

St Francis of Assisi

CATHOLIC CHURCH, THAMES

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B

4 FEBRUARY 2018

1st Reading:

JOB 7: 1-4, 6-7

I am filled with sorrow all day long.

CORINTHIANS 9: 16-19, 22-23

Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.

MARK 1: 29-39

He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.

**Praise the Lord
who heals the broken hearted.**

Ps 146



Everyone loves it when Jesus shows up. His presence makes a difference. Things happen. Mother-in-laws are healed. The sick are cured. Demons are cast out. Lives are changed. This is true not only for the people of Capernaum in Jesus' time but also for us here and now. He comes to our house as surely as he went to the house of Simon and Andrew. Let me tell you about some houses that have been visited.

I know an alcoholic who says that one day he prayed and Jesus removed from him the compulsion to drink. He has been sober ever since. I remember a man who had a vision of Jesus reaching out and taking him by the hand. I have heard men and women tell the story of how Jesus called them into the priesthood. Some of you have told me about experiences of calmness and peace that came from Jesus' presence. Others tell how his strength and grace carried you through days you were sure you could not survive. I know of diagnoses that have changed for no apparent medical reason. Several years ago I spent the night in a hospital with a man waiting and watching for his wife to die. It was a holy death; nothing short of miraculous. I know people who have wept for joy and gratitude in the presence of Christ. There are lots of people who get together in a group each week and tell about their "moment closest to Christ."

present and active in our lives and the world. Those are the kind of things, as St. Mark tells us, for which people line up at Jesus' door. Faith comes a bit easier in those moments. Jesus is real. His presence is felt. Results are seen. All is well.

What happens, though, when we awaken to find ourselves in the nighttime of life? You know as well as I that there are times when life is just plain hard. We don't get our way. Things happen that we never wanted to have happen. Faith is difficult and its results are not so tangible. In those times it seems as if there is only darkness and Jesus is nowhere to be seen. Some will assume he has forsaken them. They will abandon their faith. They will give up on the Church and Jesus himself. So what do we do when Jesus sneaks off and we feel all alone? That's the nighttime question.

"Everyone is searching for you," they told Jesus. Yet Simon and his companions were the only ones to find him. Maybe they were the only ones willing to go to the deserted place. I wonder where the others were searching. The safety of town? The familiarity of neighboring houses? Standing in line at the door? I wonder where we will search when the nighttime of our life comes. Go to the deserted places of your life, places that you think are barren, empty, desolate, and there you will find Jesus, praying.

It happens. Those experiences are real. Jesus is

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.



Holy Cross
Seminary
www.holycross.org.nz

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0

*Please bring last years palms by
next Sunday and put in the box at
the back of church*

SCHOOL ENROLMENT

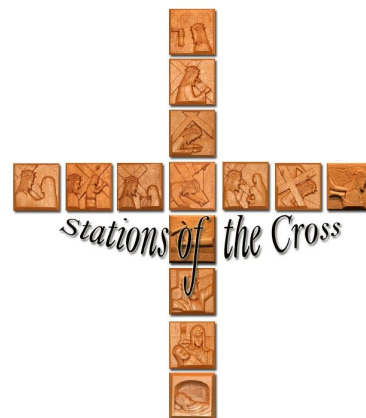
To assist the school Board with future
planning, if you are intending to enroll
your child at St Francis School within
the next 3 years, could you please
contact the school office.
office@stfrancis-thames.school.nz.
Eric Hamilton BOT Chairperson



CELEBRATE THE SAINTS FEB 4



Joan of Valois, 1464 - 1505, was the
second daughter of Louis XI, King of
France, and Charlotte of Savoy. She
was born on April 23, 1464. At the age of two months she
was betrothed to Louis, Duke of Orleans, and the marriage
took place in 1476. The foundation was made at Bouges, and
the remains of the house may still be seen there. Joan died at
the age of 41 on February 4, 1505. St. Joan was canonised in
1950. Her feast day is February 4 the day on which she died.



Each Wednesday during
Lent commencing

**Wednesday 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 suffer-
ings 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.

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

Can you help continue the tradition of giving?

Last weeks collection

Loose \$134.50

Pledge \$328

TOTAL \$462.50



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.

**Marcellin College's 60th
Jubilee is coming up next
year - 23-25 March
2018. Registrations now
open at
www.marcellin.school.nz**

**Training Day for
Eucharist Ministers
Readers
Communion to the
Sick
Sunday 4th March**

Starting with a shared lunch
at 12:00

*(Thames attendees please
bring a plate)*

The sessions will run from
12:30 -2:30 approx.

This day will be held at the
Parish Centre for new and
existing Ministers.

*Please give your name to
Robyn Smith at the
Parish Office
stfrancisthames@xtra.co.nz*

CHURCH @ THE PARK



**4-6PM
25
FEB
2018**

**Victoria Park
Thames**



**BYO PICNIC - BOUNCY CASTLES - LIVE MUSIC - TRAIN RIDES - SAUSAGE SIZZLE
HOSTED BY THE COMBINED CHURCHES OF THAMES**

**NZ Catholic bishops' letter to all parishioners
on the 'End of Life Choice Bill' which seeks to
legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide**

23 January 2018

Dear Parishioners,

As many of you will know, in December 2017, David Seymour's 'End of Life Choice' bill had its first reading in Parliament and was voted through to the Justice Select Committee. This Bill, which seeks to legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide, is something that we, the Bishops of New Zealand, remain extremely concerned about. We want to take the opportunity to further inform you about the complexities and risks associated with euthanasia and assisted suicide.

We are hesitant about "tacking on" activities to Mass, but from time to time a particular initiative is given permission because its focus is so important that in effect it finds its full meaning within the context of the Mass. As we gather to be nourished by God's Word (teaching and law) and by His Body and Blood, which makes possible the fullness of life, it is appropriate that something which so gravely threatens the gift of life is addressed within the context of our Sunday worship.

Today, all around New Zealand, we are making available a resource which gives 5 reasons why legalising euthanasia and assisted suicide would be dangerous. We encourage you to share it among your friends, family and networks. This information is to inform and assist you to take personal action. Each of you can make a difference. Each of you are called to make a difference.

The fact sheet being provided at Masses today is also available online by visiting the website of The Nathaniel Centre – the New Zealand Catholic Bioethics Centre – www.nathaniel.org.nz

Thank you for giving this your attention and for the support and effort you have all given to date on this issue. It is a powerful witness when the entire Catholic community is united around a point of belief and action – the upholding of the dignity of human life – which is so central to our faith and pivotal to an inclusive and caring society.

Many of you submitted to the Health Select Committee Inquiry two years ago. There is now an urgent need to let parliament know your views about David Seymour's Bill. Therefore, we urge each of you to get personally involved by sending a submission to Parliament's Justice Select Committee before the closing date of 20 February 2018. Instructions on how to make a submission will be handed out with the fact sheet.

Your voice will make a difference.

Bishop Patrick Dunn, Bishop of Auckland and NZCBC President

Bishop Charles Drennan, Bishop of Palmerston North and NZCBC Secretary

Cardinal John Dew, Archbishop of Wellington

Bishop Steve Lowe, Bishop of Hamilton

Bishop Colin Campbell, Bishop of Dunedin

Bishop-Elect Paul Martin SM, Bishop-Elect of Christchurch

IN THE MAIL THIS WEEK

40 Days for Life starts 14th February (Ash Wednesday): Are you feeling called to do something practical to build a culture of life and offer hope to the most vulnerable in our community? 40 Days for Life is one way you can make a real difference! Everyone can participate. If you are able to stand in prayer for just one hour this Lent for the unborn and their mothers, please join a 40 Days for Life vigil by signing up your hour at www.fli.org.nz/40daysforlife or text "40 Days" to 021 825 955. The Auckland vigil will run from **Ash Wednesday 14th February until Palm Sunday 25th March**. From 8am till 8pm daily with small groups of volunteers coming together to pray in one-hour shifts 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) or contact Talia on 02102979921 (Christchurch).

End of Life Choice Bill Submission Workshop: With submissions on the End of Life Choice Bill due to the parliament by midnight on Tuesday 20th February, it is vitally important that you write a submission and get it properly lodged before then. But how? On Saturday 10th February, Family Life International will be running a morning workshop to help you understand the issues, and to assist you to write and deliver your personal submission. Starting at 10am at the John Paul II Centre for Life at

569 Richardson Road Mt. Roskill with Coffee and a presentation, our expert team will then teach you how to write an effective submission and help you to get it all done and delivered. The session will conclude at 1pm. BYO lunch – light refreshments will be served.

Public Talk – An evening with Raymond de Souza: Delegate for International Missions for Human Life International and EWTN host Raymond de Souza will be giving a public talk entitled "What is Good and Evil? Who Decides". Thursday 8th March at 7:00pm at the Holy Family Parish Hall, behind the Church at 94 Taikata Road, Te Atatu Peninsula. All welcome. For more information call us on 021 825 955.



**"Let us go on to the
neighboring towns,
so that I may proclaim the
message there also:
for that is what I came
out to do."**

Mark 1:38, NRSV

WEEKLY CHURCH ROSTERS

Readers

7 FEB Lyn Hopkins Mike Hopkins
14 FEB Gill Benton Shelley Johnson

Ministers of the Eucharist & Sacristans

7 JAN Lisa Barnett Geraldine Sumner
14 JAN Jenny Cooper Sherin George

Priest's Assistant

7 FEB Jenny Cooper
14 FEB Mary Connors

MORNING TEA

CHURCH CLEANING

FEB WK 1 Jenny Cooper / David Cooper /
Mary Connors
FEB WK 3 Indian Group

FLOWERS

FEB Judy Thomas / Pauline Jenkison
MARCH Mary Dixon / Pat Feliciano

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Tues 6th	9:15am Mass in the Chapel
Wed 7th	9:15am Waitangi Day—Mass in the Chapel
Thurs 8th	9:15am Mass in the Chapel
Fri 9th	12:15pm—Mass in the Chapel
Sat 10th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Sun 11th	8:30am—Mass in the Church

PARISH INFORMATION

Fr Valarian D'Souza—Parish Priest
Fr Albert Pandu—Asst Priest
Presbytery
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.