



# St Francis of Assisi

## CATHOLIC CHURCH, THAMES

THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST - YEAR B

24 JUNE 2018



### **1st Reading:**

**ISAIAH 49: 1-6**

*Behold I will make you a light to the nations.*

**ACTS 13: 22-26**

*Christ's coming was announced beforehand by the preaching of John.*

**LUKE 1: 57-66, 80**

*John is his name.*

**He will  
be called  
John.  
Luke 1:60**

**I praise you for I am**

**wonderfully made.**

**Ps 138**

Today's readings are filled with anticipation of a remarkable life that is very familiar to us – a life looked forward to in the words Luke puts in the mouth of John's father after his birth: 'the Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, as he promised through his prophets ... As for you, little child, you shall prepare his ways before him'.

As we become more familiar with the Scriptures, we recognise the importance of the prophets in the shaping of old Israel's faith – opening up boundless hopes, and calling them to fulfil their role as 'the light of the nations'. John the Baptist, the last of the prophets of old Israel, was a figure of immense significance. He was the one who pointed out the way, as the figures and shadows of the Old Testament gave way to their fulfilment, in the life, death and resurrection of the Saviour of the world. As Jesus himself declared: 'A greater than John the Baptist has never been seen. It was toward John that all the prophecies of the prophets and the Law were leading'. However, what he adds to this remarkable praise startles us: 'Yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is' (Mt 11:11-14). These words refer, not to John's personal standing before God, but to the fact that his role belongs to the old order which is now passing away. If he was a figure of the old dispensation, his selfless dedication and final heroism will be an inspiration to Christians of every age.

In fact, John was a figure of such influence at the time, that the

gospels stress the fact that John claimed to be no more than a humble herald of this fulfilment. In a striking passage of the first chapter of John's gospel, the Baptist's witness to Jesus is dramatised. One of the devices used in this gospel, to affirm the divine identity of Jesus, is the frequent repetition in the declarations of Jesus of the phrase, 'I AM'. Jews came to question this preacher who was attracting large crowds. When asked: 'Who are you?' he declared quite openly, 'I AM NOT the Christ; I AM NOT Elijah; I AM NOT the Prophet (i.e. the New Moses)'. He was, he said, 'a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight a way for the Lord'.

But there are less subtle indications of John's acceptance of his role as a humble herald. When large crowds came to be baptised, he brushed aside their grandiose suggestions with words that are familiar to every generation: 'I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; I baptise with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire' (Luke 3:16). Taking up the prophets' theme, referring to the Lord as the 'husband' of Israel, he applied it to the fulfilment he was announcing, calling himself 'the bridegroom's friend, who stands there and listens and is glad when he hears the bridegroom's voice'. And he makes himself an inspiring model to all disciples of Jesus, declaring, 'He must increase and I must decrease'. *John Thornhill sm*

**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.





Patience is another quality the Pope urges us to have: "Patience" carries with it a sense of responsibility, since it signifies "bearing with suffering," rather than letting it go. It is to be a suffering," he insisted, "borne with joy and gladness, despite the circumstances. Patience means "bearing with," not entrusting problems to another, who bears the difficulty."

**How patient am I? How patient are we as a community with each other?**



### PAEROA 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

**St Mary's Paeroa** will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of its consecration on Saturday 28th July 2018 with a Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Emeritus Most Rev. Dennis Browne DD at 12 noon. A lunch will follow at 1 30 pm at the Ohinemuri Club, Main Road Paeroa.

A charge of \$15. per person will now apply for the lunch. Cheques payable to - "St Mary's Parish Anniversary" should be sent to Sandy Saunders at 12 Prospect Terrace, Paeroa 3600. A receipt will be issued and this will confirm your attendance. The last date for confirmation of attendance will be 30 June 2018.

Any Queries to Sandy on 07 862 6326 or 021 159 2009 or by email to her at [sfsaunders@gmail.com](mailto:sfsaunders@gmail.com) to confirm your attendance.

Please do not delay in confirming your attendance at this event.

## PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Last weeks collection	Loose \$159
	Pledge \$515
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$674</b>



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

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

## Liturgy News

At our liturgy meeting we reflected on the need to be more inclusive of the different ethnicities within our parish community, this can only enhance and enrich our participation in the Mass. However In order to do this we would need your assistance. If you are willing to help by teaching a small group a greeting, a prayer, a hymn in your language or a particular custom associated with your tradition of the Mass we would be delighted to hear from you.

**The liturgy team is:**

**Father Albert, Sister Paula, Liz Govorko – Clark, Yolanda Kirkbeck, Sheila Jones, Olivia Pharaoh, Ann Teklenburg and Viv Lander.**

## FLOWERS

The Team on church flowers are asking if anyone has flowers in their garden they could use for the church.

**Please contact any of the Team:**

**MARY DIXON,  
PAT FELICIANO  
MARGIE HUMPHREY,  
OLIVIA PHARAOH  
LIZ GOVORKO-CLARK,  
PAULINE JENKISON,  
JUDY THOMAS**

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## MUSIC NIGHT Tues 26th 6:30pm

in the parish Centre

A fun evening of music and singing.

Whatever instrument you have (or use one of ours) come along and join us for a great night.

Contact Murray Pharaoh 027 4398787

[muzz@muzz.co.nz](mailto:muzz@muzz.co.nz)

## House Blessing

See Fr Albert.

**BOOK YOURS NOW!**



## Reflection Day at Mary Mackillop Centre, Mission Bay.

### SPIRITUALITY of ELDERING Tuesday 17th July 10am –2pm Facilitated by Sr Lyndall Brown

This reflection day will offer ways to discover the richness of life when we age with grace.

Reflection around growing contemplatively, learning the art of letting go & the wisdom of years.



Sr. Lyndall Brown

*Anyone interested, please contact Sr Paula for transport options. 07 868 6310 / 021 2068062*

### Caritas Emergency Appeal for the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh

Since August, 700,000 Rohingya have fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh. Many refugees have settled in a refugee camp in Cox's Bazar. Though the Rohingya are now safe from persecution and being supported by organisations on the ground, they are now faced with the risk of flooding from monsoon rains. Heavy rain and high-winds may destroy shelters, create landslides and pose health risks. Caritas is working with Caritas Bangladesh and others to build retainer walls, stronger shelters and to meet the needs of the Rohingya people.

As Pope Francis said, "embrace all those fleeing from war and hunger, or forced by discrimination, persecution, poverty and environmental degradation to leave their homelands."

The Rohingya are an example of his message. Caritas invites you to stand in solidarity with the Rohingya by supporting our emergency appeal. **Right now, each donation is doubled (up to \$250,000) by the New Zealand Aid Programme.** To give call 0800 22 10 22 or go online to [www.caritas.org.nz/donate](http://www.caritas.org.nz/donate).



Share the Journey  
#sharejourney

Bringing migrants, refugees and communities closer together

LEARN MORE

[journey.caritas.org](http://journey.caritas.org)



### Sacramental Programme

commencing after Mass  
Sessions

1 July, 5 Aug, 12 Aug

For more information, call  
Mary Hamilton 027 503 5505,  
Eric Hamilton 021 509906 or  
Sr Paula 021 2068062



We're delighted to announce that right now in New York City, CBA is being recognised for our world class radio programmes.

We have just heard that we have won two awards at the

**New York Festivals World's Best Radio Programs.**

- **We won a Bronze Award in the 'Social Issues' category** for a programme presented by Petra Bagust highlighting the harm of pornography on children.

**We won a second Bronze Award for 'Best Children's Programme'**, for our 'Crazy Kiwi Christmas Kids Show'. The show featured a star-studded line up of NZ celebrities reading children's stories including Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, Mike Hosking and Kerre McIvor, and an original dramatic narrative that told the story Jesus' birth and the real meaning of Christmas.

Last month, CBA won 'Best Children's Programme' at the 2018 NZ Radio Awards, where we were also a finalist for 'Best Creative Feature'. CBA was also a finalist at the CMAA awards in Australia for the 'Compelling Content Award – Digital Media'.

Whilst it's gratifying to be recognised for our work, we're particularly excited about the ways in which these awards further establish our credibility in the New Zealand radio industry and create more opportunities to share the heart of the Christian faith.

**None of this would be possible without the faithful support of people like you. Thank you for your generosity, which enables CBA to thrive.**

With every blessing,  
Phil Guyan, CEO



## IN THE MAIL THIS WEEK

**MARRIED COUPLES:** Revitalise and enrich your intimacy, love and romance in your marriage. Attend the MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND –13-15 July at Mt Richmond Hotel Mt Wellington – BOOK NOW! – Phone 0800-362686 or Christine & David Sloan 372-3581 or Email: david.christinesloan@gmail.com

We are very confident that *'Living the Splendour of Truth'* International Pro-life, Pro-family Conference and the *LifeFest* Youth Event will inspire and motivate our people to find new ways to build a real and tangible culture of life. Both events will feature an impressive line-up of international and local speakers.

Our speakers include:

**Dr. Gianna Emanuela Molla** – The daughter Saint Gianna Beretta Molla gave her life for;  
**His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke** – One of the world's foremost authorities on Roman Catholic Canon Law;  
**Father Shenan Boquet** – President of Human Life International *"The*

*Most Important Work on Earth"*;

**Father Linus Clovis** – Spiritual Director of Family Life International *"Consequences of Ignoring Humanae Vitae"*;

**Dame Colleen Bayer DSG** – Founder of Family Life International NZ *"Welcoming Life"*;

**Dr. Colin Harte** – Board Chair of Care not Killing *"Suffering, the Greatest Privilege in the World"*;

**Father Jeremy Palman** – Administrator of Holy Family Parish, Auckland *"Same Sex Attraction in the Light of the Cross"*;

**Bert and Lida Assen** – Parents of 16 children *"Generosity in Marriage"*;

**Dr. Wanda Skowronska** – Educational Psychologist *"Flexible Genders and the Flight from Reason"*;

**Dr. Brian Clowes** – Director of Education, Human Life International *"The Family Under Siege"*;

**Kathy Clowes** – Director of Front Royal Pregnancy Centre *"Reaching Abortion Vulnerable Women"*;

**Dr. Joseph and Cushla Hassan** – GP and Practice Nurse *"The Role of Conscience for Health Professionals"*;

**Jaime Leornas** – Director of Family Life International Philippines *"The International Impact of a Culture of Death"*;

**Catherine Gillies** – Post Abortion Counsellor *"Walking with the Wounded – Practical Insights"*.

## WEEKLY CHURCH ROSTERS

### Readers

24 JUNE Gill Benton Shelley Johnson  
 1 JULY Lois Wright Margaret Quinn

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of the EUCHARIST & SACRISTANS

24 JUNE Richard & Geraldine Sumner  
 1 JULY Yolanda Kirkbeck Olivia Pharaoh

### PRIEST'S ASSISTANT

24 JUNE Mary Connors  
 1 JULY Margie Humphrey

### GIFTS

24 JUNE Betty Gray Margie Humphrey  
 1 JULY Jenny Pius Aby Saji

### MUSIC

24 JUNE Team Pharaoh  
 1 JULY Tea m Hamilton

### MORNING TEA

24 JUNE Team Eileen  
 1 JULY Team Liturgy

### CHURCH CLEANING

JUNE WK 3 Indian Group  
 JULY WK 1 Mary Dixon / Tania Scarborough/  
 Margi Humphrey

### FLOWERS

JUNE Pauline Jenkison Judy Thomas  
 JULY Elizabeth Govorko-Clark

LIVING THE  
**SPLENDOUR OF TRUTH**  
 INTERNATIONAL PRO-LIFE, PRO-FAMILY CONFERENCE  
 5-7 OCTOBER 2018  
 EPSOM GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL | AUCKLAND | NEW ZEALAND

## CALENDAR

### JUNE

Tues 26th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Wed 27th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Thurs 28th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Fri 29th	12:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Sat 30th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel

### JULY

Sun 1st	8:30am Mass in the Church
Tues 17th	Spirituality of Eldering

## PARISH INFORMATION

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

Email: dsouzavally@gmail.com

**Fr Albert Pandu—Assistant Priest**

Email: 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

**Parish Office**

111 Baillie Street, Thames 3500

Robyn Smith (Administrator)

Ph. 868 9407 **Mobile:** 027 291 5165

Email: stfrancisthames@xtra.co.nz

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

**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.