary within the parish.

**Group Convenor:** Julieta Chung, President of the Queen of Unity Praesidium

Report submitted on behalf of the four praesidia meeting at St. John’s Church:

- Mother of Mercy Praesidium – Wednesdays at 19:00
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Praesidium – Thursdays at 20:00
- Mother Most Amiable Praesidium – Tuesdays at 10:30
- Queen of Unity Praesidium – Tuesdays at 19:30



# CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS MASS

## FOR 2024/2025

### Purpose

The Children’s Christmas Eve Mass is a special annual celebration led entirely by the children of our parish. It offers them an opportunity to actively participate in the liturgy and deepen their understanding of the true meaning of Christmas. Supported by a dedicated team of adult volunteers, the Mass brings together music, drama, and worship in a joyful celebration of the birth of Jesus.

### Highlights for the Past Year

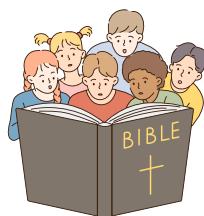
In 2024, we celebrated another beautiful and moving Christmas Eve Mass. Key highlights included:

- Participation of 31 children from our parish, aged between 6 and 13
- A seven-week journey of spiritual and practical preparation, helping the children reflect on the coming of Baby Jesus
- A variety of Christmas carols and new Christmas songs performed by the children, accompanied by our team of musicians
- A dramatization of the Nativity story during the Mass, bringing the Gospel to life
- A truly meaningful experience not only for the children involved, but for the wider parish community as well

### Plans for the Future

Our aim for future years is to continue building on this beautiful tradition by encouraging new children to participate while also retaining those who have taken part in previous years. We hope to inspire a growing sense of belonging, faith, and celebration among the youngest members of our parish.

**Group Convenor:** Lindy Williams, Assisted by Izzie Williams



# CHILDREN’S 9AM MASS

## FOR 2024/2025

### Purpose

The Monthly Children’s Mass at 9 am is designed to create a welcoming, child-focused environment where young parishioners can actively participate in the liturgy. Through simplified readings, age-appropriate reflections, and the involvement of children in various roles, the Mass nurtures faith, confidence, and a sense of belonging in our youngest parish members.

### Highlights for the Past Year

In 2024, we successfully held a Children’s Mass every month—except January—at 9 am at St John’s.

Highlights included:

- Beautiful music led by Mrs Mountjoy
- Active participation from children aged 5 and up
- Joyful, enthusiastic, and confident children leading prayers, readings, and the offertory
- A warm, family-friendly atmosphere where God’s word was shared in a simple and accessible way for children

### Plans for the Future

Our goal this year is to invite more children—especially those who currently attend other Masses such as the 7:30 or 10:30 at St Francis Church or the 5:30 pm at St John’s—to join us at the 9 am Children’s Mass on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

To help make this happen, we kindly ask parents to bring their children by 8:30 am on those Sundays so they can participate fully in the preparation and celebration.

You’re also encouraged to note these dates in your calendar or email Lindy at [lindy@willplan.co.nz](mailto:lindy@willplan.co.nz) to be added to a monthly reminder list.

**Group Convenor:** Lindy Williams, Assisted by Lucy Kim



# LIVING WATER PRAYER GROUP

## FOR 2024/2025

### Purpose

On 10 June '25, we celebrated seven years in our parish. We are a space where members and parishioners come together to worship, grow in relationship with God, and seek prayer. We are grounded in the authority and teachings of the Catholic Church, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the belief that God speaks to us through His Word.

Our mission is to build a closer relationship with Jesus through praise and worship, learning and teaching, prayer, and fellowship. We serve through various ministries—including Worship, Intercessory, Caring, and Hospitality—sharing the love of God both within our parish and the wider church community.

### Highlights for the Past Year

We have experienced many blessings this year, especially in learning to trust God's perfect timing. Our spiritual growth was enriched through powerful sessions such as:

- A Biblical Walk Through the Mass by Dr. Edward Sri
- Talks by Fr. Mike Schmitz
- Journey Through Lent with Fr. Boniface Hicks
- A number of inspiring in-person speakers

We gathered quarterly for Lectio Divina and Adoration, supported the Life in the Spirit Seminar 2024, and contributed to various parish activities, including several Sunday Cafés.

A heartfelt thank you to Deidre Broome, Chairperson of the Auckland Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group Network, for her unwavering support and dedication over the past seven years.

### Plans for the Future

We will continue to meet regularly on Monday evenings from 7:30–9:00 pm as we grow together in faith. We warmly invite all parishioners—whether you are seeking prayer, fellowship, or a deeper relationship with God—to join us on this journey.

**Group Convenor:** Nola & Maurice Lopes



# ALPHA

## FOR 2024/2025

### Purpose

The Alpha Course is an evangelistic program designed to introduce the basics of the Christian faith through a series of talks and group discussions. It offers participants an open, welcoming space to explore life's big questions, grow in relationship with Jesus, and reconnect with their faith. Alpha is interdenominational and runs globally, fostering spiritual renewal and building community.

### Highlights for the Past Year

In 2024, we successfully ran one Alpha session—our second since restarting the program in our parish in 2023.

Key highlights included:

- The formation of deep and meaningful friendships
- Strengthened connections within our parish and the wider community
- An encouraging environment where participants reignited their personal faith journeys and experienced the joy of rediscovering Jesus

The sessions created a true sense of belonging and inspired ongoing conversations about faith and life.

### Plans for the Future

Looking ahead, we are planning to run another Alpha session closer to the end of the year.

We are also committed to providing additional training for our leadership team to ensure everyone is familiar with parish guidelines regarding reimbursements and program costs. These steps will help us continue growing Alpha responsibly and effectively as part of our broader mission of evangelisation and outreach.

**Group Convenor:** Nola Lopes and Tam Fatialofa, Assisted by: Maurice Lopes, Deidre Broome and Lindsay Brand



# LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

## FOR 2024/2025

### Purpose

A Life in the Spirit Seminar (LISS) is a spiritual formation program aimed at deepening one's relationship with Jesus Christ and experiencing a fuller release of the Holy Spirit. Through talks, prayer, worship, personal testimonies, and small group sharing, participants are invited to commit—or recommit—themselves to Christ and open their hearts to the gifts and guidance of the Holy Spirit. The seminar serves as a powerful step forward in living a Spirit-filled Christian life.

### Highlights for the Past Year

We successfully ran one Life in the Spirit Seminar, which proved to be a deeply moving and transformative experience for all involved.

Key highlights included:

- Powerful moments of worship and personal encounter with the Holy Spirit
- Honest and heartfelt testimonies that inspired faith and renewal
- Strong connections formed within small groups, providing a sense of belonging and support
- A natural and enriching continuation for participants who previously attended the Alpha program

### Plans for the Future

We are excited to continue offering Life in the Spirit Seminars in the parish, building on the momentum and spiritual hunger seen so far. These seminars provide parishioners with an opportunity to embrace a deeper relationship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit and foster ongoing spiritual growth.

Looking ahead, we aim to:

- Schedule more seminars as follow-on opportunities for Alpha participants and the wider parish
- Support and encourage wider participation in charismatic renewal
- Strengthen our team to ensure the seminars continue to be well-run, welcoming, and impactful

**Group Convenor:** Nola Lopes and Deidre Broome, Assisted by: Maurice Lopes and Tam Fatialofa



# ECB CHOIR PREVIOUSLY YOUTH CHOIR

## FOR 2024/2025

### Purpose

Our choir exists to bring people together in song, praise, and worship, creating a space that supports and enhances the liturgy. We aim to foster a welcoming environment where members can grow in faith, community, and musical harmony, recognising the vital role of music in focusing on Christ and drawing hearts to worship during Mass.

### Highlights for the Past Year

We began the year as a youth choir and had the privilege of participating in events such as the carol singing. Over time, we expanded our membership to include individuals from various age groups, reflecting the diversity of our church community. Communication was improved through reorganised chats to better coordinate mass participation and event planning.

We have introduced a new set of Mass Parts: Mass of Joy and Praise.

Notably, we supported the musical development of two pianists — one of whom has since graduated and now leads music independently, while the other continues to learn with the co-leaders' (accompanist and conductor) support.

### Plans for the Future

We hope to continue growing the choir in numbers, unity and faith. Our goals include improving musical technique and cohesiveness, participating more regularly in church events, and continuing to support all members — especially those who wish to serve during Mass.

**Group Convenor:** Schevon Lopes



# YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

FOR 2024/2025

## Purpose

The Young Adults Bible Study at East Coast Bays Parish is a welcoming community for 19 to 35-year-olds to connect with one another and grow together in faith. We seek to deepen our relationship with Christ through Scripture reflection, genuine friendships, prayer, games, and, of course, shared snacks! The group offers a relaxed but meaningful space for young adults to journey in faith and life together.

## Highlights for the Past Year

- We meet weekly on Friday nights from 7 PM to 9 PM at St. Francis Church in Torbay (Mike Byrne Room), except the first Friday of each month.
- This year, we introduced a new sign-up form and have grown to 11 active members, with flexible attendance week to week—everyone is welcome to come and go as they are able.
- Due to growing interest and engagement, the age range has been extended to include young adults up to 35 years old.
- As a group, we put our faith into action by organising a BBQ fundraiser during Lent after the 9 AM Mass at St. John's, raising a generous \$1,903.40 for Caritas. It was a joyful and blessed effort!

## Plans for the Future

- We plan to continue our regular Friday night gatherings, encouraging more young adults to join and grow together in faith.
- We hope to run more service-oriented events and fundraisers, putting our faith into practice in the wider community.
- Strengthening our community by fostering deeper connections among members and creating a space where everyone feels seen, heard, and spiritually nourished remains a core goal.

**Group Convenor:** Jun Lee



# YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

FOR 2024/2025

## Purpose

The Youth Ministry Team exists to accompany and support the young people of our parish on their faith journey. Rooted in the spirit, our mission is to foster a welcoming, Christ-centered environment where youth (aged 11–18) can grow in faith, form meaningful friendships, and feel a strong sense of belonging within the parish community. This ministry aims to be a safe and supportive space where young people can thrive spiritually, emotionally, and socially.

## Highlights for the Past Year

Over the past year, the Youth Ministry Team was formed and has since undergone training and development to prepare for active ministry. A strong foundation has been laid through:

- Team formation and leadership development
- Attending relevant training sessions
- Building internal connections and unity within the team

We are now ready and excited to begin connecting with the youth of our parish in a more active and visible way.

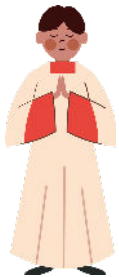
## Plans for the Future

Looking ahead, we aim to:

- Run youth Alpha program
- Reach out to altar servers, those in the sacramental program, and participants in Youth RCIA
- Launch youth group and will be following the Lifeteen program (including summer camp options)
- Build a vibrant fellowship where young people feel welcomed, valued, and spiritually nurtured
- Create a safe and engaging space for those aged 11–18 to grow in their relationship with Christ and with one another

We are excited about the journey ahead and are committed to making this ministry a meaningful and lasting part of parish life.

**Group Convenor:** Dina Aziz, Assisted by: Tam Fatialofa



# ALTAR SERVERS

FOR 2024/2025

## Purpose

The altar servers play a vital role in our liturgical celebrations, assisting the priest and deacons during Mass and helping to create a reverent and prayerful atmosphere. Their presence is not only functional but also symbolic, representing the youth of the Church and their willingness to serve God and the community. Through their actions at the altar, they help facilitate a smoother, more dignified worship experience for the entire congregation.

## Highlights for the Past Year

- One of the most memorable events this year was our community BBQ, made possible with the generous help of Anthony Moorcroft. It was a joyful occasion where we gathered outside of our usual roles to enjoy food, laughter, and fellowship.
- A team-building session led by Dina Aziz helped to initiate and strengthen relationships among our servers, fostering unity and a deeper sense of commitment.
- We also introduced structured training sessions to promote consistency, confidence, and reverence in all aspects of altar serving—from processing to posture and participation in the Mass.

## Plans for the Future

Looking forward, we aim to continue growing not only in our liturgical roles but also in our faith and sense of community. Our vision includes:

- Fostering a lasting sense of brotherhood and sisterhood among altar servers.
- Encouraging deeper relationships built on shared Catholic values and experiences that extend beyond the sanctuary.
- Continuing to improve our training programs to ensure excellence and unity in our service.

**Group Convenor:** Ricardo Scharneck



# FRIENDSHIP, COFFEE AND CRAFT

FOR 2024/2025

## Purpose

Friendship Coffee and Craft is a welcoming space where people can meet, relax, and take time out from their busy lives to enjoy companionship and creativity. It is a place for sharing skills—whether it's knitting, crocheting, or simply sharing stories—and sometimes learning new ones. The heart of the group is friendship and conversation, with a warm and inclusive environment for all, regardless of gender or background.

## Highlights for the Past Year

- The group continued to meet weekly in the Father Quinn Room at St. John's Church, with a friendly and varied attendance.
- Participants brought their own craft projects, some of which were made for worthy causes like Mission Without Borders, while others were personal—such as handmade blankets for campervans.
- A highlight of the year was a group trip to the Pompallier Centre, where they explored the Diocesan Archives and learned about the history of Bishop Pompallier's home.
- Throughout the year, the real highlight remained the lively conversation, where friendships deepened and challenges were shared, solved, and lightened.

## Plans for the Future

- The group plans to continue its weekly gatherings, maintaining the same warm and welcoming atmosphere.
- There are hopes for more outings to places of interest that inspire fellowship and curiosity.
- The spirit of sharing skills and stories will remain at the core, with the possibility of learning even more new crafts along the way.

**Group Convenor:** Judith Lunny



# MOTHERS PRAYER

FOR 2024/2025

## Purpose

Mothers Prayers is a small, prayerful group that meets to lift up our children and grandchildren in prayer. Following a structured booklet format, the group offers a peaceful and reflective time to support one another spiritually. It is part of an international movement that began in England in 1995, started by two grandmothers, and has now spread to over 70 countries.

## Highlights for the Past Year

- While the group is currently small—with only three active members—it has continued to meet faithfully on the last Friday of each month from 2:30 to 3:15 PM at St. John's.
- The group provides a quiet, consistent space to pray for families and support one another in faith and friendship.
- Although small in number, the commitment and heartfelt prayer of the members have remained strong.

## Plans for the Future

- As the group is at a crossroads, there is a desire to grow in membership, ideally to 6–8 people.
- By including this note in the report, we hope to raise awareness and invite new members who feel called to join us in prayer.
- Whether you are a mother, grandmother, or someone who simply wishes to pray for children, you are warmly welcome.

**Group Convenor:** Jeanette Dumper



# RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

FOR 2024/2025

## Purpose

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process through which adults become full members of the Catholic Church. It begins with the Period of Enquiry, allowing participants to explore the faith. As they progress, they receive deeper catechesis and spiritual formation, preparing for full initiation through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

## Highlights for the Past Year

This year's RCIA journey included key liturgical milestones:

- Rite of Acceptance, where participants were formally welcomed.
- Rite of Election on the First Sunday of Lent, marking the Elect's readiness for the sacraments.
- Scrutinies and the Presentations of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer during Lent.
- The Easter Vigil, where the Elect received the Sacraments of Initiation.
- Baptized candidates also celebrated Reconciliation and were confirmed and received the Eucharist.
- Post-baptismal Mystagogy followed, encouraging deeper faith and involvement in the Church.

## Plans for the Future

We hope to continue offering a strong RCIA programme and invite new volunteers to assist with this important ministry.

For more information, please contact the Parish Office or check the Weekly Bulletin.

**Group Convenor:** Leo Ong



# OUR LADY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRATERNITY

FOR 2024/2025

## Purpose

The North Shore Fraternity of Secular Franciscans meets on the second Sunday of each month at St. John's Church, Mairangi Bay. Rooted in the Franciscan tradition, the group offers members a chance to live the Gospel in everyday life. Meetings focus on prayer, fellowship, and ongoing Franciscan formation, helping members integrate faith more deeply into their daily lives and parish involvement.

## Highlights for the Past Year

- The fraternity currently includes ten members across several North Shore parishes, actively involved in ministries such as hospitality, Eucharistic, and liturgical service.
- At monthly meetings, the group has been reflecting on Catholic Social Teaching from a Franciscan perspective, with guidance from Fr Ephrem Tigga OFM Cap, their spiritual assistant.
- A major event was the Formation Day on March 15 at St. John's Church in Orewa, where the fraternity led both the morning and afternoon sessions. Topics included the challenges of Franciscan spirituality in a secular world and a reflective reading of the Canticum of the Sun.

## Plans for the Future

The fraternity plans to continue deepening formation, strengthening parish involvement, and welcoming new members interested in Franciscan spirituality.

**Group Convenor:** Lysa Ridling



# ST VINCENT DE PAUL

FOR 2024/2025

## Purpose

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is dedicated to serving those in need with compassion and dignity. Through practical assistance such as food, clothing, and financial support, we strive to bring hope and relief to individuals and families in our local community.

## Highlights for the Past Year

- 305 food parcels were distributed to families in need.
- The relocation of our foodbank to the Mike Byrne Room at St Francis provided more space for storage and packing, significantly improving our efficiency.
- Winter pyjamas were provided for children in supported families.
- We assisted several children from local schools by covering costs for uniforms, school camps, and extracurricular activities, easing the burden for struggling families.

## Plans for the Future

We aim to continue our core mission of service and expand our capacity to support families, especially during winter and the school year. We are a small but dedicated group, and would love to welcome new members who feel called to serve the community.

**Group Convenor:** Anne Gough





# BAPTISM PREPARATION

FOR 2024/2025

## Purpose

The Baptism Preparation Team supports families seeking the Sacrament of Baptism for children aged 7 and under. The team aims to:

- Provide a welcoming and safe environment for all.
- Facilitate discussion on the Church's teaching on baptism.
- Offer families a time of quiet reflection amid the busyness of life to consider the significance of baptism and their faith journey.
- Connect families with others pursuing baptism for their children.
- Finalise and record dates for baptism and presentation so priests are aware and prepared.

## Highlights for the Past Year

- The team of three—Sandra Armstrong, Emma Anthony, and Bushra Bashouri—met bimonthly with families.
- Strong administrative support from the parish office team ensured smooth handling of paperwork, certificate creation, and register updates.
- Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with families expressing gratitude for the welcoming atmosphere, small group connection, and the opportunity to ask questions in a supportive setting.

## Plans for the Future

- Continue the bimonthly gatherings, maintaining a warm and inclusive environment.
- Strengthen connections between families and the wider parish.
- Explore additional ways to support families post-baptism in their ongoing faith journey.

**Group Convenor:** Sandra Armstrong, Emma Anthony, and Bushra Bashouri



# TUESDAY COFFEE GROUP

FOR 2024/2025

## Purpose

The Tuesday Coffee Group is a relaxed, informal gathering where parishioners come together to connect, share stories, and enjoy each other's company. It provides a space for conversation, laughter, and mutual support within our faith community.

## Highlights for the Past Year

Each Tuesday from 9:30 AM to around 11:00 AM, parishioners have met at the White Flower Café in Browns Bay. The group often fills a table, with people coming and going as they are able. Conversations range from parish news to world events, and some bring completed jigsaws to pass along. The atmosphere is always warm, welcoming, and uplifting.

## Plans for the Future

The group looks forward to continuing weekly meetups and hopes to see new faces join in. All are welcome to drop in, grab a coffee or tea, and enjoy time with fellow parishioners—sharing stories, laughter, and encouragement.

**Group Coordinator:** Sue Lyons

# SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding has become a part of the culture in ECB parish. We recognise that by giving people a framework and the right to 'speak up', we are safeguarding the vulnerable in our community.

Our policy for vetting and training is well implemented as demonstrated in the protocol below. If you have concerns regarding your, or someone else's safety in our community please contact the parish office. For more information on what 'safeguarding' is please access the information on the diocesan website.

Safeguarding Protocol for volunteers in ECB Catholic Parish				
Ministry	Role Training	Code of Conduct	Safeguarding Training	Police Vetting
Children's Liturgy	v	v	v	v
Children's Catechism	v	v	v	v
Children's Mass	v	v	v	v
Children's Choir (in development stage but will be available)	v	v	v	v
Supporting Volunteers at other Children's Activities (the information in the LWC and Youth ministry agreement could be used in this ministry especially with regards to managing behaviour)	v	v	v	v
Youth Ministry	v	v	v	v
Visiting Extraordinary Minister	v	v	v	v
Visitor to the Sick/Housebound (pastoral visitor role agreement available)	v	v	v	v
Minister of the Word	v	v		
Extraordinary Minister	v	v		
Transporter	v	v	v	v
Coordinators of Church Groups	v	v	v	
Altar server trainer (role agreement available)	v	v	v	v
Sacristan (role agreement available)	v	v	v	v



# LEGION OF MARY

FOR 2024/2025

## Purpose

The Legion of Mary is a worldwide association of lay Catholics, founded in 1921 by Frank Duff in Dublin, Ireland. Modeled after the Roman legion, it serves the Church under ecclesiastical guidance with a twofold purpose:

1. The spiritual development of its members.
2. The advancement of the reign of Christ through devotion to Our Lady.

Members commit to wholehearted devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, regular participation in weekly meetings, and active apostolic work. Unity in prayer and service is central to the mission.

## Highlights for the Past Year

- Weekly meetings were held every Wednesday at 4:30 PM at St John's Church, centered around devotion to the Immaculate Conception, with the traditional Legion altar (Vexillum Legionis, candles, flowers, and cloth).
- The group actively supported various ministries including Faith-Based Groups, RCIA, Baptism, Liturgy of the Word, sacristy duties, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.
- Members led the daily Rosary in church, visited the sick, transported parishioners, supported the grieving, distributed literature, and took the Eucharist to the housebound.
- The statue of Our Lady was circulated among parishioners for home devotion, fostering deeper spiritual connection in the community.

## Plans for the Future

- Establish a Junior Praesidium to involve younger members in Legion work and Marian devotion.
- Continue welcoming new members to grow and strengthen the ministry's reach and service.

## Group Coordinators

- President: Sandra Fisher
- Vice President: Vacant
- Secretary: Balsam Tomas
- Treasurer: Emma Anthony



**WE LOOK FORWARD TO HOSTING  
YOU ON JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup> FROM 12PM**

The LORD is my *Shepherd;*  
I shall not want.

He maketh me to  
lie down in green pastures:

He leadeth me beside the still waters,  
He restoreth my  
*soul:*

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
for His name's sake. Yea though I walk through the  
valley of the shadow of death.

*I will fear no evil:  
for Thou art with me;*  
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies

Thou anointest my head with oil; My cup runneth over

Surely goodness & mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house  
of the LORD *forever.*  
- Psalm 23