



# St Francis of Assisi

## CATHOLIC CHURCH, THAMES

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B

11 MARCH 2018

### The Multilevel Meaning of the Cross

#### **1st Reading:**

**CHRONICLES 36:**

**14-16, 19-23**

*The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.*

**EPHESIANS 2: 4-10**

*When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.*

**JOHN 3: 14-21**

*God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.*

**Let my tongue  
be silenced, if I  
ever forget you.**

**Ps 136**

Christians love the cross. It is the one universal symbol of our faith in Jesus. But how does it become the means of our salvation and the fount of all graces and blessings?

Jesus speaks of Himself as the One who is "lifted up" in victory, like the "bronze serpent" lifted up by Moses in the desert, to heal all those bitten by poisonous snakes. In another instance in the scriptures, the Apostle Paul refers to Jesus in this way; "God made him who had no sin to be a sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." Also, Jesus is called "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." All these refer to the language of expiation or redemption. Jesus on the cross saved us by taking upon Himself all our sins. He became the "victim" or the sin offering. He is able to do this because of a twofold truth: a. he is human like us. B. he is untainted in His humanity, unlike us.

There is, however, a greater level according to Jesus Himself in the Gospel: "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that those who believe in Him may not perish..." if the bloodied Jesus on the cross highlights the cruelty of sinful humanity, Jesus on the cross also shows how God decided to reciprocate everything not with vengeance or justice but with Love. God repaid cruel sin with the most sublime expression of love. He illustrated on the cross that he is not overwhelmed or conditioned by our sin. He transcends everything with love.

The cross is not just a call to be sorry for sin and make amendments. The cross defines how we can continue to make salvation and Christian hope known in worst human conditions. Salvation and hope exist when godly love rules over the most senseless cruelty and pain-not to be overcome by evil, but to overcome evil with love. *Fr Vally*

**WELCOME VISITORS, to St Francis of Assisi, Thames.**  
Whether you are here for the first time or visit periodically you are most welcome.

Please join us in the Parish Centre for morning tea after Mass.



## RITE II RECONCILIATION



Ngatea: Tuesday 20th March 7pm

**Thames: Thursday 22nd March @ 7:00pm**

**CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT  
OF RECONCILIATION**



## St Patrick's Day

**Friday 16th March**

**From 4.30pm**

We will be joining with the school for a great celebration.

We need offers of help for the afternoon.

Please see William Bourke if you can spare a couple of hours

*If you have any items for the garage sale stall, please see Robyn*

Our group has started sewing again and we are going to send some of the dresses through a Lady in Invercargill. So if anyone is ever travelling down that way and could take some dresses with them please let me know.

- We are in need of narrow ribbon all colours,
- white cotton,
- lace and
- material.
- we need boys tees and shorts



• And if you have heavier material that would be suitable for shorts or would like to donate some boys tee shirts. We would be very grateful. As the Elim church was badly damaged in the January flood we are now sewing at 114 MacKay Street every Thursday morning. Call in and see what we do any time  
*Mary Connors 078690077*

## Thames Baptist Community Ministries

looking to employ a part time Social Worker from within the Christian community. The position is for 20 hours per week (4 hours per day) here in Thames and the applicant would ideally hold a Social Work qualification.

*Could you please let your congregation know that I would welcome expressions of interest and can be contacted via text, in person or by phone at :*  
- Thames Baptist Community Ministries  
305 Mary Street  
Thames 9am - 1pm (07) 8686274 or 020 41144800



**"Let us try a little harder to take the first steps and to become involved."**

Pope Francis Gospel of Joy

#24



This Good Friday, CBA will broadcast for a total of 22 hours on NZ's largest commercial talk radio stations; Newstalk ZB and RadioLIVE. CBA's programmes are designed to communicate the Christian faith to those who have never understood. They have asked for your help to cover production costs. Please phone 0900 80 222 to make a \$20 donation (charged to your phone account). Visit [cba.org.nz/easter](http://cba.org.nz/easter) for more information.



## PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

**Can you help continue the tradition of giving?**

Last weeks collection

Loose \$167.50

Pledge \$505

**TOTAL \$672.50**



RC Bishop of Auckland Parish Account Thames  
**02—0100—0120990 — 008**

**PLEASE NOTE: WE ONLY HAVE ONE COLLECTION**

Have you considered giving your gift to the Parish through **Auto Payment?**

This is a way to show a strong commitment to your Parish. AP's continually support even when you are away on holiday.

**WHAT  
WILL YOU  
GIVE UP FOR  
Lent?**



### Visit of Mama Mary

What a joy to be in the loving bosom of Mother Mary!!! We had the rarest opportunity of venerating and praying with one of the six centenary statues of Lady of Fatima, blessed by Pope Francis; Thames was the last parish before the statue was taken to Australia. It was really kind of AH-FI sisters who agreed even if they had to rush at the last moment to give us a day with our beloved Mama. It was a great joy to see the Marian family worshipping the Lord during mass and praying together as a family at our Church of St. Francis. Thank you all for accommodating and attending in this beautiful event for our spiritual growth as the parish family. Thank you for those who have taken extra efforts to decorate, prepare the church and pray Rosary. May Mama Mary shower her blessings on each of us. God bless us all. *Fr Vally*



Each Wednesday during  
Lent

**Wednesday**

**March 7th, 14th, 21st  
at 5.15pm**

*The object of the Stations is to help the faithful to make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer, through meditating upon the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death.*

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus is given his cross
3. Jesus falls the first time
4. Jesus meets His Mother
5. Simon of Cyrene carries the cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls the second time
8. Jesus meets the daughters of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls the third time
10. Jesus is stripped of His garments
11. Crucifixion: Jesus is nailed to the cross
12. Jesus dies on the cross
13. Jesus' body is removed from the cross
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb and covered in incense.



**Sr Ann Neven RSJ—Facilitator**

**9:30am** Morning tea

**10am** AGM

**10:30am** Goal Setting

**12noon** Shared lunch

You are invited to attend the  
Chrism Mass at St Patrick's  
Cathedral on  
**Monday 26 March, 7.30pm**  
please contact Sr Paula  
if you need a ride collect our  
Region's oils  
Ph 868 6310

## IN THE MAIL THIS WEEK

**The March 11 – 24 issue of NZ Catholic is out now.** Some headlines are: 1500 at ordination of new Bishop of Christchurch. Pope appoints Fr Michael Dooley as Bishop of Dunedin. Cardinal Dew on Pope Francis' pontificate 5 years on. Transfiguration icon shows 'otherness' of Christ. The next issue of NZ Catholic will be published on March 25.

**Scholarship for Medical Students** If you are a 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> year Medical Student in 2018, undertaking your medical study in New Zealand and are a practicing Catholic you may be eligible for the Walter Darby Scholarship. For more information contact Linda McQuade, Vicar for Education, Catholic Diocese of Auckland ph: 360 3057 or email [lindam@cda.org.nz](mailto:lindam@cda.org.nz)

**40 Days for Life UPDATE: Proof that love saves lives:** This week we celebrated the amazing news that, as a direct result of your presence and prayers at AMAC and by the grace and mercy of almighty God, not one but two babies lives have been saved from abortion and their families will enjoy the blessings of new life. All praise and glory to God! The mothers and babies desperately need the prayers and sacrifices to continue. It's not too late to join this amazing apostolate of prayer and community outreach. Sign up your prayer hour today

### WEEKLY CHURCH ROSTERS

#### Readers

11 MAR Lois Wright Barbara Hennessy  
18 MAR Michelle Sim Peter McAuliffe

#### Ministers of the Eucharist & Sacristans

11 MAR Eric Hamilton Robyn Smith  
18 MAR Margie Humphrey Judy Thomas

#### Priest's Assistant

11 MAR Lisa Barnett  
18 MAR Robyn Smith

#### MORNING TEA

11 MAR Team Merla  
18 MAR Team Kerela

#### CHURCH CLEANING

MARCH WK 1 Gill Benton / Frank Schnuriger / Mary Wenzlick  
MARCH WK 3 Mary Dixon / Tania Scarborough / Margi Humphrey

#### FLOWERS

MARCH Mary Dixon / Pat Feliciano  
APRIL Olivia Pharaoh

at [www.fli.org.nz/40daysforlife](http://www.fli.org.nz/40daysforlife) or text "40 Days" to 021 825 955. The Auckland vigil runs daily from 8am to 8pm **until Palm Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March**. Each day small groups of volunteers take on 1 hour shifts to pray on the sidewalk at 283-289 Dominion Road Mt. Eden across the road from AMAC abortion facility. For more information, please call Family Life International on (09) 629 4361 (Auckland) or (04) 237 8343 (Wellington).

**12 days Affordable Pilgrimage to Holy Land** departing 09 Apr with Fr Sherwin. Grab the last 3 seats! Talk to Laura asap Tel 09 9215106 or email: [laura@skytrain.co.nz](mailto:laura@skytrain.co.nz)

**MARRIED COUPLES: Revitalise and enrich your intimacy, love and romance in your marriage. Attend the MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND –25-27 May at Mt Richmond Hotel Mt Wellington – BOOK NOW! – Phone Christine & David Sloan 372-3581 or Email: [david.christinesloan@gmail.com](mailto:david.christinesloan@gmail.com)**

#### Evening Retreat on the Triduum

Join us for two evening retreats focusing on the **Three Great Days of Easter – The Triduum**. A night of songs, reflections and preparation to enable full understanding and participation in the Triduum Liturgies. St. Joseph, Takapuna - Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 6:30pm – 9pm Holy Cross, Henderson - Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 6:30pm – 9pm For catering reasons please register by emailing [liturgycen-tre@cda.org.nz](mailto:liturgycen-tre@cda.org.nz)

## CALENDAR

### MARCH

Tues 13th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Wed 14th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel 5:15pm—Stations of the Cross
Thurs 15th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Fri 16th	12:15pm—Mass in the Chapel 4:30pm—St Patricks Day Gala
Sat 17th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Sun 18th	8:30am—Mass in the Church
Tues 20th	7pm—Rite II Reconciliation <b>NGATEA</b>
Thurs 22nd	7pm—Rite II Reconciliation <b>THAMES</b>

### APRIL

Sun 8th	9:30am—St Francis Church AGM/Goal Setting
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## PARISH INFORMATION

#### Fr Valarian D'Souza— Parish Priest

Email: [dsouzavally@gmail.com](mailto:dsouzavally@gmail.com)

#### Fr Albert Pandu—Assistant Priest

Email: [alberts.pandu@gmail.com](mailto:alberts.pandu@gmail.com)

#### Friary

111 Baillie Street, Thames 3500

Ph. 868 6169

#### Pastoral Care

Sister Paula Cronin

2/103 Clarence Street, Thames 3500

Ph 868 6310 Mobile: 021 206 8062

Email: [sisterp3@outlook.com](mailto:sisterp3@outlook.com)

#### Parish Office

111 Baillie Street, Thames 3500

Robyn Smith (Administrator)

Ph. 868 9407 Mobile: 027 291 5165

Email: [stfrancisthames@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stfrancisthames@xtra.co.nz)

[www.coromandelcatholic.org.nz](http://www.coromandelcatholic.org.nz)

#### St. Francis School

Principal: Geraldine Sumner

Ph. 868 7655

#### Parish Leadership Team

Margaret Mabey Ph. 868 9818

[margmabey@xtra.co.nz](mailto:margmabey@xtra.co.nz)

#### Ministry to the Sick/Elderly

Eileen Campbell (Coordinator) Ph 8687473

#### Catholic Women's League'

Lois Wright Ph 868 6600

1st Thursday of the month at Parish Centre

## LITURGICAL TIMES

#### Sunday Mass

8.30 am

#### Tuesday–Thursday & Saturday Mass

9.15 am

#### Thursday

9.15am. Mass, Exposition, Benediction & Reconciliation.

#### Friday

12.15pm

#### Reconciliation

During Exposition, Thursdays  
Saturdays after 9.15 am Mass.