



St Francis Catholic School

We are a vibrant & empowering Catholic school, creating **pathways of excellence** for our tamariki.



P 09 846 4696 | office@stfrancis.school.nz | www.stfrancis.school.nz | 2 Montrose St, Pt Chevalier, Auckland | PO Box 44177

Papal Conclave – Today the Papal Conclave begins in Vatican City, where the College of Cardinals gather to elect a new Bishop of Rome, also known as the Pope. The Pope is the head of the Catholic Church, a successor of St Peter who was the first Pope. 133 Cardinals from all around the world will be locked away from the world as they participate in daily votes in the Sistine Chapel until white smoke billows from the rooftop signalling a new pope is selected. Our Cardinal, John Dew, is there to represent the NZ Catholic Church, only the third New Zealander to be involved in a Papal election (1978 and 2025).

Cardinal John told The NZ Herald yesterday that the cardinals had been meeting daily to share their perspectives on the needs of the church and what qualities a new pope would need to possess to address said needs. "Listening to what everyone is saying and the kind of person they're looking for, and the needs of the Church, it's been quite inspiring, really, to hear the passion that people have for spreading the work of the Gospel," Dew said. "I think one of the things that a new pope will need to do is to continue to try and give hope to the world. "But as well as being the leader of the Church, he needs to be a world leader who's prepared to speak out and, in this world of disinformation and misinformation and sometimes lies, someone who stands up for the truth."



Free Cafe Vouchers for Secondary School young women – Not that our young women need any encouragement, but we are offering a \$25 cafe voucher per term to all secondary school young women that complete a minimum of 10 Service Hours for our Parish per School Term. This can take the form of altar serving, being a Reader at Mass or running the Children's Liturgy on Sundays (with oversight by an adult(s) and full instruction and access to materials provided). Running Children's Liturgies earns a whopping DOUBLE service hours. Parents can reach out to Stuart on 027 818 2403 for those interested.



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Te Taumata o te Hahi Katorika

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SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DUES – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support with the payment of Attendance Dues for preference students attending both primary and secondary Catholic schools in Auckland Diocese.

Families facing financial difficulties can contact their school office, their Parish Priest, or Auckland Common Fund Ltd at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland on 09-360-3040 for further information.

Application forms for this assistance are available from school and parish offices, or can be downloaded from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Website:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools-2/>

Pink Shirt Day – Friday 16 May: doing our part to eliminate bullying by celebrating diversity and promoting kindness and inclusion. Kōrero Mai, Kōrero Atu, Mauri Tū, Mauri Ora – Speak Up, Stand Together, Stop Bullying!

Parent Meeting about Internet Safety – Tomorrow night in Room 1 – All welcome!

We have Andrew Cowie coming back tomorrow night to do an Internet education and safety talk. The focus this time will be on social media and AI. Anyone who has watched "Adolescence" recently might find this particularly compelling! This is a PG session, open to Year 5's and above so we can all learn about these topics together and it gives the kids a chance to hear from someone who isn't their parent. Start time will be 6.30pm in Room 1 with expected finish 8.00pm. Year 5 and 6 students are invited to join in. Any other younger children can play in the library while the parents are in the meeting.

Foodie Friday – The next Foodie Friday (Pizza for lunch!) is coming up next Friday, the 16th of May. Orders open today, and close next Wednesday, the 14th of May at 8.00pm.



Tough Guy and Gal Challenge coming up in Term 3 – Save the Date: Tuesday 29 July.
More details to come soon.

Thank you – to everyone who helped at Cross Country this year, or came to support. A special thank you to Donna, Marisa, Sarah and Bridget for running the Friends of St Francis Cafe, raising \$1,300 for sports uniforms. Thank you to all the families who provided baking too.

Te Mahurehure Marae – Yesterday Te Arataki had a wonderful opportunity to visit the Te Mahurehure Marae with Kate from the Mountain to Sea programme. We have been learning about what lives in our local Meola Creek (Waititoki) and how we can protect it from pollution. Here are pictures of us, checking water quality, looking for living creatures, tracking tests and planting the river bank. Such a lovely day and hands on learning.



Safety Concerns

- Please don't turn into driveways on Montrose Street. We have had many near misses with cars swinging into driveways to turn away and almost hitting children walking to / from school. Turn at the bottom of Montrose Street.
- Please don't block our neighbours' driveways. I often get phone calls or emails from our neighbours when a car blocks their driveway and they can't get in / out. They often send me photos of the offending cars and then I have to go and speak to those parents – very embarrassing!
- Please sign your children out at the office if they are leaving school early. We need to know that our children are safe and cared for at all times, so they must be officially signed out. This even needs to happen on special occasions e.g. if your child goes home early after Cross Country.

A message from the Minister of Education – Kia ora koutou, I'm delighted to announce the launch of a new Parent Portal – an online resource designed to support families to play their part in their child's learning.

Education is a partnership of what happens in the classroom and what happens at home. Parents, caregivers, and whānau play an important role in supporting their child's learning and development. The new webspace is designed to make it easier for parents, caregivers, and whānau to access clear and up-to-date information on the school curriculum, assessment practices, and ways they can complement their child's learning.

- [The Parent Portal can be accessed here](#)
- [The latest episode of Melissa Chan-Green's School Shorts podcast explains more about the portal](#)

I want to acknowledge the parents, caregivers, and whānau who continue to play a significant role in the education of their tamariki. Together, we can support our young people to be the best they can be.

Ngā mihi nui, Erica Stanford, *Minister of Education*

Year 6 Parents – If you are interested in being part of the Year 6 Graduation Committee please let me know. The committee is the group that organises the Year 6 Leavers dinner at the end of the year.

St Francis Dads' Support Group aka Darts Night – last Thursday of the month –

Due to School Holidays, the next stupendous darts session will be on Thursday, **29 May**, at the Pt. Chev. Bowla from 8pm. Contact Stuart on 027 818 2403 to join the Dad's Whatsapp group.

Liverpool Champions again – An unscientific poll of polls conducted by Stuart indicated that virtually all students and their parents support Liverpool, with a margin of error of +-99%. Campeón!



Playball after school – For our younger students, Playball is on every Thursday from 3.00pm – 4.00pm. Enrolment details – <https://www.playballkids.com/index>

Skills of Soccer with Billy Harris – Lunchtime Soccer lessons with former All White, Billy Harris – Text him on 0272799042 for info and prices.

Private Music / Instrument Lessons – With lessons held conveniently at school, it's an ideal option for busy families. Limited spots are available for 2025, so don't wait! For more information on instruments and availability, contact the Music Education Centre at 0800 89 39 39.

<https://musiceducation.co.nz/> Leaflets went home this week and are in your child's school bag.



Iron Bridge – Sponsorship Through Referral Programme: Property Management Services – St Francis Catholic School is excited to share a unique 'Sponsorship Through Referral Programme' offered by Iron Bridge Property Management. Through this special initiative, Iron Bridge – a family owned company – are offering discounted residential property management services to friends and family of the school community, while at the same time helping St Francis School. How It Works:

- Refer someone who becomes a client for Iron Bridge Property Management services. The school will receive a \$500 cash contribution.
 - Plus, the new client gets a generous 20% discount on our standard management fee.
- We encourage the school community to spread the word about this opportunity through various channels. Please quote 'ST FRANCIS PRIMARY SCHOOL / IRON BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP' when referring potential clients. Contact Marisa Johnstone (school parent) for more details: Marisa@ironbridge.co.nz 022 633 5095 www.ironbridge.co.nz

Solace – Your Local Life Insurance Experts Whilst our area of specialty is insurance, we can also assist any families who need advice on mortgages. We work alongside a number of fantastic local Mortgage Advisers who can provide free, no-obligation advice to our St Francis whānau. For anyone working hard to buy their first home, there are a number of tips that we can provide, as well as potential pitfalls to avoid. And for any of you who are already home owners, if your mortgage is approaching the end of its fixed term, it's a great time to look at your options, as a number of the banks are offering great incentives for new customers. And as previously promoted on the insurance side, if you (or anybody you refer) ends up taking out a new mortgage following our guidance, we will make a contribution to the school for any new projects, now that the covered courts have been completed. Please spread the word on this opportunity, as we would love to ensure that our St Francis whānau continue to be well protected and are getting the best financial advice possible. Contact Mike or Mareesa (parents of Finn and Archie) for more details: mike@solacefinancial.co.nz 021 765 223 www.solacefinancial.co.nz Check out our 5 star reviews here: <https://tinyurl.com/Solacefinancial>



Dates for 2025: (2 more government mandated Teacher Only Days to include soon)

- Term 2 – Monday 28 April – Friday 27 June
Public Holidays – School Closed: King's Birthday – Monday 2 June, Matariki – Friday 20 June
- Term 3 – Monday 14 July – Friday 19 September
- Term 4 – Monday 6 October – Wednesday 17 December
Public Holidays – School Closed: Labour Day – Monday 27 October

Coming up next term –

Thursday 8 May – Y5/6 Interschool Cross Country Comp, Internet Safety Parent Meeting 6.30pm

Friday 9 May – Y5/6 Mother's Day Breakfast, 9.15am Easter Mass

Friday 16 May – Foodie Friday, **Pink Shirt Day**

Tuesday 20 May and Wednesday 21 May – Junior School Art Trip

Friday 23 May – 2.15pm Welcome Assembly, led by R5 and R6

Monday 26 May – Wednesday 28 May – Y1/2 Stepping Out NZ Police safety programme

Tuesday 27 May – Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday 29 May – Y5/6 InnerCity Swimming Comp, Ascension Thursday

Monday 2 June – King's Birthday Weekend

Tuesday 3 June – Friday 6 June – Cultural Week

Thursday 5 June – Y5/6 Inner City Rugby League Comp

Friday 6 June – Pentecost Mass

Monday 9 June – School Photos day

Friday 13 June – 2.15pm Assembly, led by R3 and R9, Foodie Friday

Wednesday 18 June – 6.00pm Pasifika Mass @ Grey Lynn

Thursday 19 June – Mid Year Reports sent home

Friday 20 June – Matariki Public Holiday – No School

Tuesday 24 June – Parent Interviews, Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 25 June – Parent Interviews

Friday 27 June – Last day of Term 2, 2.15pm Assembly, led by R1 and R8

Lisa Bateman lisab@stfrancis.school.nz or principal@stfrancis.school.nz



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Lawrence von Sturmer | 027 227 9294
Jo de Beer | 027 469 4148
Semanie Cato | 021 803 137



We Care When You Can't Be There

After school care 3.00 - 6.00pm Mon to Fri
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For all enquiries contact:
Jackie Arroyo
M 021 975 642

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