

St. Theresa's Parish

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Office hours: Mon, Thurs, Fri 10am-3pm, Wed 9am-2pm

Parish Priest: Cardinal John Dew & Visiting Priest: Fr David Dowling

8 December 2024 | 2nd Sunday of Advent - Year C



In our Parish this week

Reconciliation

Is available by appointment

Monday 9 December – The Immaculate Conception of Mary

10.00am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion followed by Adoration until 1.30pm

11.00am Christmas food parcel volunteers to collect from hall.

Tuesday 10 December

9.30am No Liturgy of the Word

7:30pm RCIA meeting in the office

Wednesday 11 December

9.30am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

7.30pm Prayer Group in the hall for a Christmas Celebration

Thursday 12 December

9.30am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Friday 13 December

9.30am Mass

10.15am SVDP to meet in the hall

Saturday 14 December

10am-12 pm & 3pm-5pm Cardinal John will be available for Reconciliation

11.00am Rosary and Adoration in the Church

6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 15 December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:30am Mass

4.00pm St. Joseph's Pauatahanui Carols

Please welcome Fr David Dowling who will be celebrating Mass with us this weekend.



2nd Sunday of Advent

In the year 1995, in the seventeenth year of my life, when Fife Symington was governor of Arizona, Bill Clinton was president of the United States, Chuck Keiffer was pastor of St. Theresa parish in Phoenix, Arizona, and Ron and Mary were

my parents, the word of God came to my youth minister Eric and through him I started to see the salvation of God. Soon, Christ came into my life never to leave. I'm thankful beyond words.

Why am I being so specific, you ask? Because in the Gospel this week we hear the specific names of people holding civic and religious authority in first century Palestine when "the word of God came to John the Baptist:" Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, Lysanias, Annas, Caiaphas, and Zechariah. All this is meant to help us see that God breaks into our history, into real human events. Jesus is no mere myth. He is the Word-which-breaks-in, in concrete moments, you might say. And now we anticipate his coming once again in our specific situations.

Advent challenge: Name as many civic and religious leaders who are in authority currently in your life. Now, name who the potential John the Baptists may be. A spouse? A friend? A podcaster? A work colleague who brings God's word to you? Spend a moment considering that this comprises the concrete, historical setting into which Christ wishes to come. Then, with these specifics in mind, pray: "Come, Lord Jesus. Come." - Father John Muir ©LPi

Clergy Appointment 2025

Today we were notified that Fr Ravi Kumar Voliganti will be our Parish Administrator from the beginning of February 2025. Cardinal John will continue to be in the Parish until early January and then we will be looked after, for our weekday Masses (Priests to be advised) , between Cardinal John leaving and Fr Ravi arriving.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of healing. The life we received at Baptism, strengthened in Confirmation, and nourished in the Eucharist is sometimes lost or severely threatened by our sinfulness and needs healing. And Jesus, in his great mercy, has given us a sacrament whereby we are restored both to our loving God and to the Church. And as a result of receiving this gift, we are restored to our baptismal state of innocence. We are truly forgiven and recreated. But even with this understanding and assurance, going to confession is hard.

We are masters at making excuses. “What will Father think of me if I confess what I did?” Or, “Why can’t I just tell God I’m sorry? Why do I have to go to a priest?” “Why confess, I’m just going to sin again anyway?” “It’s no big deal.” “What’s wrong with that?” The list goes on and on.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is not about our sins; it’s about God’s forgiveness. If a sacrament is an effective sign which does what it says that it does, then the acknowledgement of sin (our confession) and the words of absolution truly bring about the forgiveness of our sins and a return to baptismal innocence.

While confession may be hard—and it probably always will be—the consoling words of absolution make it all worthwhile. “I absolve you [set you free from all guilt and blame] from your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Reconciliation will be available this **Saturday 14th December 10am-12pm and 3pm-5pm;**
Saturday 21st December 10am-12pm & 3pm -5pm.
Please note there will be no Rite II Reconciliation this year.



REMEMBER
in your prayers

RIP Sr Trish Hanaray. Sadly our beloved Sr Trish died Saturday 30th November. A vigil was held on Thursday 5th December and her life will be celebrated with a Requiem Mass on Friday 6th December here at our Church. Please keep Sr Trish’s family in your prayers.

Anniversaries – May they RIP

Neville Key, Ora Kearns, Garry Conway, Judy Kerr, Graham Davis

Those who are sick: Richard Gibbs, Arthur O’Leary, David Wootton, Jocelyn Bryant, Luca Ashworth, Cristina Fleming, Patricia Maher, John Montgomery, and all parishioners who have Covid or are sick.



CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL



Passionist family and St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper time: This Sunday **8th December** we will be putting the hampers together.

We would really appreciate if you can you

donate treats for families, \$20 Preston’s Meat vouchers, candles/soaps, or chocoaltes. It’s our last request, thank you very much to those who have already dontated.

We are looking at 100 hampers again this year and as always, we very much appreciate your support. Cards can be put into the baskets, posted in the office postal box or if you prefer you can deposit to the parish bank account and we will buy them for you. Our bank details are 02 0536 0003250-29. Please use your surname as a reference.



Christmas is more than just a miracle birth story. It is about hope, and peace, and joy, and love.

Join our young people as they share a special Advent prayer service on Friday 6th December at 7:00 pm

The Advent candles we light are not like our birthday cake candles! Come and rekindle the flame that burns inside of you.

Friday 6th December – 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

23rd December:	9:30am Mass
24th December:	6:00pm Christmas Eve family Mass 9pm Christmas Eve Mass
25th December:	9:30am Christmas Mass
26th/27th December:	No Mass or Liturgy of the Word
28th December:	6pm Vigil Mass
29th December:	9:30am Mass
30/31st December:	No Mass or Liturgy of the Word
1st January 2025:	9:30am Mass
2nd/3rd January:	No Mass or Liturgy of the Word
4th January:	6pm Vigil Mass
5th January:	9:30am Mass

Parish to Parish for Bed and Breakfast

Catholics throughout New Zealand, and a few in Australia, host Catholics in their homes. It's a wonderful way for Catholics to meet and enjoy the company of other Catholics. There is a contribution made of \$50 for one person, and \$30 for each additional guest, per night, that is, two people would pay \$80 per night.

If you wish to purchase a book with the details of the hosts, the cost is \$15. This includes postage. To order please contact or order from Marie Anderson, 2 Brent Place, Christchurch 8053, phone 027 2800 611, email marie.ian@xtra.co.nz

YEAR OF JUBILEE : NGĀ TAPUWAE JUBILEE HIKOI 2025

Join in and experience the footsteps of Bishop Pompalier, Kupe, and the Poyntons, with other pilgrims, together sharing our Catholic and Maori heritage. This is a guided pilgrimage. Information is available at www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/lifeinfaith/nga_tapuwaehikoi-2025 or contact Deacon Steve Fraser stephenf@cda.org.nz
Registrations are now open. Dates are 10th to 12th January 2025. Own transport required.



The Prayer Group will not meet again until Wednesday 5 February 2025. For any prayers requests please phone: Anne Dodds 027 311 0551



From St Joseph's Church:

We thank you for your support of St Joseph's movie fundraising during 2024. Our movies The

Great Escaper and Lee which were entertaining and thought provoking.

We raised \$3065 in net ticket sales. This was augmented by raffle sales at these events totalling \$695. An additional benefit from these events is the boost in donations we attracted either directly or indirectly. We need these funds to address the needs of the property. This year's fundraising has enabled, some site work, a new website, and the installation of a security system on the property, none of which could have been achieved without your contribution.

These movie nights provide the chance for the Parish community to gather and share leisure time together fulfilling both the Parish and St Joseph's aims to build relationships and connections within our communities. Look out for more movies during 2025.



A Chance to Sing this

Christmas Sunday 15 December

4pm - 6pm Everyone is welcome to join in singing traditional carols at

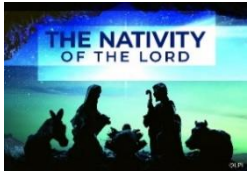
St Joseph's historic church Pāuatahanui, concluding with some delicious cake & goodies. Spend a relaxed afternoon mingling with friends and supporters at this family-friendly event. Parking is limited so share transport if possible.

FOOD FOR FAITH FOR ADVENT. Sign up

at www.foodforfaith.org.nz to prepare for Christmas by receiving daily email encouragements with Fr. John O'Connor

Archbishop's Appeal: Support Our Seminarians

Throughout December, Archbishop Paul invites you to contribute to the Archbishop's Appeal, which supports the formation of our Archdiocesan seminarians. Your generous donations will help cover the costs of their education at Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland, as well as their travel to and from the Archdiocese and ongoing pastoral care. Please consider making a gift to help nurture and support those preparing for a life of service to the Church. Donations can be made to 02-0536-0003306-13; Reference: your name; Code: AB Appeal.



It's that wonderful time of year again and we are calling for all little performers to star in the Christmas Eve nativity play during the 6pm vigil at St Theresa's Church. It's so special to hear the little voices of our youth singing at Christmas, so please sign your children up by messaging **Lauren Johnstone at 021450643**. Practices will be held right after school in the church - it's like free babysitting! We are also looking for any parents to support in any way – especially someone to do the admin side of it such as communicating via text with the parents. On the night help would also be great. Practices start **3pm – 4pm from Monday 9 December, 11, 12, 16, 18, 19 & 23**.

Service Rosters for Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 December		
2 nd Sunday of Advent		
Mass Time:	6:00 pm	9:30 am
Sacristan	Angela Reiher	Russell Plume
Greeters	Frances & Brian Collins	Alwyn Kelly & Gary Calderwood
Welcomer /Prayers of Faithful	Cath Gardner	Naomi Bennett
Altar Servers		Josh & Noah Kerr
Karanga		Margriet Lynch
Children's Liturgy		Tandi McCarthy
Proclaimer of The Word	Audrey Hinder	Hamish Baker
Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Grant Baker, Alan Fleming	Richard Barraclough, Jude McKee, Paul Kerr
Hospitality		Dilran Perera & Peter Rawnsley
Altar Society		Klara Noldan

Service Rosters for Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 December		
3 rd Sunday of Advent		
Mass Time:	6:00 pm	9:30 am
Sacristan	Mike Montgomery	Veronica Young
Greeters	Laupepa Va'a	Alwyn Kelly & Gary Calderwood
Welcomer /Prayers of Faithful	Noemi Thomas	Anne Dodds
Altar Servers		Finlay Blank Cooper Baldwin
Karanga		Janet McClean
Children's Liturgy		Bronagh & Luke Barber
Proclaimer of The Word	Rommel Anthony	Veronica Young
Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Rosaleen Larsen, Mike Montgomery	Dorothy Gibbs, Russell Plume, Laurie Smith
Hospitality		Rosaleen & Jeff Larsen
Altar Society		Klara Noldan

E	B	A	S	W	O	L	L	O	F	ARRESTED	GALILEE	GOOD
D	E	T	S	E	R	R	A	I	L	NEWS	HAND	REPENT
S	L	E	E	C	L	O	S	E	R	BELIEVE	CASTING	FOLLOW
E	I	E	M	A	N	H	F	T	C	JAMES	ZEBEDEE	BOAT
E	E	D	A	I	E	T	A	N	A			
L	V	E	J	R	T	S	M	E	S			
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