

St Francis of Assisi

CATHOLIC CHURCH, THAMES

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - YEAR B

25 MARCH 2018

1st Reading:

ISAIAH 50; 4-7

*I did not cover
my face against
insult and I know
I will not be
ashamed.*

PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11

*He humbled him-
self to become
like us and God
raised him on
high.*

MARK 11:1-10

*Blessed is he who
comes in the
name of the
Lord.*

**My God my God
why have you
abandoned me?**

Ps 21



Never trust the crowd

Today's liturgy features the proclamation of two Gospel stories. During the blessing of the palms, Jesus' triumphant entrance to Jerusalem is recalled. 'The crowd welcomed Him with shouts and acclamations of "Hosanna," with palms and branches, and with their mantles spread on His path. This scene is reminiscent of the welcome extended to victorious warriors coming home to their city. Then after minutes, in the proper of the Mass, we proclaim and even dramatize the Passion of Jesus. Here we hear about the same crowd shouting "Crucify Him, Crucify Him."

In our time, we often gauge the success of religious gatherings, such as prayer rallies, worship and praise assemblies, healing prayer rallies, etc., with the size of the crowd. We rejoice when so many people are touched and moved by our prayers, by our Gospel proclamations, by our evangelization programmes. But Jesus' story makes us realise that we do not have to trust the size of the crowd. People crowd for various reasons: out of curiosity, for certain favours they get in return, or just to be with friends. What is more important is how they get the persons will be transformed and be committed to Jesus and His service.

We note how, after many renewal seminars we have hosted, the community never really gets to be big. Many co but the workers are oftentimes the same. There is, in the language of the parables, a greater portion of footpaths, rocky grounds and thorny grounds. Good soil that accepts the seed and yield a hundredfold is just one fourth of the story.

Not number, but quality. Not many but much. Not expanse but intensity. Not fashion but passion. These must always be our guide in our task of spreading the Gospel of Jesus. *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.



Help CBA broadcast the real Easter message on mainstream radio.

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 for more information.



Sr Ann Neven RSJ—
Facilitator

Sun 22nd April

9:30am Morning tea

10am AGM

10:30am Goal Setting

12noon Shared lunch

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



Among us, who is above must be in service of the others. This doesn't mean we have to wash each other's feet every day, but we must help one another.

- Pope Francis



A preacher was completing a temperance sermon.

With great expression he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river!" The congregation nodded their approval. With even greater emphasis he added, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river, too!" The people clapped and were saying "Amen." And then finally, he concluded, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river!"

As he sat down, the song leader then stood up quite cautiously and announced, "For our closing

song, let us sing Hymn #365: "Shall We Gather at the River."



PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

Can you help continue the tradition of giving?

Last weeks collection

Loose \$141.10

Pledge \$362.20

TOTAL \$503.30



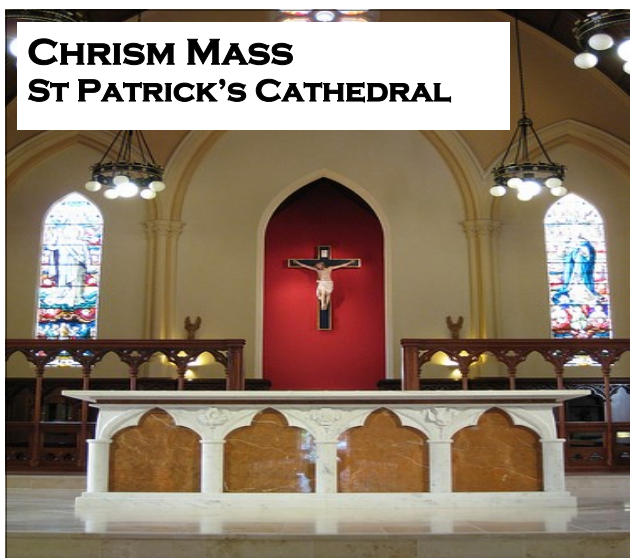
RC Bishop of Auckland Parish Account Thames
02—0100—0120990 — 008

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.

CHRISM MASS ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL



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..
Ph 868 6310

Blessing of Holy Oils

The Chrism Mass is held during Holy Week in every Catholic diocese. During this mass, the priests, deacons and representatives of the entire diocesan community gather around their Bishop, who blesses the Holy Oils for use in the coming year.

These are:

- Oil of the Sick
- Oil of Catechumens
- Sacred Chrism

Whenever the Holy Oils are used in a diocese, the ministry of the Bishop who consecrated them is symbolically present.



Thanks to all the parishioners who supported the Irish Fling at the school on the 16th. The final amount raised should be known next week.

A special thanks to the Indian families who produced some wonderful Indian butter chicken and rice, ably sold by Fr Vally. Also thanks to those who cooked and sold the Asian food. Altogether it was a great evening with lots of fundraising activities and lovely Irish music. Many thanks to you all.

Sr Paula

Holy Week Holy Week



Holy Week Holy Week

2018	Thames St Francis, 111 Baillie St	Ngatea St Paschals 56 Pipiroa Rd	Coromandel St Colmans Kapanga Rd	Whitianga St Patrick's Campbell St	Tairua St Mary's Bennett Rd	Pauanui Combined Church Hall
Holy Thursday 29 March	7:30pm Fr Albert	7:30pm Fr Rodney		7pm Fr Tony	7pm Fr Valerian	
Good Friday 30 March	3pm Fr Rodney	3pm Fr Valerian	3pm Combined Churches Liturgy	3pm Fr Tony	3pm Fr Albert	10am Combined Churches Liturgy
Holy Saturday 31 March	7:30pm Fr Valerian	7:30pm Fr Albert		7pm Fr Tony		5pm Fr Rodney
Easter Sunday 1 April	8:30am Fr Albert	10:30am Fr Albert	10am Fr Valerian	8:30am 10:30am Fr Tony	10:30am Fr Rodney	6:30am Combined Churches Dawn Service @ Billy Point

IN THE MAIL THIS WEEK

Easter Sunday Broadcast of Mass from the Cathedral

The pre-recorded Easter Sunday Mass from the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph, Auckland will be broadcast 11:05am and 11:05pm Easter Day, 1 April 2018 on RNZ National.

This is an opportunity for all to enjoy Easter with us where ever they are. Find out the frequencies that it will be on by visiting: <https://www.radionz.co.nz/listen/amfm>

On Sky Digital: RNZ National is on channel 421

On Freeview: RNZ National is on channel 50

On RNZ website: at times listed, click the Listen Live button <https://www.radionz.co.nz>

On RNZ website: on demand. <https://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/church-service> The audio can be played and/or downloaded

The March 25 – April 7 issue of NZ Catholic is out now. Some headlines are: Church tributes to Stephen Hawking. Easter Sunday Mass celebrated in Lent for broadcast. NZ bishops make submission on End of Life Choice Bill. Three in Holy Cross Seminary first year.

The next issue of *NZ Catholic* will be published on April 8.

WEEKLY CHURCH ROSTERS

Readers

25 MAR Grace Visser Margaret Mabey

1 APR Lyn Hopkins Mike Hopkins

Ministers of the Eucharist & Sacristans

25 MAR Elizabeth Govorko Clark Mary Connors

1 APR Richard & Geraldine Sumner

Priest's Assistant

25 MAR Frank Shnuriger

1 APR

MORNING TEA

25 MAR Team Lois

1 APR Team Eileen

CHURCH CLEANING

APRIL WK 1 Jenny Cooper / David Cooper / Mary Connors

APRIL WK 3 Indian Group

FLOWERS

APRIL Olivia Pharaoh

MAY Mary Connors Margi Humphrey

Mass of the Neophytes 5:00pm Vigil Mass of the Ascension Saturday 12 May Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph Validated parking available All are welcome

Mercy Spirituality Centre

104 The Drive, Epsom. Ph. 638 6238 or [in-fo@mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz](mailto:info@mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz) or

www.mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz

- **Christian MEDITATION 101: Introduction to Christian Meditation** with CATHRYN WILES-PICKARD rsm Sat 7 April 9.30am-3.30pm. \$35 (*date has changed from previously advertised in booklet*)

ECOLOGY Series:

Exploring Ecology and Eco-Spirituality with Dr MARY BETZ Tues 10 Apr 10am-12noon. \$15. incl. morning tea.

This session will remind us of the connectedness of all creation, and our role as kaitiaki (guardians). We will reflect on our own spiritualities in light of the thought of spiritual writers, eco-theologians and *Laudato Si!*

Who is my Neighbour? with Sr BRIDGET CRISP rsm

Thurs 12 Apr 10am-12 noon. \$15 incl. morning tea.

The crisis facing the Pacific through the lens of *Laudato Si...* What are the challenges that humanity is facing from climate change and how can we support our neighbours in the Pacific? Bridget has been following the impact of climate change in the Pacific and will be sharing some of her experiences

CALENDAR

MARCH

Tues 27th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Wed 28th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Thurs 29th	7:30pm—Holy Thursday Mass
Fri 30th	3pm—Good Friday
Sat 31st	7:30pm—Holy Saturday Mass

APRIL

Sun 1st	8:30am—Easter Sunday Mass
Sun 22nd	9:30am—St Francis Church AGM/Goal Setting

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.