



St Francis Catholic School

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



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St Francis Fridays – Room 2 explores the historical Tau cross on Francis Friday

Students in Room 2 dedicated their latest Francis Friday to learning about the Tau cross, an ancient T-shaped symbol deeply rooted in Christian history. Also known as Saint Anthony's cross or *crux commissa*, the symbol traces back to the Old Testament book of Ezekiel, where it marked and protected the faithful. The class discovered how Saint Francis of Assisi later adopted the Tau cross as his personal signature and a sign of penance—a legacy that remains a central symbol for the Franciscan order today. Through the lesson, Room 2 connected biblical tradition with the lasting teachings of Saint Francis.



Francis Fridays continues with St Francis video – As part of our ongoing Francis Fridays, students gathered on Friday morning tea to watch a special video on the life of St. Francis. The video followed his journey from a wealthy family background to finding his true calling within the Church. It was a huge hit with our junior students, who thoroughly enjoyed learning more about his life and teachings.



Parish News – Children’s Liturgy – We are seeking some more helpers to run the Sunday Children’s Liturgy sessions in the school whānau room. It’s a brief breakout session (around 20 mins during the Sunday 9am Mass) where the leader reads the children’s version of the gospel, discusses it and gets the kids to do some fun colouring-in. All materials and the process is provided. Please contact Stuart on 027 818 2403 for more info. It’s a great “service hour” generator for high-schoolers and you’ll only need to do it once or twice a term.

Cultural Week – A massive thank you to everyone who has volunteered food and support for our Cultural Week Performance & Picnic on Friday, 18 September!

Cultural Leads & Workshops We have five Cultural Leads representing Asia, Europe, Croatia, Latin America, and the Pacific.

- **WhatsApp Group:** To join, please pass your phone number to Miss Neary.
- **Workshops:** If you haven’t signed up yet and would like to join a workshop, please see Mrs Hanly. She will be in contact with anyone who has volunteered this week.

Food & Prep Details

- **Utensils & Decor:** Please bring your own serving utensils for any food contributed. Decorations are also welcome!
- **Containers:** Children should bring a lunchbox or reusable container to hold their picnic food. Whānau containers will be returned unwashed, and any leftovers will be moved to the Whānau Room.

Volunteers Needed If you can lend a hand, please let us know if you can help with:

- **Set up:** 9:00am–11:00am
- **Serving:** 12:30pm–1:30pm
- **Pack up:** 1:30pm–2:30pm

Friday Schedule The performance starts at 11:30am (approx. 1 hour), followed immediately by the picnic on the field. All whānau are warmly invited to join us—we look forward to celebrating together!



Road Safety – The junior school were very lucky to have Constable Adam Knox in this week and next to talk about all things road safety. Here is what Room 11 had to say about it:

- Lily Campbell – You have to stay on the house side of the footpath.

- Bruno Gagna Quiorga - You have to be careful when you get past a sneaky driveway because we can get run over!
- Cruz Hofmann - What I learnt was to sit on a car seat because if you don't the seatbelt will be on your neck.

Thanks for these top tips, Room 11!



Te Arataki Father's Day breakfast...

Elsbeth (Room 8) - I woke up suddenly. It was Father's Day Breakfast today! I rushed to school with my dad. The tables inside the classroom looked even more magical than the day before. First I introduced my dad to Mr Wright. Then I showed my dad to his seat and asked him what he would like to eat. My dad wanted: granola with milk, yoghurt and fruit, as well as a bacon and egg muffin and juice. After my dad finished his breakfast, he just talked and talked and talked and talked with the other dads at the table. (Veida's dad, Georgia's dad, Posey's dad, Stevie's dad, Auri's dad, and Lucette's dad) Then Mr Wright stood up and gave a speech about appreciating our dads. After that, my dad just talked with the other dads some more. (I never knew someone could talk so much!) I was getting kinda bored, so Georgia and I went into the backroom to talk. But all too soon it was over. I said goodbye to my dad at the gate and walked slowly back to my class, dreading something I knew I had to do.... TIDY UP!



Veida (Room 8) - The first step in preparing Room 8 for Father's Day 2026 was creating a checklist. The checklist would tell everyone in your group everything they needed to know about their group's Father's Day table. The checklist would say your group's theme, who was bringing what, and all of the group's ideas. For this year's Father's Day breakfast, my group decided to set a sports-themed table for our dads. The afternoon before Father's Day, in breakfast room 8,

everyone was working hard to make their table look perfect. My group decorated our table with footballs, rugby balls, cool sports photos, and so many more sporty decorations! When the day finally came, my dad had to go to my brother's class until 8:00 am, and then he came to my class. Everyone in room 8 looked like they were having a blast! But once the Father's Day breakfast had ended, everyone walked their dads to the gate, hugged them, and said goodbye. When all the dads had left, room 8 tidied up and got on with their regular school day. In my group for Father's Day, there were six girls: Posey, Georgia, Stevie, and Lucette. My dad already knew all the other dads sitting at the table except for Stevie's dad, Richard. My dad definitely enjoyed it, and you could tell by the smile on his face!

Finn (Room 8) - On Friday 4th, Room 8 put together a special Father's Day breakfast for all the dads. They do so much for us, and they deserve a special day.

The day before Father's Day, breakfast at my table, which included me, Miles, Asger, Vinnie, Eddie, and Tobias, was being set up. Our theme was disco. We put on a silver tablecloth, silver tinsel, a blow-up radio, lots of mini disco balls, two disco hats and lots of CDs. We put the bowls and plates on, and we were ready to go. Everyone was HYPED. The next day, I took my dad to school and got him a coffee. I escorted my dad to room 8 and introduced him to Mr Wright. Then I brought him to my table. I got him an egg, cheese, and bacon muffin, and he started chatting with the other dads. I hung out with my friends and played a bit of football handball. Then my dad finished his breakfast, and I took him to the gate. I said goodbye to him, and he left. My dad really enjoyed the Father's Day breakfast, and I hope all the other dads enjoyed it too. The Father's Day breakfast was great.



School Colour Fun Run – Big Thank You to Our Major Sponsor –

Goodwins - A huge thank you to Goodwins, our Major Sponsor for the St Francis Colour Fun Run on **Friday, 20 November!**

Goodwins is an independent, family-owned real estate and property management agency with strong ties to St Francis—including current students Jacob (Room 11), Leila (Room 1), and ex-pupil Jax (now at St Paul's). We are incredibly grateful for their support. If you're looking for expert residential sales or property management



services, please support the business that supports our school. Visit goodwins.co.nz to see how they can help your family.

Colour Fun Run – Parent Helpers We are looking for helpers who are keen to be involved in helping at the 2026 St Francis Goodwins School Colour Fun Run. If you would like to be a part of this great day, please complete the link below. There is the opportunity to be involved with setup / during the event & with cleanup, or all of the above! This event is not possible without the support and involvement of our amazing parents, so we thank you in advance for your time in helping make this event a huge success. Any questions please contact Annalies at annalies.donald@meshconsulting.co.nz Link for parent helper signup – <https://forms.gle/UtoLzCzEksowofwG8>

2nd hand uniform – our stock in the school office is running very low (used when a child has an “accident”!). Please bring in any shirts and pants if you have spare. Thank you.

Mid Year Progress and Achievement Data (Year 2 – 6) update:

- **Reading – 86% of our children are already at or above the expected curriculum level for the end of the year**
- **Writing – 68% of our children are already at or above the expected curriculum level for the end of the year**
- **Maths – 85% of our children are already at or above the expected curriculum level for the end of the year**

Student artwork selected for local gallery & New World exhibitions – We are thrilled to announce that artwork from three of our students has been selected for display in a local art gallery! To keep things fair across the school, we decided to feature one student each from the junior, middle, and senior school levels.

To make the tough decision of who would select the final three, our Year 6 students spun the famous “Wheel of Doom,” which landed on **Emily Miln-Harris**. Emily was given the challenging task of choosing the final pieces, and she selected:

- **Junior:** Ashley Dixon (Room 6)
- **Middle:** Lily Daysh (Room 7)
- **Senior:** Mia Fox (Room 4)



Congratulations to these three talented artists! Further details regarding the gallery location and display dates will be shared in the coming weeks.

All other art winners: Their creations will be displayed at local New World stores. If you have any questions or if this presents any issues, please contact Miss Neary.

Te Kahu Tōpuni Kapa Haka Festival – Mark Your Calendars!

Our Year 3 and up Kapa Haka performance group has been practising hard every Friday, and they are ready to take the stage! We need our school community there in full force to cheer them on. You can buy tickets online at Ticketmaster [here](#) for \$10.

- **When:** Thursday, 17th September at 9:00 AM
- **Who:** Our Year 3+ Kapa Haka Performance Group
- **What:** A non-competitive Auckland primary school festival celebrating culture, local history, and tamariki through *waiata*, *haka*, *poi*, and *mōteatea*.



This event is part of the three-day Poumatua Festival celebrating the origins of Tāmaki Makaurau. It's going to be a vibrant, heart-filled morning. Come along, bring your whānau, and make some noise for our incredible performers!

Kelly Club is coming to St Francis Catholic School

We are excited to bring our after-school care and holiday programmes to St Francis Catholic School from Term 4 2026 (Monday 12 October). Kelly Club has been operating throughout NZ for over 17 years, and our motto is "Kids Home Away from Home".

Kids who attend our programme get to do a wonderful array of different things in a fun, safe and caring environment. Things like sports and games, arts and crafts, baking and cooking, science and discovery, along with structured free play after a long day at school. We will have more information in the coming days, including how to book into our programme.

For families needing care over the upcoming September/October holidays, we have a holiday programme operating from Pt Chevalier School. We look forward to seeing you at Kelly Club in Term 4.



St Francis Dad's futsal team need you – any dads interested in playing futsal on a Thursday night please contact Mark Fellows on 0210482152 for more details.



St Francis Dads' Support Group aka Darts Night – Back by popular demand, the St. Francis Dads will have **a special support session, aka pub crawl, on Friday 20 November** – for all new, existing and past St. Francis Dads – everyone is invited. The fun and shenanigans will commence at the Pt. Chev. Bowling Club from 5pm, where it will be onwards and upwards to Ambler, Nomads, Cupid Bar and of course Wapiti. To find out where we are on the night and for any queries, please contact Stuart on 027 818 2403.

Extra Curricular Activities –



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



Dates for 2026:

- Term 2 – Monday 20 April – Friday 3 July.
- Term 3 – Monday 20 July – Friday 25 September.
- Term 4 – Monday 12 October – Wednesday 16 December.

Teacher Only Day – Friday 23 October. Public Holiday – Labour Day: Monday 26 October.

Coming up:

Thursday 10 September – InnerCity Football comp, Year 4 Swimming, Catholic Cross Country

Monday 14 September – Cultural Week

Thursday 17 September – Year 4 Swimming

Friday 18 September – Cultural Day & Picnic, St Francis Fridays quiz

Monday 21 September – Extra Year 4 Swimming lesson

Thursday 24 September – Year 4 Swimming

Friday 25 September – Foodie Friday, Assembly, Last day of Term 3, Enviro Mass @ 9.15am

Coming Up next term:

Monday 12 October – First day of Term 4

Wednesday 14 October – Friday 16 October – Year 6 Camp, Year 5 EOTC week

Thursday 22 October – Inner City Basketball Comp

Friday 23 October – **Teacher Only Day – School Closed**

Monday 26 October – **Labour Day – School Closed**

Tuesday 27 October – Board of Trustees meeting 6.30pm

Friday 30 October – Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 5 November – Inner City Hockey Day

Friday 6 November – Foodie Friday, Assembly 2.15pm

Friday 13 November – Sunday 15 November – Bishop Steve visiting the school/parish

Friday 20 November – Colour Run

Tuesday 24 November – Board of Trustees meeting 6.30pm

Thursday 26 November – Inner City Athletic Comp

Friday 27 November – Assembly 2.15pm

Friday 4 December – Year 6 Graduation Mass and Dinner

Friday 11 December – Foodie Friday

Tuesday 15 December – End of year Mass / Prizegiving TBC

Wednesday 16 December – **Last day of Term 4 – School finishes at 1.00pm**



Lisa Bateman (Principal) & Olivia Neary (Deputy Principal) – lisab@stfrancis.school.nz & olivian@stfrancis.school.nz

ST FRANCIS SCHOOL
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