



St Francis of Assisi

CATHOLIC CHURCH, THAMES

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B

5 AUGUST 2018

1st Reading:

EXODUS 16: 2-4, 12-15

I will rain bread from heaven upon you.

EPHESIANS 4: 17, 20-24

Put on the new person that has been created in God's image.

JOHN 6: 24-35

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry; whoever believes in me will never thirst.

**The Lord gave them
bread from heaven.**

Ps 77

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.



In John's Gospel, Jesus' self-giving in the foot washing is the climax of the Last Supper narrative. This gospel presents the Eucharist in the long passage we continue to read in today's liturgy. This instruction may well have existed as an independent meditation upon the Eucharist before it was incorporated into the fourth gospel. It will help us to appreciate this meditation if we understand the literary form in which it is written (midrash) - a form common at the time among Jewish scholars. This approach takes an incident or a text in the Scriptures, and uses it to interpret a later event or situation. This meditation on the Eucharist is developed in the form of a dialogue between Jesus and those he is leading to Eucharistic faith. The framework adopted is the story recalled in the first reading - God's people being led by Moses through the desert. They are rebellious, even though God is providing them with food and drink. Like the old people, those who are interrogating Jesus in this meditation are given to doubting and complaining - they too find it difficult to accept what God is offering them.

What Jesus has to give is immeasurably greater than the earthly nourishment of the old story. It is only through faith that the hearers of Jesus can possess what he is offering them. In today's passage, therefore, Jesus is encouraging his hearers to find the faith they will need if they are to recognise 'the bread from heaven' that

his Father is offering them. We too should take his teaching to heart, as his disciples,

Jesus urges his hearers - impressed by his feeding of the crowd - to look beyond earthly things: 'You had all the bread you wanted ... do not work for food that can not last'. They have failed, he tells them, to recognise that the feeding of the crowd was a 'sign', pointing to another nourishment that 'the Son of Man is offering'. The tragedy of the old people's history was that they did not find the deep faith and trust God's caring for them should have brought; those listening to Jesus are in the same situation - Jesus urges them to recognise that his 'Father' is now giving (note the present tense) them 'bread from heaven ... the true bread' that 'gives life to the world'. His listeners echo the desires and yearnings of humanity down through the ages, for the fullness of life: 'Give us that bread always'. 'I AM the bread of life', Jesus declares. If they 'believe', he tells them - if they have the faith that is able to recognise what God is offering them - he will be their nourishment for eternal life.

There is still no direct reference to the Eucharist. When it is made in next week's reading, the Eucharist will be seen as the ultimate expression of all that the Saviour has become for us in his Paschal Mystery.

Disciples of the Lord, if they have genuine faith, must learn from the example of Jesus. The reading from Ephesians tells us that our faith needs a healthy focus. The teaching of St Paul contrasts the emptiness of the 'aimless kind of life' that is 'corrupted by illusory desires' with 'the way learnt from Christ ... the new self created in God's way'. *Fr. John Thornhill sm*





No Christian proclaims the Gospel on “his (or her) own,” but is only sent by the Church, which has received the mandate from Christ Himself. **It is Baptism, in fact, which makes us missionaries.** A baptized person who doesn’t feel the need to proclaim the Gospel, to proclaim Jesus, isn’t a good Christian. Pope Francis July 18



We are turning 30

Friends and colleagues of Family Safety Services – formerly Hauraki Safety Network, formerly Men’s Education Network, you are cordially invited to come and help us celebrate

Date **8/8/2018**

Venue: **Family Safety Services**
415 Pollen Street Thames

Time **11:30am**

RSVP: **3/8/2018 on 07 868 8320 or**
karen.fss@xtra.co.nz

12-hour prayer vigil for our nation and our community, held on the

last Friday of each month, 10am – 10pm at (new location) ELIM CHURCH by the wharf

ALL WELCOME

Any enquiries phone 02102231805



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



Feast days coming up...15th August

The Feast of the Assumption is a day of Holy obligation



PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

Can you help continue the tradition of giving?

Last weeks collection

Loose \$154

Pledge \$305

TOTAL \$459



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.



St Francis School News

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

12th AUGUST

with Bishop Pat

The last session in preparation for Confirmation will commence after Mass 5 Aug,

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



SITUATIONS VACANT

St Francis School Caretaker

Our St Francis School requires a caretaker to undertake 2 hours of work per week on the following activities:

- Garden maintenance - weeding, pruning, spraying as required
- Building maintenance - minor repairs, minor painting, minor cleaning works
- Grounds maintenance - weed control, spraying as required, other works as directed.

This would suit a person with a good range of maintenance skills. Note: this does not involve classroom cleaning as this activity is undertaken by another contractor. This role is a paid position based on \$16.50 per hour. The work is normally undertaken after school hours. Please note that the successful applicant may be required to undergo a Police Verification prior to employment commencing.

If you have the necessary skills to undertake this role, please contact our School Principal Geraldine Sumner principal@stfrancis-thames.school.nz

• **Volunteers required to assist with:**



- ⇒ Hearing reading & key words
- ⇒ Other reading support

August Saints and Feast Days Word Search



*Directions: Search only for the parts of the saints names or feast days that are in **bold print**.

St. John Vianney

St. Clare

St. Rose of Lima

Transfiguration

St. Maximilian Kolbe

St. Louis of France

St. Dominic

Assumption of Mary

St. Monica

St. Teresa **Benedicta** of the Cross

St. Stephen of Hungary

St. Augustine

St. Lawrence

St. Bernard

Passion of St. John the Baptist

St. Pius X

IN THE MAIL THIS WEEK

LifeFest 2018: 4th October 2018. Family Life International's wonderful youth event LifeFest will run again this October School Holiday and will be held at Epsom Girl's Grammar School on October 4th. Please make sure you register if you are aged between 13 and 18 for a full day of fun, food and prayer. Bring your entire youth group and all of your friends and meet the daughter of canonized saint, Saint Gianna Beretta Molla! She is also called Gianna and is a doctor, Dr. Gianna Emanuela Molla from Italy. LifeFest will be the youth event of 2018. Don't miss out. Just \$20 per person (sponsorships available). Please visit www.fli.org.nz/prolifeconference2018 for more information or ring Michael on 021 825 955.

WYD Panama: People aged 18+ who are keen to join the national pilgrimage group accompanied by Bishop Charles Drennan have until Monday 23 July to indicate their preferred pilgrimage option. For more info text Teresa on 021 649 012.

WEEKLY CHURCH ROSTERS

Readers

5 AUG Lois Wright Margaret Quinn
12 AUG Michelle Sim Barbara Hennessy

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of the EUCHARIST & SACRISTANS

5 AUG Richard & Geraldine Sumner
12 AUG Yolanda Kirkbeck Olivia Pharaoh

PRIEST'S ASSISTANT

5 AUG Mary Connors
12 AUG Margie Humphries

GIFTS

5 AUG Gill Benton and Shelley Johnson
12 AUG Pauline Jenkinson and Yolanda Kirkbeck

MUSIC

5 AUG Team Hamilton
12 AUG Team Hamilton

MORNING TEA

5 AUG Team Eileen
12 AUG Team Liturgy

CHURCH CLEANING

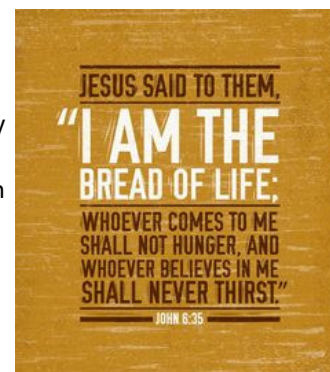
AUG WK 1 Jenny Cooper / David Cooper /
Mary Connors
AUG WK 3 Indian Group

FLOWERS

AUG Mary Dixon Pat Feliciano
SEPT

Society of Mary Priests & Brothers

Communities of men committed to lives of prayer and service, disciples of Jesus inspired by the example of His mother Mary, sharing the mission of the Church locally and internationally. If you know someone who might consider life as a Marist priest or brother, there is an information and prayer weekend on 24-26 August. Information at www.maristseminary.org.nz or facebook.com/marists or email Fr Pat Breeze SM on vocations@smnz.org.nz.



COME AND SEE – Priesthood vocations afternoon with Bishop Patrick Dunn, **Saturday 18 August at 1.00 pm** at Pompallier Diocesan Centre. Refer noticeboard for further details or email aucklandpriests@gmail.com or Facebook aucklandpriests.

MAX18NZ – a National Catholic Event for Men, 28-30 September 2018, Kings College, Auckland. Great line up of international speakers, single room accommodation, excellent food, not to be missed. Details available at www.max18nz.info or by email enquiry@max18nz.info or phone Jim Gribble on 027 249 5378

CALENDAR

AUGUST

Tues 7th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Wed 8th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Thurs 9th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Fri 10th	12:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Sat 11th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Sun 12th	8:30am Mass and Confirmation with Bishop Pat

SEPTEMBER

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.