

### Feast Days in the First Week of Advent

- **Mon 30 Nov:** FEAST for **St Andrew, apostle.** A fisherman, like his brother St Peter. Born in Bethsaida, a disciple of John the Baptist at first. Mentioned several times in the gospels, he brought the Gentiles to Jesus. Is thought to have preached in Scythia, and to have been martyred at Patras in Achaia. Patron of fishermen.
- **Thu 3 Dec:** Memorial for **St Francis Xavier, priest.** Born 1506 in Spain, an original member of the Society of Jesus with St Ignatius – he took vows of poverty and chastity, and committed himself to evangelize the pagans. He was a great missionary who preached in Goa, South East Asia, and Japan – where he landed in 1549. He learned Japanese and formed a church that endured long drawn-out persecution. Died while on his way from Goa to China, in 1552. Patron of foreign missions.
- **Fri 4 Dec:** Optional for **St John Damascene, priest and doctor of the Church.** Born Damascus about 675. Held public office for a time then withdrew to the monastery of Sabas near Jerusalem. Wrote The Fount of Wisdom, which had great influence on later theology. Died c 750.

#### Christmas Choir

All are welcome to join the parish choir for Christmas Midnight Mass. Olivia will hold extra rehearsals throughout Advent - come along to learn some new carols, impress your family with glorious harmonies, and have a go at singing Handel's famous Hallelujah chorus. Participation is easy and open to all abilities! If you can only make one rehearsal, or come part-way through a rehearsal that's absolutely fine. Please contact Olivia for more information: 0223435460.

Rehearsals will take place in the Church choir loft on the following dates:

**Saturdays 05, 12 & 19 Dec: 9.30am - 11.30am**

**Tuesdays 01, 08, 15 & 22 Dec: 7pm - 8pm**

#### We pray for those who have died recently:

Ildiko Albrecht and Gloria Callanan

#### and those with Anniversaries at this time:

**Nov 28:** William McCarthy 1922, Fenella Wright 1961

**Nov 29:** Mary Kelly 1914, Helena McMinn 1924

**Nov 30:** George Sinclair 1962, Justin Farrell 2003

**Dec 01:** Mario Isidro 1934, Patricia Bolger 1952, Kathleen Dolan 1996, Patrick Baker 2000, Patricia Vieyra 2003

**Dec 03:** Tony Pearce 1984, Kathleen Sandford 1994

**Dec 04:** Msgr Alfred Huia Hyde 1985

**Dec 05:** Valda Murphy 2002, Alvin Josef 2008



#### St Vincent de Paul Society, Devonport

Thank you for remembering to bring a food item with you to Mass each week, this helps enormously to keep our food bank stocked up. If you know of anyone who would like a helping hand, Please call 027 222 3367 or contact the Parish Office.

#### Christmas Mass Times

##### Christmas Eve

5.10pm Carols—5.30pm Vigil Mass

11.30pm Carols—12 Midnight—Midnight Mass

##### Christmas Day

9am Mass

2a Albert Road, Devonport, Auckland 0624 (09) 4450078

[office@devonportcatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@devonportcatholic.org.nz) [www.devonportcatholic.org.nz](http://www.devonportcatholic.org.nz)

Facebook: St Francis de Sales & All Souls [www.facebook.com/groups/1077078918984007/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1077078918984007/)

**Priest in Residence:** Fr John O'Connor [john@fff.org.nz](mailto:john@fff.org.nz)

**Pastoral Assistant:** Stephen Bell **Parish Secretary:** Corenna Rooke

**St Leo's Catholic School:** 4459339 [www.stleos.school.nz](http://www.stleos.school.nz)

**Principal:** Maureen Harris **Parish-School Reps:** Steven Albrecht, Karla Welson

**Parish Office Hours:** Mon—9:00am to 12:30pm; Tues to Fri—9:00am to 1:00pm

**Parish Newsletter:** (DEADLINE 9am THURS.)

**Sunday Mass Times:** Sat. Vigil: 5.30pm Sunday: 9am

**Weekday Times:** Mon: 8am Liturgy Tues, Thurs & Sat: 9am Holy Mass

Wed & Fri: 12pm Holy Mass

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Sat, after 9.00am Mass

#### Other Rosters:

##### Children's Liturgy

6 Dec—Sasha

##### Morning Tea

6 Dec - Jody

##### Flowers

4 Dec—Leslee

##### Counters

6 Dec—Rosaland & Corenna

##### Cleaning

5 Dec—Emma



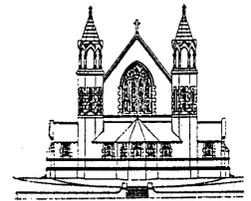
## DEVONPORT CATHOLIC PARISH

### St Francis de Sales & All Souls

2a Albert Road, Devonport, Auckland 0624

(09) 4450078

[www.devonportcatholic.org.nz](http://www.devonportcatholic.org.nz)



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: 29 NOVEMBER 2020

#### It's Advent

There's a story told of the holy French priest Jean Vianney (Cure d'Ars d.1859). He noticed an elderly man who would spend hours in the church before the Blessed Sacrament.

The cure was curious about what happened in this man's prayer. "What do you do when you are praying" he asked the man. The old man's answer has become the classic instruction for contemplative prayer: "I look at Him, and He looks at me."

The simplicity of the man's prayer is deeply appealing. So much that is taught and written about prayer serves only to convince us that prayer is a complex project to be mastered.

We forget that prayer is the most natural human activity. Prayer is the 'default-setting' for humans. Prayer is always God's action in us.

Our desire for the divine life within us is the purest prayer we can pray. To sit in silence and stillness before God is the best we can do.

When I think about the cure's conversation with the elderly man, I see that he was deeply at home with God; much more at peace with God than I often am. Most times I feel unable to look at God. My guilt and shame renders me more like Adam in the garden who took to cover, unable to return the divine gaze.

But there is hope for me. God does not need me to do anything in my prayer. I simply give God the gift of time, and I sit or kneel. If looking at God is difficult for whatever reason, I need not be concerned. In these moments I simply know that however preoccupied my own vision, God is always looking at me with gentle love and mercy.

God's gaze on me is the heart of prayer. God does all the work—and I am transformed.

The busyness of pre-Christmas days can be exhausting. How easy it is for us to lose perspective. We forget that God is holding us in love in every moment.

These Advent days invite us to set moments in the midst of our full lives to remember that God is with us.

To know that we are held firmly in God's vision is the most comforting human experience. In this gaze we see our sin and weakness. In humble shame we cast our eyes downward. But the God of love continues to look upon us with transforming love. This posture before God is the heart of contemplative prayer.

Have a blessed week.

John

#### TAKE ONE

The parish prep-for-Christmas initiative to TAKE ONE hour each week during Advent to enjoy the company of other parishioners in small, self-formed groups will begin this week. The response has been enthusiastic. Thanks to those who have sent your meeting time to the parish office with openness to another person being added to your group. There are group times still open to others, please contact the Parish Office for these.

The resources for the one hour weekly gatherings are a simple combination of whatever you want to share of the reality of your life at the moment, and the MAGNIFICAT ADVENT COMPANION. This internationally popular booklet is an offering of daily Advent reflections and other prayers and resources. I think you will like it. We have imported a good supply of these and they cost around \$5.00 each (including shipping). If you are able to give a donation to help the parish cover this cost that would be greatly appreciated, (this can be done online to the Parish Account: 02-0100-0120958-16. Please use your name and 'Advent' as a reference) But it is much more important that everyone who wants to make this Advent TAKE ONE journey takes a copy.

**TAKE ONE for 18-35 year olds.** All in this age group are welcome to meet with Fr. John Wednesday 2 December 7.00pm at Manuka.

The call to watch out for the coming of the Lord may seem like a threat, but is meant to challenge us to be fully alive in the here and now. The first Sunday of Advent repeats the invitation Paul gave to the Corinthians, to be thankful for "all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ" and to be "steady and without blame until the last day."

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Waiting For The Lord*

**Isaiah 63:16-17;64:1,3-8** Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down.

**Ps 80: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

**1Cor 1:3-9** We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

**Mark 13:33-37** Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6 Dec

*The Good News*

**Is 40:1-5,9-11** Prepare a way for the Lord.

**Ps 85: O Lord, let us see your mercy.**

**2Peter 3:8-14** We are waiting for the new heavens and new earth.

**Mark 1:1-8** Make his paths straight.

#### Lectors:

(29 Nov) Sat K Petrie L McMaster Sun M Lyttleton D O'Shaughnessy

(6 Dec) Sat A Blackwell N Witham Blackwell Sun A Gibson N Gibson

#### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

(29 Nov) Sat H & M Dennis K Isidro Sun F Sapa'u K Casey A Steel

(6 Dec) Sat E Wingrove Sun I Gillies S Gillies A Williams

Official **Mass Counts** are recorded each weekend during the month of November. The results assist the diocese with forward planning and are included in the diocese's annual report to Rome.

#### ADVENT RECONCILIATION RITE 2

<b>Sun 6 Dec</b>	<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Devonport</b>
Tues 8 Dec	7.00pm	Orewa
Weds 9 Dec	7.00pm	Northcote
Thurs 10 Dec	7.00pm	Takapuna
Friday 11 Dec	7.00pm	ECB (Mairangi Bay)
Thurs 17 Dec	7.00pm	Glenfield
Friday 18 Dec	7.00pm	Beach Haven



#### NZ Catholic

29 Nov — 12 Dec issue out now. Some headlines are: Delight as Timaru basilica reopens. Palmerston North diocese in "really good stead" for 2021. Schools collect thousands of cans for Christmas. **On Sale Now \$4**



#### ROSARY

Every **Monday, 6pm in the church**

Come & join in, reciting this beautiful prayer. **All Welcome**

#### Contemplative prayer/Christian meditation

Monday at 6.30pm and Wednesday at 12.30pm in the parish meeting room. **All Welcome**

#### 2021 Columban Calendars \$12 each

On sale now from church door after Sunday Mass or available from parish office. These are good value and make excellent gifts.

#### ADVENT RETREAT

An invitation to build-your-own retreat around one hour of reflection led by Fr. John on each of the three Saturday mornings leading up to Christmas. Simply turn up at the hour to hear the input with some guided reflection, and build your own style of retreat around this hour. You might come for the 9.00am Saturday Mass which precedes the 9.00am reflection or follow the session with some time sitting under a tree, walking on the beach or sipping a cuppa in a local café.

Each of the three one-hour Saturday sessions will stand alone (if you can only make it to one or two), but they will also build on the previous week's session if you can manage all three. The sessions will give practical encouragement based generally on the theme "*The Wonderful Difference that Faith Makes to Daily Life.*" These sessions are open to anyone who is interested. Bring a friend or two.

**Saturday 5 December 9.30am – 10.30am**  
**Saturday 12 December 9.30am – 10.30am**  
**Saturday 19 December 9.30am – 10.30am**

#### Meet with Fr. John this week:

I have appreciated the opportunity to meet parishioners. Thank you to those who have invited me. Let me know if you are happy for me to visit you in your home for half an hour and we will arrange a time that works best for you.

[john@fff.org.nz](mailto:john@fff.org.nz)

This week I invite parishioners to come and join me for a few minutes or longer. Great to have your company.

**Tuesday 1 December 4.30 - 6.30pm Manuka**

**Wednesday 2 December - 7.30am - 10.00am Manuka**

#### Diocese Notices

Today the first Sunday of Advent sees the new liturgical year and the launch of the Diocesan Mission Map – the framework for how we are Church together into the future. This is accompanied by the launch of a **refreshed diocesan website** same address <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/> Bishop Pat invites you to explore it. You will also find a message from him and Bishop Michael regarding the Mission Map on the site.

**Advent Carols and Readings** Join us for our annual service of Carols and Readings for the Season of Advent at the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph, with the Cathedral Vocal Ensemble. Saturday, 5 December at 7 pm.

**G.I.F.T. Christmas Mass** Sunday 6th December, 4pm at Good Shepherd Church, Balmoral. An invitation to all Catholics with disabilities, their families and support workers. A light meal is provided after Mass in the G.I.F.T. Centre. Everyone is most welcome. Ph: 629 0445

**Quo Vadis, Where are you going?** Breakfast meeting for single men ages 17+ who are interested in considering a vocation to the diocesan priesthood. 5 December 9am for Mass followed by fellowship – St Patrick's Panmure.

**Employment Opportunities at St Francis Retreat Centre** - we are looking for a new **Food Service Director (Head Chef)** and a **General/Operations Manager** If one of these positions sounds like you, please email: [finance@stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz](mailto:finance@stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz) for a full job description and application form.



## St Leo's Catholic School

Nurture, The whole child | Gracious, Mercy Values | Excellence, No compromise

#### Parish news: 26 November

##### Tima Moataane

It is with great sadness that I accepted Tima's resignation last week. Tima has been with us for 15 years working as a caretaker and cleaner. He now has a job as night manager at a supermarket which is a wonderful opportunity for him. He has been a fabulous asset to our school and will be sorely missed. We will be looking for someone to take on a part time caretakers role, so if anyone knows of someone who may be interested, please let me know. It would suit someone who is semi retired and the job entails lawn mowing and general grounds maintenance and some small day to day maintenance around the school.

##### Kapa Haka

We have been so blessed to have had Anthony Pita as our Kapa Haka tutor this year. Anthony has taught waiata and tikanga to our children and he has a great pride in his heritage. Anthony has been a wonderful example of a St Leo's boy who has gone on to be the DUX of Rosmini this year. A great example for our children to aspire to. We wish him well at University next year. This year we have also added to the kapa haka uniforms and they have a Mercy Cross displayed on their singlets which makes them look very smart. They will be opening our school fair this morning.

##### Athletics day

A lot of fun was had on Monday at our athletics day. Many thanks to Lucia Dawbin for organising and for helpers on the day. A small group will be representing St Leo's at the Peninsula athletics next Wednesday.

God Bless  
Maureen Harris

##### MIHA MĀORI AT HĀTO PETERA CHAPEL

Miha Māori (Mass in Te Reo Māori) will once again be celebrated in the Hāto Petera Chapel, 103 College Road, Northcote. The Miha will be celebrated on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December, at 9.30am. You are very welcome to join us as we celebrate our return to the Chapel. For more info call Manuel Beazley, Vicar for Māori on (09) 360 3058. *Nau mai, haere mai.*