



St Francis of Assisi

CATHOLIC CHURCH, THAMES

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B

26 AUGUST 2018

Lord,
TO WHOM
SHALL WE GO?
You have the words of
eternal life.

John 6:68

1st Reading:

JOSHUA 24: 1-2, 15-18

We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.

EPHESIANS 5: 21-22

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

JOHN 6: 60-69

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.



How difficult it is to be a disciple of Jesus!

Jesus Himself has no illusions that obeying the Father's will is easy. We often find Him at prayer, asking God for the strength to follow His will. The same is true for us. There are many instances in the Gospels where Jesus stresses that to follow Him means embracing suffering- that is taking up our crosses and walking in His footsteps. Mind you, He also assures us that He will always be by our side. St. Paul likewise reminds us that there is always sufficient grace available to those of us who want to be faithful to God's will.

The big question is whether or not we are ready to embrace the call of God and entrust our lives to Him. Pope Francis always calls us to embrace this calling within the context of transforming our communities into evangelizing communities. This is a smart move for a few reasons. First, if we are members of a close-knit community, then it will be easier to sustain our life of faith as we will have the support of like-minded people. Second, if the communities to which we belong are truly evangelistic, then their focus will always be outward, always promoting and supporting growth and new missions. This means that our communities will embrace new and exciting ways of living and proclaiming the Gospel without gossips, jealousy or envy. Third, if our communities are vibrant and growing, they will become sources of inspiration and challenge as well as rest and refreshment.

Let us not find it difficult to be the disciples of Jesus. God bless us all. 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.

St Francis School News

Principal's Pen

Kia Ora whānau,

This coming week we have our Thames Valley Cross Country at Puriri School. Thank you to all those people who came on Friday to support St. Francis School Cross Country it was a fantastic morning. Also thanks to those helping with transport on Tuesday.

We had the Ministry of Education Review Officers visiting last week. This was a very enjoyable process and we are really looking forward to sharing the report with you in due course.

Sad news that Mrs. Darrah's Husband Gary is gravely ill and has only a very very short time left. Please keep them in your prayers. We would like to do something as a school community to show are love and support, if anyone has any suggestions then please come and see me. Flowers have been sent from the Board and staff.

A huge thank you to all the staff for their hard work and dedication that contributed to our review. You are all awesome.

Kia te wairua tapu ki runga ki a koutou katoa. ~
May the Holy Spirit be upon you all.
Geraldine Sumner ~ Principal



JOURNEY IN FAITH COURSE

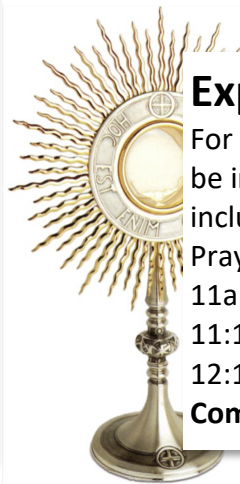
Every year we gather a group of people who want to enter more deeply into the faith of the church. This group is made up of:

- people who have never been baptised;
- people who were baptised but have been "resting" from their faith;
- people who practice their faith but have never been Confirmed;
- people who were baptised in another Christian Community but now want to practice their faith in the Community of the Catholic Church

We will be starting this course again soon and if you are interested in joining this group, then please contact any of the following:

Sister Paula 021 206 8062

or Olivia 021 083 25403 or Murray 027 439 8787



Exposition

For the month of October Mass will be in the church on Fridays, and will include the Rosary and an Hour of Prayer.

11am—Rosary

11:15am—Hour of Prayer

12:15pm—Mass

Commencing Friday 5th October



"When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear "the call of God". However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving."

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

Can you help continue the tradition of giving?

Last weeks collection

Loose \$104.50

Pledge \$310

TOTAL \$414.50



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.

**Will
You
also go away?**

John 6:60-71

Bishop Pat with his Council of Priests have asked that all parishes in Auckland participate in the Church Life Survey.

This is a national survey organised by the Christian Research Association.

Apart from demographic questions, the rest of the survey is an attitudinal one. The questions ask you how you feel about belonging to your church and your parish, what you most value; and ask the same questions about your faith. Questions are asked about outreach into the community and your involvement. All of this data leads to great tools for parishes and for the Pastoral Planning Team to plan and to meet the expressed needs of our parishioners.

If you missed completing the survey last Sunday, there are forms in the church porch—or you can complete online. Please hand forms back to Robyn

Do it online by going to <https://www.clsnz.com/> using the code **AVSWJVMN**



AGM & Leadership Team Elections will be held

11th September, 9:30am (after Mass)

There will be a future planning session to follow facilitated by Sr Ann Nevin.

Please consider offering your gifts to this great Team of people.

Nomination forms out today—please return next Sunday (2nd) elections—if required will be held at the AGM on 11th Sept

23 August 2018



STATEMENT FROM NZCBC PRESIDENT BISHOP PATRICK DUNN

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops welcome the Letter this week to the People of God from Pope Francis asking forgiveness for the sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults perpetrated by clergy and consecrated persons.

As Pope Francis notes, these heinous crimes inflict deep wounds on the victims themselves and on their family members, and on the larger community of believers and non-believers alike. These wounds never go away.

As a Church community, we apologise again to those who have been so deeply hurt. We acknowledge also that there must be significant changes in the Church, especially the rooting out of a culture of clericalism, whether among priests or people, which ignores the dignity of all the baptised.

Since 1998, we have had in place procedures for responding to complaints of abuse in the Church. These procedures are constantly being revised and are now managed by our National Office for Professional Standards.

In addition, we are asking all parishes and communities to adopt our National Safeguarding Guidelines which mandate police vetting and ongoing formation for priests, employees and volunteers who have interaction with children and vulnerable adults. The Catholic Church will also co-operate fully with the New Zealand Royal Commission on abuse, whatever its Terms of Reference may be.

In his letter, Pope Francis writes:

"It is essential that we, as a Church, be able to acknowledge and condemn, with sorrow and shame, the atrocities perpetrated by consecrated persons, clerics, and all those entrusted with the mission of watching over and caring for those most vulnerable. Let us beg forgiveness for our own sins and the sins of others. An awareness of sin helps us to acknowledge the errors, the crimes and the wounds caused in the past and allows us, in the present, to be more open and committed along a journey of renewed conversion."



May the Holy Spirit give us the grace of conversion before these crimes and the resolve to courageously combat them.

**PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140 Tel 04 4961747
secretary@nzcb.org.nz**

IN THE MAIL THIS WEEK

Mercy Spirituality Centre

104 The Drive, Epsom. Ph. 638 6238 or info@mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz or www.mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz

- **DREAMWORK 202: Skill Development Group** with MARGARET BOWATER. Fri 7 Sept, 9.30am-12.30pm. \$35. This workshop is open to people who have previously attended an Introductory

workshop, and seek to improve their skills. Booking essential.

- **Retreat Day with Pip Nicholls: Wisdom needs no scapegoat** with PIP NICHOLLS. Sun 9 Sept, 10am-4pm. \$60
- **Desire for CONNECTEDNESS** with LAITITIA PUTHENPADATH. Tues 11 Sept, 10am-12noon. \$15 incl. morning tea. How can we remain connected with ourselves, our family, our friends and society?

- **Gathering in MERCY** We are gathering to reflect on Mercy values that continue to be relevant for us today. The programme includes a presentation by an invited speaker, followed by afternoon tea. Sun 16 Sept, 1.30-3.30pm. Donation/Koha. See our website for more details. Bookings essential,



ALONE AGAIN? Widowed, Separated or Divorced? The Beginning Experience is a non-profit organization with the motto a "Weekend Away for a Lifetime of Change". The retreat will help you work through your painful loss. The participants find new hope, increased emotional health and renewed energy. Date Friday evening 5 – 7

October Sunday afternoon. Cost \$295 or early bird price of \$245 if paid by 2nd September. Includes accommodation, meals and materials. Contact Carol 022-089-0458 or leave message on (09)360-3054. Visit www.beginningexperience.org.nz

WEEKLY CHURCH ROSTERS

Readers

26 AUG Lyn Hopkins Mike Hopkins
2 SEP Gill Benton Shelley Johnson

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of the EUCHARIST &

SACRISTANS

26 AUG Eric Hamilton Robyn Smith
2 SEP Margie Humphries Judy Thomas

PRIEST'S ASSISTANT

26 AUG Judy Thomas
2 SEP Robyn Smith

GIFTS

26 AUG Mark and Steph Oliver
2 SEP Wenzlick Family

MUSIC

26 AUG Team Hennessy
2 SEP Team Pharaoh

MORNING TEA

26 AUG Team Merla
2 SEP Team Kerela

CHURCH CLEANING

AUG WK 3 Indian Group
SEP WK 1 Gill Benton / Frank Schnuriger / Mary Wenzlick

FLOWERS

AUG Mary Dixon Pat Feliciano
SEPT



The latest issue in your church on Sunday August 26

- Celebrity chef, priest coming to NZ
- Sir William and Dr Mary English at Cardinal's Lunch
- Naming the next generation of Catholics

CALENDAR

AUGUST

Tues 28th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Wed 29th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Thurs 30th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Fri 31st	12:15am—Mass in the Chapel

SEPTEMBER

Sat 1st	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Sun 2nd	8:30am Mass in the Church
Sun 11th	After Mass—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

Olivia Pharaoh (Coordinator) Ph 021 08325403

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.