

**Catholic Parish of  
East Coast Bays**

*Frankie & Johnny*

*Christmas 2025*





## EAST COAST BAYS CATHOLIC PARISH

**Fr Carlo Cruz**

[fr.carlo@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:fr.carlo@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

**Dcn David Marshall**

[deacondavenz@me.com](mailto:deacondavenz@me.com)

**Beate Matthies**

*Operations & Finance Manager*

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**Dewshan Fernando**

*Liturgy Coordinator*

[dewshan@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:dewshan@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

**Bushra Bashouri**

*Office & Communications Assistant*

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**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**

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**Safeguarding**

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**Sacraments**

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**OCIA/RCIA**

[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 gather to celebrate the glorious feast of Christmas, my heart is filled with deep gratitude for each one of you. This year has been a special blessing for our parish as we journeyed together through the Jubilee, walking as Pilgrims of Hope. Now, as we bring this sacred year to a close, I want to thank you sincerely for your faith, your generosity, and your joyful witness.

Throughout the Jubilee, we prayed together, served together, and renewed our commitment to living as a people of hope. I have seen Christ alive in your kindness, your patience, and your willingness to accompany one another. You have shown what it means to be a true Christian community—one that reflects the light of Christ to the world.

At Christmas, we celebrate that very Light—Jesus, the Word made flesh—who enters our darkness with peace, mercy, and unshakeable hope. May the Christ Child bless your hearts and your homes, strengthen your families, and renew in each of us the courage to continue walking as hopeful disciples.

Thank you for all you do for our parish: your prayer, your presence, your ministries, and your support. I am humbled and grateful to serve as your parish priest.

As we close this year, may we always remember what Pope 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.”

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year.

Let us continue, together, as Pilgrims of Hope.

With love and blessings,

Fr Carlo



# Our Multi-Cultural Team:

*In total, we speak more than 8 languages...*

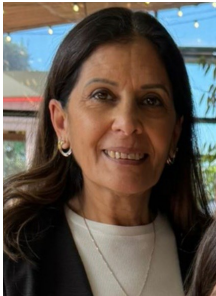


**Fr Carlo Carmelo Cruz**  
(Parish Priest)

**Dcn Dave Marshall**  
(Deacon)



**Beate Matthies**  
(Operations & Finance Manager)



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

**Dewshan Fernando**  
(Liturgy Coordinator)





# Special Visitors in the Parish & a Farewell



**Bishop Michael Dooley  
from Dunedin and  
Fr Carlo's Mother  
from the Philippines**



**Fr Edwin Ocho from Perth**



**Farewell for  
Fr Danko**



# Update from the Operations & Finance Manager

Kia ora

Thank you all for your support this year. **It is so good to have great volunteers** who work with the team in the office. I don't want to name anybody as I am afraid I miss someone, but please be assured that I appreciate your time, commitment, energy and support that we have received in many ways.

Despite being blessed with a big number of volunteers, we are still calling for new volunteers. For some tasks we still haven't found any volunteers, and then there are tasks that are better shared within teams of parishioners. Being part of a team working together means that they can support each other and being able to take a break without feeling that they are letting the parish down. As it says in the wisdom literature: "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up." (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10). If you have limited time to offer or specific talents you would like to share with the parish, please get in touch with me and we will find something that would suit you.

You will see that we have completed a number of **maintenance projects** this year. We are still in catch-up mode after the big dent that Covid left in the parish finances. At the same time, the churches and the presbytery are getting older: St Francis church was built in 1977 and St John's church in 1994.

We all know that maintenance hasn't become cheaper—as much as we are trying to save money by managing the projects ourselves and calling on some specialist volunteers who are carrying out repairs as well as other parishioners with trading businesses who give us preferred service when we call in emergencies.



Sometimes, I feel like key devices seem to break down when you most need them. Even though we had prepared quotes and calculated costs for new screens, we didn't think that we had to replace the projectors in an emergency act: the projectors in St John's church stopped working in Advent 2024 and the ones in St Francis church just before Holy Week 2025.

It is quite a challenge to get these kind of urgent projects done under enormous time pressure, but I would like to thank the volunteers who supported me and our wonderful parish electricians who went out of their way to get things done on time.

Enjoy this **Frankie & Johnny**—some snapshots of what has happened in 2025.

Many blessings, *Beate*

# Maintenance Projects 2025

## St Francis de Sales Church



Re-marking of the Carpark



CCTV Cameras for more Security

## St John the Baptist Church



### Roof Maintenance, including:

- Replacement of approx. 10,000 screws
- Replacement/Installation of Flashings
- Replacement of Ridges
- Chemical Washing & Painting
- Re-Routing of main cables



Replacement of the Window Control System



## New Screens for both churches



St John's Church, Advent 2024



St Francis Church, Lent 2025

***The total costs for the new screens was \$21,805.85. Thank you to all of you who have financially contributed to this project. So far, \$5,267.70 has been raised. The 2nd Collection during the Christmas Masses will go towards this project.***



# Planned Giving Campaign



Thank you to the many parishioners who responded to our Planned Giving Campaign in November. We have more than 60 new people who are willing to support the parish financially.

If you don't have a gifting number yet, please get in touch—you will then receive a donation receipt at the end of the tax year so that you can claim 1/3 of your donated money back.

## First Friday of the Month

Evening Mass at 6pm, incl. Wedding Anniversary Blessings, followed by Adoration



**Question 1:**

**When will the current Jubilee Year conclude?**

- A: 25 December
- B: 31 December
- C: 01 January

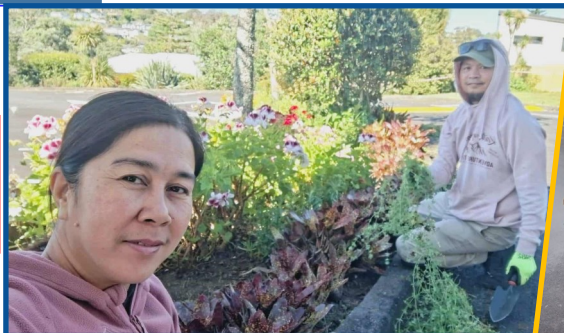
# Volunteers in the Parish



## Gardening Teams

At St John's church, we have allocated small plots to different volunteers who look after them. Earlier this year, a new volunteer committed herself to look after the plot around Our Lady. Thank you!

We are looking for more volunteers to look after the parish gardens, and we would like to set up a small team for the flower beds at St Francis church. Please get in touch with the office if you can help.



## Cleaning Team

We have a wonderful team of volunteers who regularly clean St Francis church. This year, we supported their work by getting in professional cleaners to clean the windows and the cushions on the pews (which was also done in St John's church).

### Question 2:

**Where is the defibrillator in St Francis Church?**

- A: Kitchen
- B: Foyer
- C: Sacristy



# Health & Safety in the Parish



Do you know what to do in case of an emergency?  
**Remember that we have a defibrillator in the main sacristies in both churches.** Outside Mass times, the nearest publicly accessible defibrillators are at the schools.

Mairangi Bay: **St. John's Primary School**, 87A Penzance Rd.  
Torbay: **Glamorgan School - School Hall**, 145 Glamorgan Dr

We had a great training by **Hato Hone St John** in October, and we are looking for **Health & Safety wardens** for our Masses—would this be something you might be interested in? Please get in touch with the office.



**Let's keep our community safe**



## The 3 Steps for Life:

### Calling 111



When you call 111 our call handlers work with you to send the right help for your emergency.

### Starting CPR



CPR is easy, and vital for anyone in cardiac arrest - to have a chance of survival.

### Using an AED



An AED can bring the heart back to a natural beating rhythm; using one increases a person's chance of survival by up to 40 per cent.



# 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 since 2000 each Thursday evening. We are very appreciative to have this provision. We have had a number of people begin their recovery alongside those who continue their recovery.

If gambling is an issue for anyone, please get in touch. Anonymity is part of our tradition. Paul A.

**MABUHAJ**

귀하를 환영합니다.

مرحباً

**BIENVENIDO**

**SELAMAT DATANG**

## **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

### **Question 3:**

**What is the English translation to the words next to this bubble:**

- A: How are you
- B: Welcome
- C: Blessings

## **Craft Group**

The **craft group ladies** often knit for **Dove House** and **Hospice** to support holistic care and support for people with cancer, serious illness, needing palliative care, and challenges in their lives. They offer support and encouragement to think positively about what life has offered them by skilled and professional staff. Their shops sell craft goods and other articles, the proceeds of which support their valuable work.

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





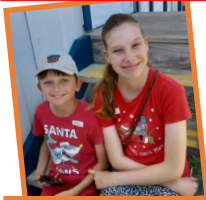
# Our Community is growing



Full Mass at St John's during Children's Mass

<b>Mass Attendance - November Counting</b>								
<b>Total/Mass</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Sat Vigil	1142	1166	915		522	780	1002	1285
Sun 7.30am	421	387	466		339	440	441	588
Sun 9am	1273	1447	1307		953	1042	1155	1595
Sun 10.30am	1082	1109	949		676	865	873	1574
Special Mass								
<b>Average/Month</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Sat Vigil	286	292	183		131	195	251	321
Sun 7.30am	105	97	93		85	110	110	147
Sun 9am	318	362	261		238	261	289	399
Sun 10.30am	271	277	190		169	216	218	394
Special Mass								
<b>Total Average/Month</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
	980	1027	727		623	782	868	1261
				lockdown				

# Parish Christmas Party 2025







# Parish Pastoral Council 2025

## East Coast Bays Catholic Parish

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



**Nola Lopes**  
Chairperson



**Cheyse Maharaj**  
Liturgy Convenor



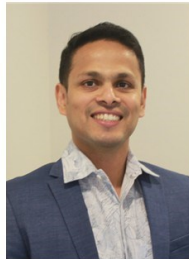
**Malcolm Pautz**  
Finance Liaison



**John Ray Taloy**  
Social Media



**Tusi Hedditch**  
Hospitality: Events/  
Catering Div.



**Renoh Chalakkal**  
Hospitality: BI &  
Multicultural Div.



**Nonnah Nuñez**  
Social Media



**Dina Aziz**  
Youth Ministry



**Ricardo Scharneck**  
Youth Ministry



**Marina Binns**  
St John's School







# Greetings from the Parish Pastoral Council

Kia ora and blessings to all,

My name is Nola Lopes, and I have the joy of serving as Chair of our Parish Pastoral Council. My husband Maurice, Chair of the Finance Committee, and our two daughters, Schevon and Simone, are all actively involved in parish life. As a family, we also lead and support the Living Water Prayer Group here at St John's.

I feel truly blessed to lead a team of dedicated and passionate Parish council members who generously give their time and talents to serve our community and live out their faith.

2025 has been a year of faith, connection, and joyful service. With new members joining the PPC, we've focused on outreach and engagement—praying the Rosary before Sunday Masses in October, improving our digital presence, and launching a volunteer campaign to invite more people into parish life.

We've hosted diocesan training for ministers, farewelled Fr. Danko with love and gratitude, celebrated fathers and grandparents, and supported youth involvement through the NET Encounter weekend and a Youth Alpha session.

The year ended on a high with our Parish Christmas Party—a vibrant sit-down celebration with pork lechon, biryani, fried rice, fresh salads, desserts, cake, games, and beautiful carols sung by our 9am and 10:30am choirs.

We now look forward to celebrating Fr. Carlo's 15th anniversary of priesthood on Sunday, 21 December. We'll be marking this as a parish family after the 10:30am Mass, and would love everyone to join us for this special occasion.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are still seeking someone to lead our Ecumenism and Interfaith portfolios. If this is something you feel called to, we warmly encourage you to connect with us.

If you'd like to speak with a PPC member, our names and photos are displayed on the noticeboards at both churches—please feel free to reach out at any time.

Wishing you and your whānau a joyful Christmas and every blessing for the New Year. Meri Kirihimete me ngā manaakitanga mō te Tau Hou!

With gratitude,

Nola Lopes

Chairperson, Parish Pastoral Council



# Altar Servers

This year, 11 new altar servers were trained. The altar servers team for St Francis church has grown so much that we needed to get more albs and hence prepared the Reconciliation Room for them to get ready before Mass.

Thank you to the wonderful volunteers who trained the Altar Servers, those who installed the wardrobe, who sewed new albs, the parents who take their children to Mass, any others who are involved in supporting the children —and, of course, thank you to all Altar Servers!



New Albs for young Altar Servers



**Question 4:**  
**Where does the ECB**  
**Young Adults Bible Study**  
**Group meet?**

- A: St Francis Church
- B: Mike Byrne Room
- C: Fr Quinn Chapel

Arena Entertainment  
for the end-of-year  
celebration for Altar  
servers and youth!





# Parish Youth



**Successful Fundraising for Caritas by the ECB Young Adults & the Bible Study group: \$ 1,903.40.**



**Alpha Youth Series on Saturday nights were amazing, faith-filled fun sessions and open conversations!**

ECB YOUNG ADULTS

FOR AGED 13 TO 30

*Bible Study*

**Friday Nights 7pm - 9pm**  
Exception: 1st Fridays of the month

*You're Invited!*

Snacks - Games - Chats - Prayer

SIGN UP NOW!

CONTACT: JUNE LEE  
youth@ecbcatholic.org.nz

@ MIKE BYRNE ROOM  
ST FRANCIS CHURCH  
TORBAY



QR Code to join the Parish Youth

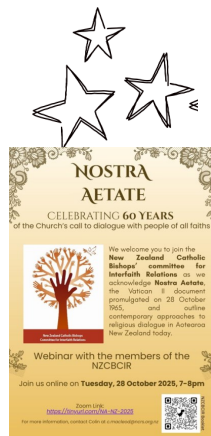


Strong young men have moved two pews from Mike Byrne Room to Fr Quinn Chapel to have more space in the 'Youth Room'.





# Ecumenism & Interfaith Activities



Bruce Harrison, chairperson of **ADCEIR** (Auckland Diocesan Commission for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations) and Beate Matthies, co-president **AIFC** (Auckland Inter-Faith Council and Catholic Representative) welcomed the members of the **NZCBCIR** (New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Committee for Interfaith Relations) from the different Dioceses in New Zealand as well as Bishop Michael Dooley (Dunedin) in St Francis church in March. The NZCBCIR members from across the country brought their booklets on **Promoting Interfaith Relations** which are available at the back of the churches or [online](#).



St John's church was one of the 2025 hosts of an event in the AIFC series  
**Exploring Sacred Spaces**

## Exploring Sacred Spaces

Explore Auckland's different places of worship

### HINDU SACRED SPACE

Sunday 28 Sept 2025 | 3:00 pm-4:00 pm  
Maa Durga Bhawan, 11 Laureston Avenue, Papatoetoe, Auckland

### BAHA'I SACRED SPACE

Saturday 11 October 2025 | 2pm-3:30pm  
Baha'i Centre, 128 Teviera Road, Glen Innes, Auckland

### CHRISTIAN SACRED SPACE

Saturday 26 October 2025 | 1:30 pm-4:00 pm  
St John the Baptist Catholic Church, 87 Hastings Road, Mairangi Bay, Auckland



### Question 5:

How many Dioceses are there in New Zealand?

A: 6

B: 4

C: 7



# Some of the Groups in the Parish

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

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

2025 has been another busy year. We are very fortunate to have very generous donors in our parish which allows us to help needy families in many ways.



Pope Leo says "God has a special place in his heart for the poor and oppressed, and he asks us to make a decisive and radical choice in favour of the weakest". This also includes reaching out to the wider community. Through the year we have paid for winter pyjamas, repaired broken windows and helped with cost of school activities as well as paying for several children from St Johns to attend camp next year.

Our food parcels exceeded 300. A huge thanks for all the generosity we have received as without it we would not be able to help in so many ways.

Belonging to Society of St Vincent de Paul is very rewarding and if you think it may be something you would like to do please do not hesitate to contact me.

Contact: Anne Gough, Ph 027 3210729

## Passionist Family Group

Along with our monthly gatherings, 2025 has been an exciting & busy year for Passionist Family Groups in East Coast Bays with the start of a brand new group.



We have also had the National Co-ordinator Paul Traynor come up from Greytown and give 2 formation sessions on "Belonging" & "The importance of Community". With Christmas on the horizon, Passionist Family group members have generously provided hampers for 6 families & \$1500 in grocery vouchers to help fellow parishioners have a more enjoyable festive season after a very difficult year. If you would like to join our "Family for All" & help build the parish community, please get in touch with us.

Contact: Shelley & Graham. 0273 886 114 or email gandsward@xtra.co.nz

## 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 02102525371 )

# Some of the Groups in the Parish

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



Korean Young Adult Bible Group

We are the Auckland Korean Catholic Church Young Adult Bible Group. Throughout this year, our young adults gathered weekly and were blessed to complete the Book of Genesis together. It has truly been a meaningful year where we shared God's love and grew in faith as a community.

As we look ahead to the new year, we hope to welcome even more young adults to join us in sharing the joy of God's Word.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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)



## Snapshots from the Parish Facebook Page

Happy Priest Day,  
*Fr. Carlo!*



# Faith Formation

Parish Formation Series

## RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

- What is RCIA?
- What is the Process of RCIA?
- Why do I need to know about RCIA?

Come and introduce Sr Sian in the Co

**Tuesday, 25 Feb**  
St John the Baptist



### Belonging, Being Church & Why Community Matters

**Paul Traynor**  
National Co-ordinator for the Passionist Family Group Movement in New Zealand

Date: **Tuesday 29th April**  
**St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**  
Hastings Road, Mairangi Bay  
Time: 6:45pm  
All Welcome

### St John the Baptist: The Voice in the Wilderness

A Talk by Deacon Dave Marshall | ECB Catholic Parish

#### 1. Who Is John the Baptist?

- Born to Zechariah and Elizabeth (Luke 1)
- Relative of Jesus; leapt in the womb at Mary's visit
- Lived in the desert; dressed in camel hair, ate locusts and wild honey

**ST 2025**  
**ADVENT**  
**FACE**  
**SHOP**

Kindly hosted by  
The Parish of  
St John the Baptist,  
87 Hastings Road,  
Mairangi Bay

17 August,  
6pm

WE WELCOME VOLUNTEERS AND PARISHIONERS FROM ALL FAITHS AND ARE ENTITLED TO JOIN US

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT  
The Parish Office



### PILGRIMS OF HOPE

What is Pilgrimage?  
What is Hope?

How can a journey change a life?

**Rebecca Taylor-Hunt**  
Director of the Catholic Enquiry Centre

Date: **Tuesday 27th May**  
**St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**  
87 Hastings Road, Mairangi Bay  
Time: 7:00pm  
All Welcome

### A PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

with Beate Matthias

Pope Francis has designated the Jubilee Year 2025 as the Year of Hope, inviting everyone to become Pilgrims of Hope. Experience the inspiring stories of a pilgrimage to breathtaking locations and Holy Doors in Rome and Vatican City.

**Tuesday, 22 July 2025, 7-8.30pm**  
Location: St John the Baptist Church, Mairangi Bay

### Passionist Family Group Movement

A Ministry of the Passionists

## ON BEING CHURCH & WHY COMMUNITY MATTERS

**Paul Traynor**  
National Co-ordinator for the Passionist Family Group Movement in New Zealand

Everybody Welcome

**John the Baptist Church, Mairangi Bay**  
**Tuesday, 23 September 2025, 7-8pm**

### NOSTRA AETATE

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS of the Church's call to dialogue with people of all faiths

We welcome you to join the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' committee for Interfaith Relations as we acknowledge *Nostra Aetate*, the Vatican II document promulgated on 28 October 1965, and outline contemporary approaches to religious dialogue in Aotearoa New Zealand today.

Webinar with the members of the NZCBCIR

Join us online on **Tuesday, 28 October 2025, 7-8pm**

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/9446444444>

For more information, contact David at [david@nzcbcir.org.nz](mailto:david@nzcbcir.org.nz)

### Advent in the Year of Hope

a Reflection with **Dianna Fouhy**

Dianna Fouhy is part of the Diocesan Faith Formation Team

**St John the Baptist Church, Mairangi Bay**  
**25 November 2025, 7-8pm**

All are welcome. No charge.

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, Colleen Dolan, Frans Kartahardja



## Baptism Preparation

Our Baptism Preparation Course offers families a calm space to pause from daily busyness, reflect on the meaning and origins of Baptism, and explore the Church's teaching alongside their role as parents and first educators. Through discussion, shared memories, and practical guidance, families connect with one another and grow in confidence as they prepare their child for this sacrament.

It has been a joy to accompany these families this year—listening to their faith stories, walking alongside them as they build relationships, and supporting them as they bring their children into the life of the Church. We are deeply grateful to the priests and deacons who have received these children into the Body of Christ, and to the many families who have embraced this grace for their children. May our parish continue to nurture them in faith as they grow and follow Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life (Jn 14:6).

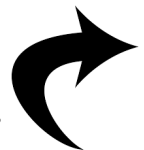
## OCIA – Becoming Catholic

Each week, families and adults preparing to enter the Catholic Church gather to explore scripture, prayer, the sacraments, and Catholic social teaching—discovering faith in Jesus Christ as a joyful, communal journey. One candidate shared, “I’ve found a peace I hadn’t known before,” while another said, “This journey has helped me see God in everyday moments.”

A favourite practice for families has been the 3-2-1 Endurance Challenge, introduced by Fr. Alister Castillo (Luke 21:5-19):

- 3 minutes of quiet prayer with Jesus
- 2 acts of encouragement to others
- 1 duty or service done well and without fuss

See next page



## 62 Baptisms

Abraham A., Barton M., Benitez D., Bowman E., Bowman E., Brady M., Brady W., Brebner M., Bryce R., Chavez S., Choi R., Choi S., Demmer D., Gillies A., Goncalves Campidelli R., Hill C., Hill T., Huang J., Kim D., Kleinbussink E., Kleinbussink E., Last A., Leaw O., Lee R., Leupolo A., Lim A., Lim R., Lina D., Lloyd A., Lloyd L., Long A., Louw M., McGregor J., Milne F., Morgan S., Moselen A., Moselen C., Murdoch S., Nuruzian L., Nuruzian S., Oorschot F., O'Ryan F., O'Ryan T., Ou N., Powell B., Powell R., Reader J., Rock A., Rosa A., Saunders G., Saunders G., Saunders I., Scharneck C., Shearer W., Suantio D., Tepu T., Tromp A., Tromp K., Vuong J., Wijanto S., Winterbach A., Xu N.

## 61 Confirmations

Abaricia A., Alexander L., Alexander L., Almonte H., Alty M., Burns O., Bustard M., Casey A., Chow A., Chrystall F., Cid J., Edillor D., Eksteen A., Fernando A., Field C., Hill F., Hirone M., Holmes-Esteban G., Iskenderian M., Jo Bejoy E., Kim B., Kim D., Kim N., Kumala R., Lellman G., Lellman S., Lichtwark P., Mapua S., Matti L., Mitchell D., Mudford E., Murace V., Ng N., Nguyen K., Ock J., Park C., Pegler Z., Pratheep L., Sayegh E., Sayegh L., Sayegh M., Scerri I., Simpson M., Sinclair L., Tak Y., Tao A., Tattersall A., Taylor W., Treeby I., Treeby R., van Hees L., Villarreal Flores E., Villarreal Flores O., Wiles J., Wood V., Yahanpath N., Yang M., Yu A., Yu F., Yu J., Zeng A.

## 1 Wedding

Dabby S. Sirayunan & Emmanuel S. Quizo

## 11 Funerals

Denis Carnahan, Wonodjaji Darmadji, Elisabeth de Veer, Janice King, Maria Kirk, Patrick Leybourne, Brenda Mills, Maxwell Pownall, Blaise Sinko, Marie Toerien, Bridie Wicks

## Anointing of the Sick

All parishioners were invited to receive the Anointing of the Sick during all Masses on two weekends in 2025.

*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.*

[continues from previous page on OCIA]...

Families have found this simple rhythm a powerful reminder that Jesus is always with us, guiding daily faithfulness one step at a time.

Our parish accompanies them with prayer, hospitality, service, witness, and catechesis. Recently, **13 catechumens celebrated the Rite of Acceptance, while 4 candidates continue their journey toward full communion.** In his Advent homily, Fr. Carlo reminded us that their “yes” to Jesus’ gentle invitation is a call for all of us to stay awake to what truly matters, and to keep saying yes to Christ who visits us daily—in creation, in others, and in the Blessed Sacrament. He also highlighted that their desire to enter the Church strengthens us all, reminding us that faith is a journey of transformation, renewed constantly and full of hope as we walk in the light of Jesus.

Please keep Abraham, Abiya, Ainee, Belva, Beatrice, Brilliano, Brooklyn, Carlos, Celeste, Clinton, Harry, Hannah, Liam, Matthew, Vicky, Wan Zhu, and Xander in your prayers. If you see them at Mass, welcome them warmly into our parish family.

Two candidates will be received into the Church in February, the rest at Easter. All catechumens continue toward receiving the gifts of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

# St John's School & Children



2025 End-of-Year Mass with  
the children of St John's School

Thank you to our volunteers  
from **St John's School** who  
help folding newsletters or  
stamping donation envelopes.



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

Our very special Children's Masses continue at the 9 am mass every 3rd Sunday with the exception of January. These are very well attended and the children embrace their leadership roles on the day with self-assurance and enthusiasm. Children are encouraged to arrive by 8:30 am 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 led by Cara Mountjoy, the DRS of St John's School which brings a welcome connection between the school and Parish. Lucy Kim continues to lead this mass jointly with myself and this is a great partnership. We warmly invite all children to join us for these masses in 2026 and to help make the 3rd Sunday of each month, a special time of worship for the children in our parish.

**Thank you so much for  
your generous presents  
under the Angel Tree—  
and to all angels behind  
the scenes who helped  
organising it...**

**The gifts will go to  
Kaitaia and the  
Mid-North Parishes.**





# Outlook to 2026

## Sacramental Programme 2026

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

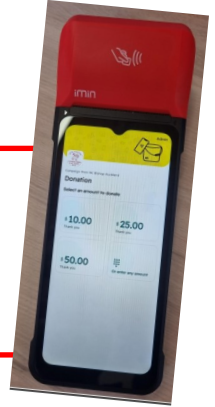


### Quiz—Did you know it?

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

## Cashless payment

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



Our **Gift Shop** is open Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm or on arrangement.



### BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE DATES 2026

3 March  
5 May  
4 August  
13 October  
8 December



TUESDAY EVENING 7:00pm- 8.30pm  
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

To book a place, please register online or scan the QR code. For any questions, please email: [baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:baptism@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

## Regular Parish Evenings

St John's Church

### 1st Friday of the month, 6pm: **Mass**

At this Mass, those parishioners who are celebrating their wedding anniversary will receive a special blessing. The Mass is followed by Adoration.



### 4th Tuesday of the Month, 7pm: **Formation**

Every month, we invite a speaker to give a presentation or offer a training for all parishioners. The presentation is followed by a cuppa. The upcoming topics are advertised in our newsletters.

# Christmas Masses

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

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

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

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

## New Year Mass

Thur, 01 Jan, 10am: St Francis

### Please note:

**The office will be closed from  
24 Dec 2025 to 12 Jan 2026.**

*Many blessings for Christmas  
& Happy New Year*