Your Parish, Your Home.

Te Whare Karakia o Hato,
Maaka, Pakuranga

St Mark's Catholic Mission Parish

Year B | First Sunday of Advent | Waiting for the Lord | 29 November 2026

Mass Times:
Tuesday – Saturday: 9.00am
Wednesday: 7.00pm
Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm
Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am, 6.30pm

Rosary:
Tuesday – Friday: 8.30am
Saturday: 8.00am

Exposition & Holy Hour:
Monday to Saturday: 8.00am – 9.00am
1st Friday: 7.30pm – 9.00am

Liturgy of the Word:
Monday 9.00am

Divine Mercy Devotion:
Tuesday – Friday: 9.30am

Confession: On request
Saturday: 9.30am & 4.30pm – 5.15pm

Email:
admin@stmark.org.nz
Website: stmark.org.nz
Instagram: stmarkpakuranga
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/groups/stmarkpakuranga/

Phone: (09) 572 0489
Address: 334 Pakuranga Rd, PO Box 51184: Pakuranga

Office Hours:
Mon to Fri:
8.30am — 3.00pm

Parish Priest
Fr Austin Fernandes
fraustin@stmark.org.nz

Assistant Priest
Fr Alain Fares
alain@stmark.org.nz

Pastoral Co-Ordinator
Deacon Mannix Lopez
mannix@stmark.org.nz

Parish Secretary
Evie Green-Thompson
evie@stmark.org.nz

Accounts Administrator
Besky Fernando
accounts@stmark.org.nz

Deacon Chris Sullivan
admin@stmark.org.nz

St Mark's Mission Statement
To promote a loving, caring, Christlike Community which accepts all people. And inspired by the Holy Spirit to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

1ST Reading: Isaiah 63: 16-17; 64: 1. 3-8 Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down.
Psalm: **79: 2-3. 15-16. 18-19** God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.
2ND Reading: Corinthians 1: 3-9 We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.
Gospel: **Mark 13: 33-37** Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.

Reflection

The readings on this first Sunday of Advent invite us to live with hopeful expectation, trusting in God's faithfulness even when we cannot see the path ahead.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus urges His disciples to "stay awake" because they do not know when the time will come. His words are not meant to inspire fear but vigilance. To stay awake is to remain attentive to God's presence in our daily lives, ready to recognize Him in moments of grace, acts of kindness, and opportunities to serve. Jesus reminds us that faith is not passive waiting but active discipleship.

Paul's opening words to the Corinthians echo this message of hope. He gives thanks for the gifts God has bestowed on the community and assures them that God will continue to strengthen them. Their confidence does not rest on their own abilities but on God's faithfulness. This is comforting for us today. When faced with uncertainty, weakness, or challenge, we can trust that God remains at work within us, providing the grace we need to persevere.

The reading from Isaiah is a heartfelt prayer from a people longing for God to reveal Himself once more. Aware of their failures and shortcomings, they cry out for God's mercy. Yet their prayer is filled with trust: "We are the clay, and you are our potter." These words acknowledge that God has not abandoned His people. Instead, He continues to shape and mould them, even through life's struggles and disappointments.

Together, these readings call us to watchfulness, trust, and humility. They remind us that God is always present, even when He seems distant. As we wait for His coming, we are invited to remain faithful, confident in His promises, and open to His transforming work in our lives.

May we stay awake to God's presence, trust in His faithfulness, and allow ourselves to be formed by His loving hands each day.

Kim D'Souza

Important Notices

VOLUNTEERS END OF YEAR DINNER

Dear Parishioners of St Mark's, On behalf of Fr Austin and the St Mark's Parish Council, we warmly invite all our Church **Volunteers to an End of Year Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday 5th December at 7pm.**
Please note that a separate event for our Youth and Altar Servers will be held on Saturday 12th December.
For catering purposes, please sign up on the clipboard in the foyer, noting the number of people attending and your dietary preference (vegetarian or non-vegetarian). **Please note**: sign-ups close on **Sunday 29th November.**

- **Rite II Reconciliation – Date: Thursday, 10th December 2026 Time: 7pm Venue: St Luke's Catholic Church, Flat Bush** – this year St Luke's, St Mark's and our Lady Star of the see will be combining to celebrate Rite II Reconciliation.
- **Working Bee** – Saturday, 19 December 2026 @ 10.00am – Volunteers please sign up on the clipboard in the foyer
- The **Parish Office will be closed** from Wednesday, 23 December 2026 and reopen on Tuesday, 12 January 2027
- **Rosters** – Please collect these from the foyer or click on this link Altar - St. Mark
- **2027 Columban Calendars** now available in the Parish Office @ $15.00
- **Daily Mass Calendars** – available in the Parish Office @ $5.00
- **Christmas Cards** for sale in the Parish Office @ $5.00
- **2027 Bible Diaries** for sale from the Parish Office @ $20.00

NO CLAPPING
after the announcements and after Mass.

New to our Parish - Welcome to the Family of St Mark's Catholic Mission Parish, follow this link New Parishioner Registration - St. Mark (stmark.org.nz) to register

Our Vision: "To be a vibrant missionary parish, empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the light Christ to all."

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS



Congratulations!

To our Raffle Winner

Woodylayne Dumdum

Thank you for your support!
All proceeds go towards

Life Teen Camp 2027
&
WYD Korea Pilgrimage 2027

EVANGELISATION

Ministry of Compassion – every second Saturday of the month in the Parish Hall – after the Healing Mass – **resumes on 13 February 2027**

Discover the Roots of our Catholic Faith : **Tuesday Nights at 7.00pm** in the Parish Hall . The next meeting will be on **8 December 2026** Dinner is served.

YOU are invited to our **Alpha Film Series** Every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month **Next session is on Fri** 11 December 2026 7pm to 8.30pm St. Mark's Pakuranga Parish Hall Dinner is served

The Life in the Spirit prayer group finishes this year with a shared meal on Thursday 3 December in the parish centre from 7.30 -9pm. All are welcome! We'll start back for 2027 late January. [Contacts: Mary - 021468015, Joanne - 0211143374, smlisspg@gmail.com]

St Mark's Padre Pio Prayer Group Prayer meetings will resume on the First Friday of Feb 2027 and every First Friday thereafter.'
St Padre Pio. Pray for us.

Joshua Men's Fellowship St Marks Invites you to an evening of purpose and prayer. Come along and bring a friend. Next Meeting **14 December 2026 @ 7.00pm Guest Speaker** TBC **Topic**: TBC - All Welcome – Supper will be served and don't forget to bring a friend. For more information contact Chris Mayhew – 027 568 7736



CGS – Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Saturday during School Term Level 1: 3 – 6 years old : 9.30am to 11.00am. Enrolment form is available at the foyer. Session is on Saturdays during school term. For more information, contact Mary-Anne via email stmarkatrium@gmail.com

Legion of Mary –Tuesday @ 6.00pm – 7.30pm in the Lyon's Den. New members are always welcome. Contact Hata – 021 0220 4171 Email Hata – Akuhata.nahi@gmail.com Please contact the following members if you would like the statues of Our Lady or the Sacred Heart visiting your homes. Sacred Heart Statue – Hata Nahi – 021 0220 4171
Our Lady of Fatima Statue – Tui Peasmeno – 021 0820 9880
Big Our Lady of Fatima Statue – Dong Dela Cruz – 021 165 9471.
Small Our Lady of Fatima Statue – Tina Payne – 027 405 3968.



The Catholic Faith. On Demand. We have a parish registration for Formed. This means that all **parishioners** can gain access to Formed any device for **free**.Email admin@stmark.org.nz for instructions on how to get Formed today!
A Gift from our Parish to You! You can now log onto formed **https://signup.formed.org** Type your **email address** – Click "**sign up**" – Type Parish Code "**2010**" – **St Mark will appear** – Click – You are done!

Engaged / Planning a wedding? Catholic Diocese of Auckland – Approved Marriage Preparation Course Book your Marriage Preparation Course early 1 year for NZ and 18 months for overseas weddings For information contact Gerry 021 0224 7442 gerrys@cda.org.nz Register Book: https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/our-courses/

Catechumen class or catechumenate, Chinese is 慕道班 in the Lyon's Den **Monday,** 9.00am – 10.30am. **Mandarin & Cantonese** For information contact John Ko – 022 031 7755

ALTAR

Happy Anniversary to all couples celebrating their **Wedding Anniversary in November.** The next Anniversary Mass will be held on **Wednesday, 2nd December 2026 –** for all couples whose anniversary falls in **November & December 2026.** Please contact Hazel hderozario@gmail.com or Yasmina mynsr8@gmail.com if you will attend

Telesia & Tommy Aiono, Ana & Jackie Chan , Cynthia & Francis Coutinho, Lynette & Joseph Gomes, April Wong & Keith Kwan, Mary & Philip Lenton , Charlene & Karoon Moodley, Martin & Jacintha Moses, Ofaligi & Hata Nahi , Michelle & Leo Puthur, Megan & Martin Ryan, Linda Chan & Paul Tan, Sue Liow & Gerald Tan, Tiana Boyer & Michael Trathen, Betty & Jefferson Valdez, Ivory & Don Vargas, Ramon & Rowen Vasquez, Eva & Joseph Wong, Wendy & Jeffery Wu, Vivienne & Allan Yee, Carmelita & Lloyd Kyd

Rosters – 5th & 6th December 2026

	5.30pm	8.30am	10.30am	6.30pm	Flowers
Music	Gospel Choir	Cheryl Chan	CFC	Joyce Adiwinata	**Advent**
Data Projector	Jannine Eeson	Swee Han Lim	Andrew Jurgens	Joanne van Heerden	**Cleaning**
Altar Servers	Patrick Malden Aleena Soni Ethan D'Silva	Aden Karl Timothy Dumdum	Annika Tigley Annelise Bruon Sarah Gulla Sofia Solis	Fiona Sheng Sarah Ernstzen Jeffrey Gulanes	Colin Didier & Family Gladys Chivasa Tigley Family Jimbo Manago
Commentators	Juliet Martis	Kurt Meyer	Carmel Gaabucayn	Alma Dela Cruz	
Readers	Louie Guevarra Adam Martis	Maria Belinario Rosemary Grant	Francis Coutinho Gabrielle Puther	Joshua Ernstzen Maricar Gonzales	
Gifts	Genevieve & Family	Tom Gillen	Request a Family	Maria Vazquez	**Recording /Counting**
Communion Ministers	Philomena Lobo Cherise Dider'Serre Denis D'Souza Alan Chant Udesha Mihindukulasuriya	Tiana Meyer Ethan Karl Grace Rowland Andre van Heerden Cheryl van Heerden Michael Earl Kim D'Souza	Florinda Petterson Gordalem Padayogdog Gladys Chivasa Lessley Chivasa Sanjay Macwan Vivienne Yee Emmanuel Tsang Michelle See	Brennan Ernstzen Nazley Ernstzen Hannah Ernstzen Ramon Marinas Nymphia Marinas	Malcolm Martis Melania Jurgens Henny Gussenhoven



Congratulations on your Baptism: Tueselle Francisco
Welcome to the Family of God We wish you and your family all of God's grace and love during this special time.

Our Vision: "To be a vibrant missionary parish, empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the light of Christ to all."

Recently Deceased
Ms Wendy Tse, Man Sau Ying, Anthony Falzon, Peter Michael Brady

Anniversary of Death
Lucian & Diana Fernando, Michael Jordan, Daisy Crowder, Carol Toth, Bernard Crowder, Cecilio Aquino, Cecilia R. Abalos, Diana Stephen, Estifania Fernandes, Oliver Averion, Anne, Shirley Washer, Margaret Rozario, Henrich Yumul, Chito Ramirez, Maximo Rojos, Julieta Rojos, Visko Laus, Bev Handisides

For the Sick: **Prayer requests for the sick whose names appear here, will be replaced on a monthly basis.**
Josh Gatchalian, Anastasia, Faten, Anastasia, Tiana Meyer, Janine Marie Agpuldo, Suzie Xu, Leo Champion, Liz Bauld, Philip Heng, Isaiah Albao, Anne Talbot, Bernard Plan, Benjamin Plan, Marilyn Jordon, Leskin Lambert, George van Niekerk, Darcy Elgar, Beverley Mary Rout, Grace Rowland, Henry Pook, George van Niekerk, Julie Prince, Aiko, Charlie, Alicia, Jasmin, Bernard Plan, Bagusia Bakula, Loliso Fidow, Cecil Ryan, Desmond Culbert, Neil Dewar, Jean, Joe Falzon, Stan O'Brien, Aileen Hillary, Sabina Song-hy Lee, Adrian Cefre, Paul Oliver, Clarence Noth

Christmas Novena 15th – 23rd December 2026 Altar Server Volunteers are needed – please sign up on the sheet in the foyer.

Roster - Christmas Novena - 15 December - 23 December 2023 @ 7pm

Date	Tuesday, 15 Dec	Wednesday, 16 Dec	Thursday, 17 Dec	Friday, 18 Dec	Sat, 19 Dec	Sun, 20 Dec	Monday, 21 Dec	Tuesday, 22 Dec	Wednesday, 23 Dec
Reader	Coradel Gulla	Inji Mwang	Carmel Gaabucayan	Coradel Gulla	5.30pm Mass Roster	6.30pm Mass Roster	Carmel Gaabucayan	Joan Baino	Inji Mwang
Psalm	Sarah Gulla **or** Choir Psalmist	Donamae Porquez **or** Choir Psalmist	Alan Baino **or** Choir Psalmist	Sarah Gulla **or** Choir Psalmist	5.30pm Mass Roster	6.30pm Mass Roster	Joan Baino **or** Choir Psalmist	Alan Baino **or** Choir Psalmist	Donamae Porquez **or** Choir Psalmist
Offertory	Dong & Alma Dela Cruz Jason Wihongi	Magno, Coradel, Sarah Gulla	Tigley Family	Alan / Jing Baino	5.30pm Mass Roster	6.30pm Mass Roster	Revereza Family	Bulay Family /Oloh Family	Ramon & Nympha Marinas
Echaristic Ministers	Sanjay Macwan Nympha Marinas Ramon Marinas Magno/Dboi Gulla	Kirk Gaabucayan Melania Jurgens Ramon Marinas Nympha Marinas	Gigi Bulay Magno/Dboi Gulla Jing Baino Kirk Gaabucayan	Melania Jurgens Ramon Marinas Nympha Marinas Magno/Dboi Gulla	5.30pm Mass Roster	6.30pm Mass Roster	Kirk Gaabucayan Khyle Porquez Paul Dela Cruz Anne Marinas	Gigi Bulay Rennel Bulay Ramon Marinas Nympha Marinas	Kirk Gaabucayan Carmel Gaabucayan Ann Marinas Alan Baino

A shared simple celebration to follow after the 23rd December Mass. Please bring food and drinks to share. Thanks so much to everyone. May God be praised.

SOCIAL

SVDP Thank you for your ongoing support of their foodbank. **To ensure the safety and well-being of the people we serve, we kindly request that you donate only non-expired and unopened/undamaged food items**. Please email your request for a food parcel to svdpfoodbank@stmark.org.nz before Friday. Please call SVDP Otahuhu when donating clothing, blankets, or furniture 09 270 4088.

St Mark's SVDP bank account details have changed. Please include your name under Reference. **Bank**: BNZ **Account Name**: SVDP South Auckland Area Council **Account No.**: 02-0506-0381891-005 Note that this account is managed by St Mark's SVDP, which sit under the wider group of SVDP South Auckland Area Council. Thank you for your continuous support. If you have any query, please contact Grace Cheah at 021 0257 3441

SVDP is reaching out for donations of Christmas goodies and food items for our Christmas hampers in December for families in need. Thank you for sharing the love this Christmas.

Sewing Time Join us while we all do our own mending and enjoy each other's company. Machines, scissors, threads, and needles, etc. all made available for you to use. and, of course, tea and cakes to keep us going. On the **second Saturday of every month** in the Lyons Den from 2pm to 4pm on Saturday, 12th December 2026.

TEMPORALITIES

Finance Ministry – Aaron William – Chairman, Besky Fernando, Fr. Austin Fernandes, Alice Sung

Facilities Ministry - Dean Saunders, Nicholas Tan, Alice Sung, Paresh Macwan, Michael Earl

St Mark's Health & Safety Warden Training Video — Click here to watch Warden Video

St Mark's Health & Safety Video (If the fire alarm sounds) — Click here to watch H&S Video

Special Collection

Collection 28th & 29th November 2026

Envelopes & Loose Collection $2, 563.90

Electronic Payments $4,217.00

We need your Help... Please support us via:

Direct Debit: **St Mark's Pakuranga Ecclesiastical Goods Trust**- BNZ Acc No.: 02-0108-0708684-00

EFTPOS donations can be made when lighting candles





EFTPOS machine is on the right-hand side as you enter the church.
Donations can be made using your credit or debit card. Set the amount to donate

Thank you for your continued support!

How to set up a recuring donation via online direct debit.
Login to your bank account
•Click on payments Set up automatic payment
•Account Number - **02-0108-0708684-00**
•Reference – Your name e.g. (P.J. Banks)
Amount - How often – weekly, fortnightly or monthly
•Choose a date you would like the donation deducted.

OTHER

Catholic Caring Foundation This Christmas support those in need with a gift to Bishop Steve's Caring Foundation. *See the need. Be the hope.* Your donations will be matched dollar for dollar! www.caringfoundation.org.nz

Dovecotes for Women NZ are small parish-based groups where women from all walks of life come together in faith. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, these groups offer women a place to bond, encourage one another, and deepen your relationship with God. Would you like to experience the warmth of friendship, prayer, and worship? You are warmly invited to form a Dovecote in your parish. More info or to get started, contact Gloria Stafford at dovenational.leader@gmail.com, Check out our website: www.dove.org.nz.

Catholic Education Services | Catholic Diocese of Auckland is seeking an experienced and enthusiastic **Executive Assistant / Office Administrator** to support the Director and Deputy Director of Education and contribute to the effective operation of Catholic education services across the Diocese. For further information and to apply, please visit the Diocesan website https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/.

Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College Is now accepting enrolments for Semester One 2027. If you are a Catholic school teacher, preparing for ministry, seeking academic formation, or wanting to grow in your understanding of the Catholic faith, CTC offers opportunities to learn and engage with Theology and Religious Education in a supportive environment. Go to Te Kupenga - Te Kupenga for more information."

Advent Wings.Nga Parirau on Wednesday Evenings; and each Saturday evening to prepare for the Sunday Gospels of Advent through Lectio Divina. For zoom link, contact Dianna Fouhy: diannaf@cda.org.nz

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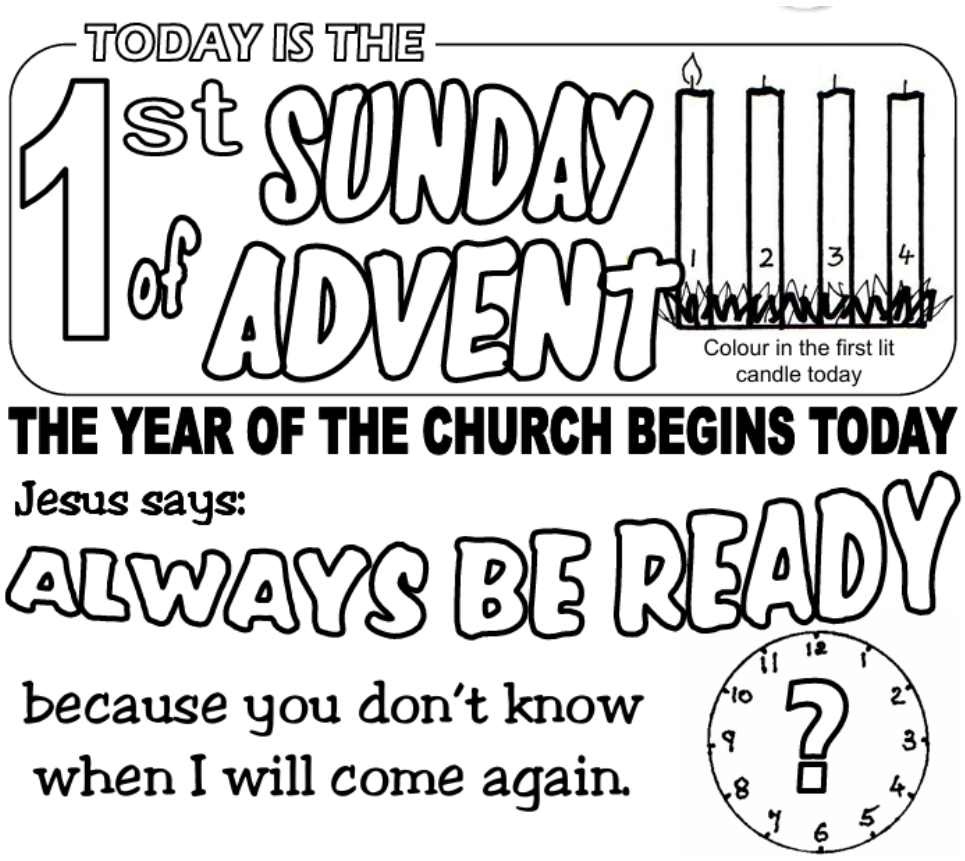
Jubilee Bursary *For Theological and Religious Education* APPLICATIONS INVITED for Semester 1, 2027. Applications close Friday, **11 December** 2026. Applicants must be Catholic and contributing to the mission of the Catholic Church in the Auckland Diocese. The Bursary is a contribution towards Tertiary Study for Theology and RE courses at Degree or Post Grad Level. For information and an application pack please contact scholarships@cda.org.nz Auckland Catholic Diocese

Operations Manager - Mid-North Parishes For further information and to apply, please visit the Diocesan website https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/.

Monte Cecilia Christmas Appeal - They can be dropped off at our office at 30 Windrush Close, Mangere during business hours before Tues 8 Dec (this gives us time to have them delivered to our children in time) or call our office 0800 6244 848 or email elaine@montececilia.org.nz

KID'S CORNER

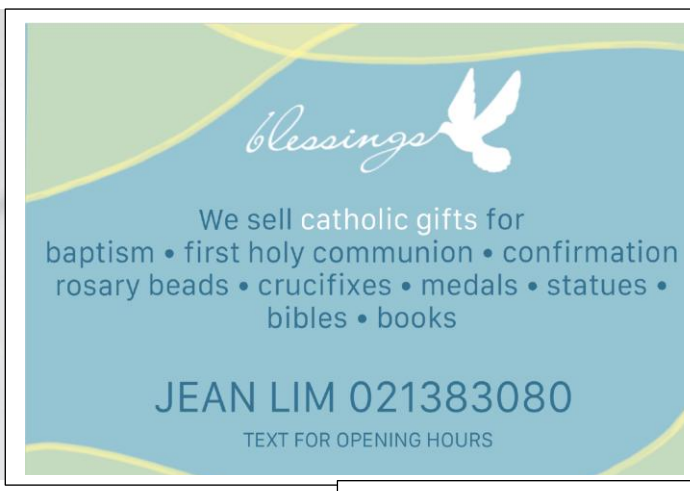
What is Advent?Catholic Kids Medis: -https://youtu.be/MJ3KbNgRC0c Reflection- Advent week 1: https://youtu.be/DKe79z33oCo
Hymene: Advent Is... https://youtu.WvRmnbLBAw





St Mark Catholic Mission Parish Council – Email: missioncouncil@stmark.org.nz - Chair – Malcolm Martis, Council Secretary – Myra D'Souza, Youth & Young Adult Ministry –Raewyn Tan, Evangelisation Ministry – Andre Van Heerden, Altar Ministry – Muna Hallis, Ethan Karl Social Services Ministry –Melania Jurgens, Temporalities Ministry – Alice Sung, School Principal -Tracey Kopua
School Representatives – Aaron William, Parish Priest – Fr Austin Fernandes, Parish Secretary -Evie Green-Thompson









Both Individually and Collectively we have a Responsibility to ensure **"THAT EVERY PERSON HAS A VALUE AND DIGNITY FROM HIS/HER CREATION IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD!"**



Parents & Caregivers
For the safety and well-being of your Tamariki, please ensure children are supervised by an adult at all times when they are visiting the Parish.



Advertise Your Business Here! for 6 months in the Parish Newsletter landscape: **Dimension**
4cm x 6 cm @ $260 + GST
8cm x 6cm @ $520 + GST
4cm x 12cm @ $520 + GST

Concern/Complaint about Harm or Abuse If you have a concern or complaint of harm involving someone within the church, please contact: National office for Profession Standards: 0800 114 622 - email: prof.standards@nzcbc.org.nz Deacon Mannix Lopez – Safeguarding Officer – Phone: 027 248 4232 - email mannix@stmark.org.nz You can also report your complaint directly to the New Zealand Police or to Oranga Tamariki

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