



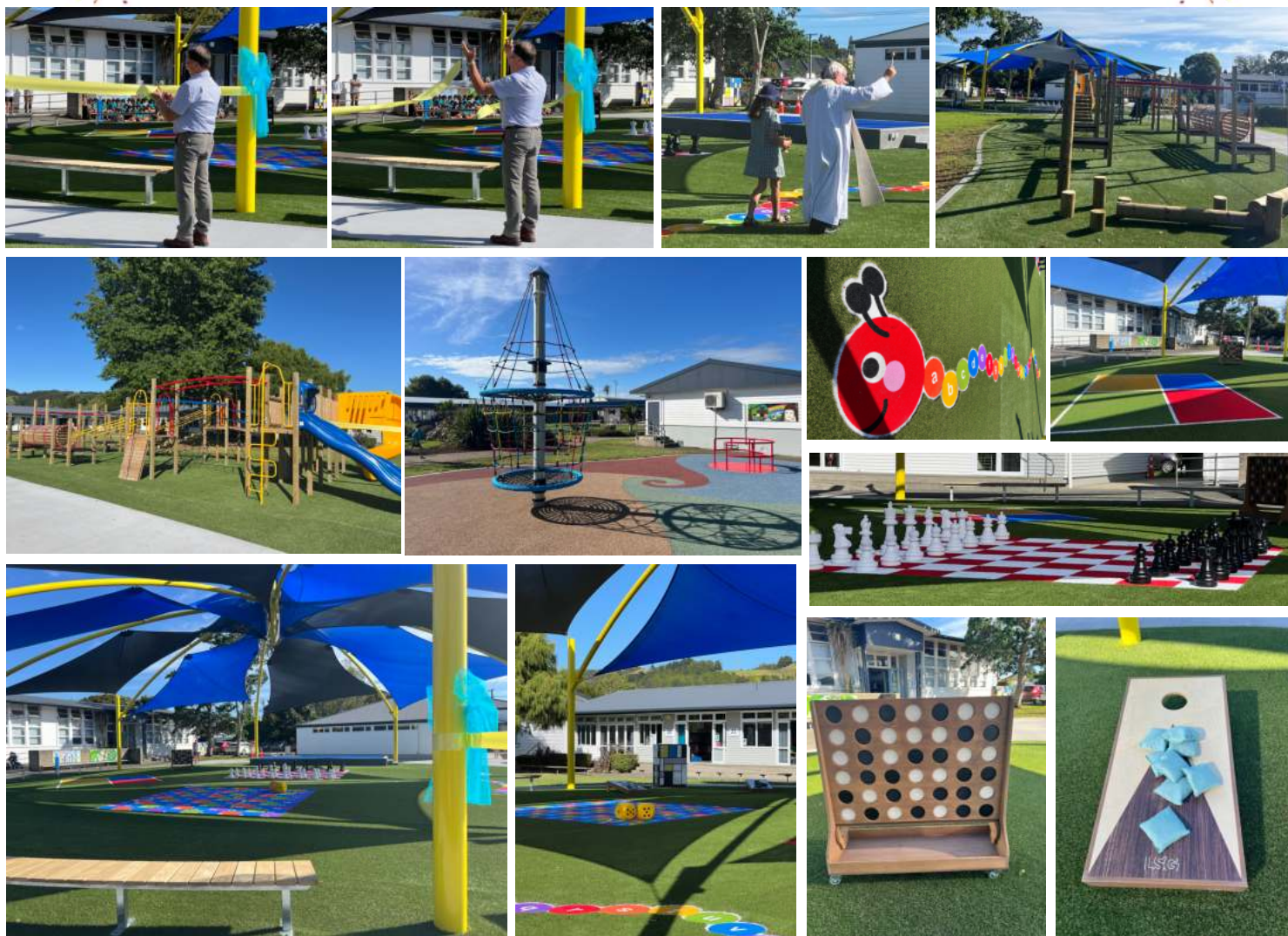
St Francis Xavier Catholic School

To Love, To Learn and To Serve
Kia Aroha, Kia Akona, Kia Aro Atu

No.3 Term 1 Wednesday 6th March 2024



Yay! Our new playground is open



SCHOOL EVENTS :

March

6th	Year 5/6 Waitangi Trip - Rooms 1, 12 & 22
6th 1:30 - 2:30	He Kākano Programme - Session 1
8th	Year 3/4 swimming lessons
12th	Year 3/4 swimming lessons
13th 1:30 - 2:30	He Kākano Programme - Session 2
13th	WPSSA Swimming Sports
13th	Reconciliation Year 4,5 & 6
14th 9am	<i>Sausage Sizzle - \$2 Please place your order with class teacher at start of day</i>
15th	Year 3/4 swimming lessons
19th	Year 3/4 swimming lessons
19th 7pm	PTFA Meeting and Parent Evening - Staffroom
20th 1:30 - 2:30	He Kākano Programme - Session 3

March

21st	EPro 8 Competition
21st 5.45pm	Board of Trustees Meeting in Staffroom
24th 10am	Parihaka Whanau Mass
26th 12pm	Chrism Mass
26th	Year 3/4 swimming lessons
28th	Holy Thursday
29th	Good Friday - School closed
April	
1st	Easter Monday - School closed
2nd	Easter Tuesday - School closed
12th 1.30pm	School Assembly - Whole school
12th 2.50pm	End of Term 1

Principal's Message

Talofa, Kia ora, Malo e lelei, Habari, Hello, Sawadee, Kia orana, Dia duit, Ma muka chini, Kumusta, Namaste, Ciao, Bula, Annyeonghaseyo!

New playground

It is fantastic that our new junior playground and Te Manawa space have been blessed and now are open for use! This has been a huge undertaking that Craig McKernan, the PTFA, the Board of Trustees, and the Auckland Catholic Diocese, have been working toward for quite some time. Our students enjoyed the opening and blessing last Wednesday. Thanks to our families who were able to attend, to Father Peter for doing the blessing and to St Joseph for the fine weather!

Meet & Greet

It was wonderful to see so many of our parents and caregivers come along to the *Meet and Greet* last week. Building relationships with your child's teacher is key to ensuring both you, your child and the teacher are all on the same page, regarding what is best for the learner. It was an opportunity to discuss and let the teacher know the strengths and needs of your child. If you were unable to catch up with your child's teacher last week, please do contact your child's teacher to make another time to meet.

PTFA Easter Raffle

Our amazing PTFA are running an Easter Raffle this year.

Imagine ..winning a great Easter basket just in time for Easter!

If you are able to bring along something to contribute to our raffle, we would be very grateful. Please bring along Easter eggs, or Easter related gifts for our raffle and give them to your child's teacher by Thursday 21st March.

The PTFA will be selling tickets for the raffle in school during the mornings before school and afternoon pick up time. Tickets will be sold Friday 22nd - Thursday 28th March. The Raffle will be drawn - Thursday 28th March at 12:30pm.

The stall will be positioned in the Te Manawa Space before and after school. Funds received go back into our school for student resources and learning. Please support our awesome PTFA with this initiative.

A PTFA keepsake flyer is being issued this week. Please keep this on your fridge or pinned somewhere so you can find it. It has all relevant dates and upcoming events.

Parking and pick ups

Thank you to those who are observing our parking rules. We have seen a great improvement in driver courtesy and people keeping safe. Thanks to those who are utilising the Marist carpark. Students are taken across after school by a teacher, to the car park and supervised until 3:15pm.

Waitangi Trips

This week our senior classes were fortunate to visit Waitangi for a day trip. Thanks to all the teachers and adult helpers and Mrs J for the organisation. What a privilege to get to go to Waitangi. The trip will inspire and consolidate learning in the classroom around this very special place ..Waitangi.

I can honestly say ..all schools learn about Waitangi but most don't get the opportunity to actually visit there!

Lent

We are in our third week of Lent. It is a good time to remember our Lenten promises and what we decided or offered to do more of, or have less of. Talking to some of our students I have been impressed that many of them know their promises and have been consistent in following through with these. Lent is about prayer, fasting and almsgiving (giving to others in some way). It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter.

Who do Catholics pray to and why?

Worship belongs only to God. Catholics do ask Mary to pray for us and believe that her intercession has a great effect in calling forth God's grace and mercy.

What's the difference between Catholics and Christians?

Broadly, Roman Catholicism differs from other Christian churches and denominations in its beliefs about the sacraments, the roles of the Bible and tradition, the importance of the Virgin Mary and the Saints, and the Papacy. Catholic schools pray to Mary as she is the Mother of Jesus and she is an intercessor for us.

What is the main reason people pray?

People pray for different reasons including to thank God, to ask for help, to ask for forgiveness or to ask for help to make something important happen in their lives. Christians pray in different ways. They might light candles, kneel, open their hands, burn incense or pray through music, silence and meditation.

Student Space

In each newsletter I would like to include something about the learning our tamariki are doing. This may be a whanau group focus or a class focus. This newsletter student space addition comes from the SFX Enviro news. The Bee Group is up and running again for the year. Please see below.

Also If your child has a significant accomplishment that you are happy to share please email me with a short description and photo.

principal@sfx.school.nz

Examples; obtaining a level in martial arts or dance, or a significant placing in a solo sport, art award, drama or music achievement or performance. It is great to hear what students in our school are doing outside of school.

Bernadette Hall

Principal

Religious Education

This Sunday's Readings: (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2: 4-10; John 3:14-21

Thought For The Week:

Give up complaining-focus on gratitude. Give up on pessimism-become an optimist.

Give up discouragement-be full of hope. Give up bitterness-turn to forgiveness. Give up harsh judgement-think kindly thoughts.

Holy Week

As part of our Holy Week celebration, the children will be offered a hot cross bun. If your child has any food allergies or does not want to receive a hot cross at interval, please inform your child's teacher.



Family Masses

During the year, Whanau will be rostered to participate in Family Masses on Sunday at 10:00 am. These Whanau Masses have been a success in recent years and it is a beautiful way of coming together as a school and Parish whanau to celebrate the Eucharist.

Our next Family Mass is on **Sunday, 24th March (Palm Sunday)** at 10:00 am. Parihaka Whanau (Rooms 9, 17, 19 and 18 will be participating). **ALL ARE WELCOME.**



Ready the Way – Sacramental Programme 2024

Ready the Way – Sacramental Programme 2024 - To prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Holy Eucharist. Enrolment forms are available from the Parish Office. Registrations close on Thursday 11 April. Information and Orientation meeting for all the Parents/ Guardians on Friday 3 May at 7 pm here in our Church. This will explain the requirements of the programme and the Kaupapa (purpose). **(Parents only please)** The programme starts on Sunday 12th May 2024 at 10 am Mass in our church for parents and children. This will be followed by a preparation session in the St Joseph's Room at St Francis Xavier Catholic School. Age Guideline: A candidate should be 8 years old to start the programme.

Yours in Christ

Mrs Maria Wilson

DRS – Director of Religious Studies

This week's student space is brought to us by ... Room 23 & the SFX Enviro Club

Our Bee group is up and running for the year.

6 lucky middle school students are again working with Shyanne, an educator from Tahī Bees.

Our school hives are located in Whāu Valley, and every three weeks the bee group visits the hives to check out how the bees are working.

They put on their bee suits, gumboots and gloves and work with Shane, who teaches them all about how a bee hive operates.

Our students are very hands on and have the opportunity to work very closely with the busy little bees.

Later in the year the honey from our hives will be harvested, so keep an eye out in the school newsletter. We will have honey from our hives for sale!





We welcome Mesake Cakobau, Sam Comins, Jeslin & Joana Jaibin Paul, Araceli Jarchum Passadore, Leewon Kim, Gabryle Macalanda,

Adi Jana Tabaiwalu and Ali Asenaca Tukana who have started in our school recently. We hope that you are enjoying your school and community.

PTFA Sausage Sizzle

The PTFA is excited to announce we will be having the first sausage sizzle of the year next **Thursday 14th March**. Sausages are \$2 each. Please refer to the PTFA flyer attached.

Unwell children

We are experiencing a growing number of students becoming unwell at school. We are also aware of COVID remaining in our community. Please remain vigilant in following normal healthy protocols, such as washing hands and covering coughs. If your child is sick, we ask you to please keep them at home until they are fully recovered. If your child has COVID, we strongly recommend they stay at home for at least 5 days, returning when they are well and ready for learning. Many thanks.

SFX Year 5 and 6 swimming sports

The senior school enjoyed a great morning at the Pompallier Catholic College pool last Thursday. There were some exciting races and everyone had a go.

Many thanks to our wonderful parent helpers who helped run the morning. The **fastest** swimmers will compete in the WPSSA swim champs next Wednesday at Whangarei Intermediate School.

SFX results:

Year 5 Girls Backstroke - 1. Olivia MacPherson 2. Ava Bourke
Year 5 Boys Backstroke - 1. Jayden Dong 2. Cooper Bradley
Year 6 Girls Backstroke - 1. Imogen Gillespie 2. Winnie Johnston-McCluskey
Year 6 Boys Backstroke - 1. Asher Te Ao 2. Jacob Haines
Year 5 Girls Breaststroke - 1. Thea Drake 2. Katerina McGovern
Year 5 Boys Breaststroke - 1. Cooper Bradley 2. Harry Chapman
Year 6 Girls Breaststroke - 1. Imogen Gillespie 2. Harper Wall
Year 6 Boys Breaststroke - 1. Brooklyn Markwick 2. Asher Te Ao
Year 5 Girls Freestyle - 1. Olivia MacPherson 2. Skylah Salis
Year 5 Boys Freestyle - 1. Harry Chapman 2. Cooper Bradley
Year 6 Girls Freestyle - 1. Imogen Gillespie 2. Winnie Johnston-McCluskey
Year 6 Boys Freestyle - 1. Taniora Stevens 2. Asher Te Ao



TO ALL OUR HELPERS

SFX Year 5 and 6 Waitangi Trips

The Year 5 and 6 classes have enjoyed trips to the Waitangi Treaty grounds this week. We all learnt so much about The Treaty of Waitangi - te Tiriti o Waitangi and our rich history. Thank you to all the parents who came on our trips to help out. We had a fabulous day.





St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish

Cnr. Kamo Road and Park Avenue, P.O. Box 8061, Kensington, Whangarei

Phone: 437 7902. House: 437 5266.

Ruakaka; Hikurangi; Whangarei Heads; Maungatapere; Maungakarama; Matapouri; Poroti; Pipiwai.

PARISH STAFF: Fr Brian Prendeville sm (pp), Fr Trevor Tindall sm, Fr Peter Janssen sm, Deacon Jim Nees, Deacon Nimo Ponifasio.

Janet Ponifasio, Marjorie Abraham-Quinn

Online at: www.whangareicatholic.org.nz Email: sfx@whangareicatholic.org.nz

Facebook Search: [Catholic Parish of Whangarei - St Francis Xavier](#)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

3 March 2021 Year B

Next Week's Readings: (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2: 4-10; John 3:14-21

This Sunday, we hear in our Gospel reading of Jesus driving out the merchants and money changers from the temple. To the Jews, the temple was the most holy place in the land and people travelled from afar to offer sacrifices and worship God in the temple. So being able to buy animals for sacrifices at the temple was convenient, but it had turned the temple into a market place. The money changers and merchants were there to make money from the travellers. This was disrespectful and it had also distorted the true purpose of the temple. Jesus seeing this and with righteous anger drove the merchants and the money changers out.

As we reflect on this Gospel reading, we can ask ourselves about – How we may have turned our own lives into a marketplace, focusing on material possessions and other worldly pursuits over our relationship with God. How we may have allowed temptations, the busyness of our lives and worldly distractions to take over our lives, causing us to lose sight of what is truly important.

To help us with these, we have The Law given at Sinai, our 1st Reading this Sunday, in particular the 3rd Commandment – **“Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.”** Sunday is the ‘Day of the Lord’ the sabbath day.

The Church says through Canon Law 1247 **‘On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass. Moreover, they are to abstain from those works and affairs which: hinder the worship to be rendered to God, the joy proper to the Lord’s day, or the suitable relaxation of mind and body.’**

For Catholics, going to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is not optional. We are obliged to do so. Participating in the Mass is our No1 priority every Sunday. Our focus must be on the Eucharist and not allow what else is going on in our lives to distract us from our relationship with God and the worship of God. Remember, every time we participate in Mass, we enter into the physical presence of our God.

How awesome is that! So let us prioritize our relationship with God above all else and worship him. Let us make every effort to make sure that our bodies and hearts are worthy dwelling places for Christ, and approach the Eucharist with reverence and awe.

Dcn Nimo Ponifasio

Ready the Way –Sacramental Programme 2024

To prepare for the Sacraments of: **Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Holy Eucharist.** Enrolment forms available from the Parish Office. **Registrations close on Thursday 11 April.**

Information and Orientation meeting for all the Parents/ Guardians on **Friday 3 May at 7pm** here in our **Church.** This will explain the requirements of the programme and the Kaupapa (purpose). (Parents only please) **Programme starts:** Sunday 12 May 2024 at 10am Mass at Saint Francis Xavier Church for parents and children, followed by preparation session in St Joseph's Room at St Francis Xavier Catholic School. Age Guideline: A candidate should be 8 years old to start the programme.



Good Friday Outdoor Stations of The Cross.

10.30am. Like to draw your attention to our Outdoor Stations of The Cross on Good Friday (29 March). It is always been a tradition for our

Schools to come together with the parish on Good Friday.



St Francis Xavier Parish Playgroup.

Alternate Tuesdays in the Parish Hall 9-11.30am during school term. **12 March:** Making Music.

26 March: Easter Crafts, Easter Egg Hunt.

All ages welcome. Tea and Coffee provided.

Phone Katharine 021 529 663

Market Day: The Syro-Malabar Catechism children are hosting a Market Day to fundraise for the replacement of the carpets in the Church. This is happening on Sunday 10 March straight after the 10 am Mass till 1:30 pm at the Parish Hall. There will be games, face painting, food, and a lemonade stand. Come along and have fun. If you wish to donate any items to sell (no clothing please) please drop off all donations at the Parish Hall on Saturday 9 March after the 6pm Vigil Mass or on 10 March after the 10 am Mass. For any other queries contact either: Jisha 021 022 87446 or Swapna 021 081 59266

Prayers please for these people and their families.... and those who are sick and their caregivers especially: Ben Hutton, Margaret Hibbert, Truus Kaptein, Margaret Kernot.

Recently deceased: Don Hewitt, Judith Mieckle, Sally Osmena.

Anniversaries: Bernard (Brian) Kidd, Mamie Herlihy, Dannie O'Shea, Bill Gagnon.

