

Some photos from this last fortnight.....



St Francis School Newsletter, Friday 13th February, 2026



Important upcoming events and notices:

- 13 Feb Leaders Mass 12.15pm
- 13 Feb Hearts in Harmony Show Civic Centre 5pm
- 17 Feb Shrove Tuesday—Morning Tea Pancakes 10.55am
- 18 Feb Ash Wednesday Mass 9.15am (Lent begins)
- 4 Mar Immunisations for Year 7/8
- 9 Mar Hearing & Vision Checks 10am
- 11 Mar Hockey Big Day Out whole school
- 13 Mar Swimming Sports whole school

Kia ora, Malo e lelei, Bula Vinaka, Kumusta, Namaste, Talofa lava and warm greetings to you all.

The day before Ash Wednesday, we will celebrate Shrove Tuesday — or as many of us know it, Pancake Tuesday. As a school community, we will mark this occasion with a karakia and pancakes shared under the covered area between our classes during morning tea (10:55–11:30am). Shrove Tuesday is traditionally a time of preparation before the Lenten season begins, and it provides a wonderful opportunity for us to gather in fellowship and gratitude.

As we enter Lent, we are reminded that it is a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These pillars of Lent will be a focus within our Religious Education learning and reflected in our daily school life over the coming weeks, as we journey together in faith.

The school term is now well and truly underway. Our teachers have worked diligently to establish strong learning and home learning programmes, and our students have made a positive and purposeful start to the year. It has been pleasing to see their dedication to their learning and their service to our school community.

Thank you to all our whānau for the tremendous effort you have made to ensure our tamariki are ready to learn. Having stationery, uniforms, swimming togs and all the necessary items organised so promptly enables our students to access the curriculum fully and to feel confident and prepared at school. Your support makes a real difference.

Technology classes have now begun for our senior students, and swimming is officially underway, with all classes attending their allocated sessions on Thursdays and Fridays. We also look forward to our Beginning of Year and Leaders' Mass this Friday (13th) at 12:15pm. All are warmly invited to join us in worship as we acknowledge and bless our student leaders for the year ahead.

Please continue to keep an eye on the important upcoming dates listed in the newsletter to ensure you don't miss any key events. I wish all our whānau a successful and settled start to the year, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Hearts in Harmony Festival this Friday evening.

God bless, Christian Ioka

SWIMMING SCHEDULE TERM ONE

Starting this week!

Thursdays & Fridays

9:10 – 9:40am | Piwakawaka

9:40 – 10:10am | Kiwi

10:10 – 10:40am | Kererū

2:00 – 2:30pm | Tūi



Please make sure tamariki bring their togs and towel on these days.

If you're able to help with swimming, please let your child's teacher know, we'd really appreciate it!

Piano Lessons

Sharyn Clark has spaces available for new students to learn piano.



Please contact Sharyn on:

0274-485089 OR

sharynclark22@gmail.com

PURPLE POPPY DAY
Saturday 21st February
10am to 2pm
presented by
Thames RSA and Thames Museum
Te Whare Taonga o te Kauaeranga

Honouring animals at war and remembering their bravery, loyalty and intelligence.

10.30 – Official Opening with Guest speaker
10.30 to 1pm – Meet Rusty the Red Cross Donkey
11.30 – Last entry for competition judging:
"People & Pets Wear Purple and/or Khaki!"
All pets welcome from small to medium-sized.
Pets & children must be accompanied by an adult.
All Dogs must be on leads.
Don't forget your scoop and bag!

12.30 – Museum Guest speaker
1pm – Prize Giving: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and spot prizes
Best dressed on the day - Purple or Khaki
Best dressed Pet - Purple or Khaki
Best dressed Pet Owner - Purple or Khaki

1.15 – Closing ceremony

10am to 2pm: **Games and activities** for children,
Sausage Sizzle pro-Thames RSA

Prizes & pet treats donated by: Hauraki Vets, Anexa Vets, Animal Addiction

WHERE???
Cnr Pollen & Cochrane Sts
Fb.com/thamesmuseumnz

TV&B

Thames Valley Basketball
Mel Young Easter Tournament Trials
2026

Sunday 15th February

Jack McLean Community Recreation Centre, Thames

U14 Born 2013-2014	8:30am-10:30am
U16 Born 2011-2012	10:45am-12:45pm
U18 Born 2009-2010	1:10pm-2:45pm

You MUST Register to Trial
Email: tvbbasketballtrials@gmail.com For a Registration Form

LEARN JUGGLING AERIAL SILKS UNICYCLING SLACKLINE TRAPEZE POI AND MORE

THAMES CIRCUS CLUB

Monday 7-8:30pm
Thames High School Gym
Classes start Monday 23rd February
From 10 years up
\$5 per sessions
Contact Lisa 0210788675

HAURAKI PLAINS COMMUNITY HUB

Presents

TRISTARS

HAURAKI PLAINS

Junior Swim • Bike • Run Event

A fun confidence-building triathlon for ages 5-13
Hugh Hayward Domain • Ngatea
Goodie Bags • Spot Prizes • Medals

Grab your \$5 ticket – Scan the QR code

or visit

<https://events.humanitix.com/tristars-hauraki-2026-auksqxa>
<https://www.facebook.com/haurakiplainscommunityhub>

15 MARCH 2026

Proudly supported by

HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Prayer and Pastoral Support

We remember all who are mourning, asking for comfort, strength, and peace in their time of sorrow.

We pray for those in our community who are suffering and struggling with finances, housing and isolation.

May we as a community be the face and hands of Christ for them all.

If you, or anyone you know have any pastoral needs in our community, please contact;

Christian Ioka or Sister Paula



Altar Servers for Sunday Mass:

15 Feb Luke / Jaren / Patrick

22 Feb Dimple / Miguel / Serah

8 Mar Haydon / Ayla / Ephrita / Gogo

ATTENDANCE DUES FOR 2026

Attendance dues are used to pay for building related costs at Catholic Schools in the Auckland Diocese and is a condition of enrolment for all students attending NZ Catholic Schools.

\$544 per year or \$136 per term (GST inclusive)

CATHOLIC CHARACTER CONTRIBUTION FOR 2026

The Catholic Special Character Contribution is used to fund the staff and services provided by the Catholic Education Services Board who are responsible, on behalf of the Proprietor, for safeguarding and strengthening the Catholic Special Character of our schools.

\$17.50 per term or \$70 per year per student

(The contribution is tax deductible and a 33% refund can be claimed from the IRD.)

<https://www.facebook.com/StFrancisThames/>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofthamesstfrancis>

St Francis of Assisi Church Thames

presents

"HEARTS IN HARMONY"

Date: Friday 13th of February 2026
Time: 5:00 PM – 9:30 PM
Venue: Civic Centre Thames

- Cultural dances from around the world
- Live singing & skits
- Delicious food stalls
- Fun games & raffles

Contact: Barbara-027 249 1224
Email: heartsinharmonyevent@gmail.com

All proceeds go towards our Catholic parish centre fundraising project

"Come, celebrate community and culture together!"



SchoolDocs is the online policy and procedure service for schools. To access our policies and procedures:

- Go to <https://www.schooldocs.co.nz/Home/SchoolLogin>
- Click on the green box "Search for your school" top right-hand corner of SchoolDocs page
- Start typing **St Francis School Thames** and then select it from the dropdown list
- Enter our community: **Username: stfrancis-thames**
Password: mackay