

Feast Days in the Third Week of Advent

- **Mon 14 Dec:** Memorial for **St John of the Cross, priest and doctor of the Church.** Born Spain 1542, became a Carmelite and ordained in 1567. St Teresa of Avila encouraged him to undertake a reform of his Order, but he was opposed and suffered many setbacks. His life of prayer bore fruit in writings that are classics of the mystical life. *The Ascent of Mt Carmel, The Dark Night of the Soul, The Spiritual Canticle, The Living Flame of Love.*



The Beach Haven and Glenfield Vinnies charity shops thank you all very much for your kind donations and generous support of the St Vincent de Paul Society. We will close on Sat 19th December and reopen on Monday 18th January. We wish you all a very holy, peaceful and safe Christmas. God Bless.

NZCatholic

13-26 December issue out now. \$4

Some headlines: New pastoral plan for Auckland diocese. New vaccines prompt serious questions. Hospital chaplain called a local hero. Marist ordained to priesthood.

Alterations

Anyone requiring clothing alterations please contact: Flo Sapa'u 0273160347

Deals of Devonport 2021 Books

St Leo's Deals of Devonport 2021 books have just been released. Valid for 12 months from now so that you can save on Christmas shopping or buy them as a gift for a local friend or family member. Just use a couple of vouchers and the book has paid for itself! Books are \$25 and money raised goes to St Leo's school. Available from the Parish Office

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

office@devonportcatholic.org.nz www.devonportcatholic.org.nz

Facebook: St Francis de Sales & All Souls www.facebook.com/groups/1077078918984007/

Priest in Residence: Fr John O'Connor john@fff.org.nz

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

St Leo's Catholic School: 4459339 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

We pray for those who have died recently
Vic Clarke, Keith Hooper, Leone Bronlund **and those with Anniversaries at this time:**

Dec 12: Angus McKenzie 1978,
Patricia Lennan 2005

Dec 16: Velma Veronica Swann 2018

Dec 18: Matthew Buchanan 2009,
Mary (Jo) Aitchison 2017

Dec 19: Karl Rollin 2003, Gregory Cooper 2004,
Msgr Paul Cronin, 2010

Dec 20: Rev Frances H Terry 1978



COMMUNITY CAROLS At Holy Trinity Church, Devonport

Thurs 17th December, 7.00pm.

Begins at **6.00pm** with Picnic,
Sausage Sizzle, Bouncy Castle, Ice-
Creams. Bring the family.

This is an ecumenical event hosted by the
Combined Churches of Devonport & Belmont.

**Our parish is responsible for selling the ice-
creams from 6.00pm.**

For Sale Healthy Fig Trees

A perfect Christmas gift for you or a dear one.
\$10 each, all proceeds to charity. Contact Eileen,
Phone: 0210822474 or Shawn 0274882218

Other Rosters:

Morning Tea
20 Dec - David

Flowers
18 Dec—Maria

Counters
20 Dec—Maria &
Jeremy



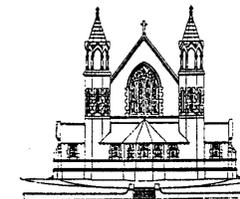
DEVONPORT CATHOLIC PARISH

St Francis de Sales & All Souls

2a Albert Road, Devonport, Auckland 0624

(09) 4450078

www.devonportcatholic.org.nz



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: 13 DECEMBER 2020

Christmas Newsletter

The suggestion of a substantial Christmas newsletter / booklet has received enthusiastic response. It is a pretty full-on time of the year, but it would be great if we could work together to make this happen.

The heart of the pages would be parishioners' sharing something of their own lives and experience of God, particularly in the ups and downs of this challenging year. You might write a 40 – 400 word reflection. Too often in the past parish newsletters were about priests and nuns and institutional activity. In my few months here I have seen the life of faith in homes and workplaces, with friends and families and parishioners in every place. This is what the newsletter needs to communicate – the breadth of your personal faith experience not just when you are in church, but for the rest of the week.

Here are a few starter - topics that you might share a thought on: My experience as a Catholic. How I experienced God / Jesus during lockdown. How my faith grew during lockdown. Tips that have helped my prayer. A favourite prayer / hymn and why. Meeting God in health struggles. Experiencing God / Jesus when I thought I had lost everything. My faith as a new arrival in NZ. Faith and ageing. How my faith enables me to accompany a family member with serious illness. My experience of the Advent Take One groups. What happens for me when I receive communion. My best experience of confession. The experience in my life that most helped deepen my faith. How my faith has matured through praying with scripture. How being a Catholic helps my daily work. My experience of following (and resisting) God's plan. Faith and death. Faith in grief. Faith and recovery from addiction. What brought me to my knees most. The joy of following God's way.

Why I go to Mass. Movies / books that have helped my faith. What I have learnt about God through my (secular) study. Why I returned to Mass after being away 10,40,60 years. Etc etc etc...

Or share just a sentence summing up your experience of God this year. Do you know of someone who has a great story to tell but might need you to encourage them to write, or perhaps you could offer to be their scribe and write for them?

Original art and poetry also welcome.

If you accompany your contribution with a picture of yourself that would help parishioners to get to know each other.

If you are in a parish group of any kind send a paragraph or two about your work with a pic or two.

Now that we know this Christmas Newsletter will go ahead, we need you to act quickly - set some time and prepare something, sending it to the parish office before 9.00pm on Thursday 17th December - that's just a few days away.

If anyone has skills to collate the material that comes in let Corenna know at the office – or even if you have advice about how best to do this. The completed booklet might be 24 A4 pages.

Thank you for your enthusiasm for this project!

Have a blessed week
John

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

5.10pm Carols—5.30pm Vigil Mass
11.30pm Carols—12 Midnight—Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9am Mass

The entrance antiphon for the third Sunday of Advent remains true to tradition. It is from Paul's letter to the Philippians (4:4-5). It's first word is "Rejoice" or in Latin "Gaudete" — hence the common title for this day, "Gaudete Sunday". Today's readings (apart from the gospel) are filled with an infectious spirit of joy.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Our Joy In Christ

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11 I exult for joy in the Lord.

Ps: Lk 1:46-54 My soul rejoices in my God (Magnificat)

Thess 5:16-24 May you all be kept safe, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of the Lord.

John 1:6-8,19-28 There stands among you - unknown to you - the one who is coming after me.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

20 Dec

Mary, The Ark Of God's Covenant

Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16 The kingdom of David will always stand secure before the Lord.

Ps 89: I will sing for ever of the goodness of the Lord.

Rom 16:25-27 The mystery, which was kept secret for endless ages, is now made clear.

Luke 1:26-38 Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.



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

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

**Contemplative
prayer/Christian
meditation**

Monday evenings
6.30pm in the parish
meeting room All
welcome.
www.christianmeditationnz.org.nz

**2021 Columban
Calendars
\$12 each**

On sale now from
church door after

ADVENT RECONCILIATION RITE 2

Thurs 17 Dec 7.00pm Glenfield
Friday 18 Dec 7.00pm Beach Haven

Next Thursday, December 17th begins the eight days, or "Octave", anticipating the birth of Christ. The **Gospel Acclamations** in this period particularly herald the approaching Messiah, who is Emmanuel:

Wisdom of the Most High, ordering all things with strength and gentleness, come and teach us the way of truth.

Ruler of the House of Israel, who gave the law to Moses on Sinai, come and save us with outstretched arm.

Root of Jesse, set up as a sign to the peoples, come and save us, and delay no more.

Key of David, who open the gates of the eternal kingdom, come to liberate from prison the captive who lives in darkness.

Morning Star, radiance of eternal light, sun of justice, come and enlighten those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.

King of the peoples and corner-stone of the Church, come and save mankind whom you made from the dust of the earth.

Emmanuel, our king and lawgiver, come and save us, Lord our God.



St Leo's Catholic School

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

Parish news: 10 December

Jesse Tree Liturgy

Last Friday St Patrick and St Clare shared a liturgy in the hall with a simple drama and singing, telling the story of Jesus' ancestry through the Jesse Tree. The beautiful ornaments which were put on the tree were made many years ago by a parent of a Y6 student. They are special and the family will be remembered when they are used each year. The decorated tree is now on display in our foyer.

Graduation Dinner

On Wednesday night we shared a special dinner with the Y6 leavers and their parents. The guest speaker was Michelle Dickinson (Nanogirl) and she gave an inspiring speech to the children about following their passions, doing things they enjoy and being the best they can be. She did some cool experiments with the children which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Many thanks to Hayley Law for organising her to come along.

Tima's farewell

We are having an official farewell for Tima on Tuesday 15 December at 2pm. Any parishioners who would like to join us are most welcome. We are going to make it a very special ceremony as Tima has been a valued member of our school community. There will be light refreshments served afterwards.

Nativity Play

On Friday the traditional nativity play was performed in the hall. Thanks to all the teachers and to Dominic, the choir trainer, for making this a beautiful performance of a wonderful story of Jesus' birth.

Graduation Mass

On Wednesday at 9.15am we will be having our Graduation Mass.

Hard to believe there are only a few days of school left!

God Bless
Maureen Harris

TAKE ONE for 18-35 year olds. All in this age group are welcome to meet with Fr. John Wednesday 16 December 7.00pm at Manuka.

Lectors:

(13 Dec) Sat R Mannion Sun D Williamson D O'Shaughnessy

(20 Dec) Sat S Burke S Erasmuson Sun G Dobbs L Lampen Smith

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

(13 Dec) Sat J Pereira K Isidro K Isidro Sun K Rawlinson F Knottenbelt B Turner

(20 Dec) Sat M Burke Sun K Lynch B Turner M Lyttleton

Church Cleaning Bee

Next Saturday, 21 Dec.
10.30am—12.30pm.

Some extra cleaning in readiness for Christmas:
Brass, dusting, cobwebs, vacuuming, etc.

Christmas Flowers

Parishioners are invited to offer donations for fresh flowers for our Altar for Christmas. Please place your donation in the box at church door. Thank you.

Volunteers For Christmas Liturgies

Readers, Prayers, Special Ministers of Communion, Altar Servers, Collectors.

Please indicate your availability for Christmas duties on the forms on table at church door.

We also need people to help serve refreshments.

With Gratitude

When I mentioned at Masses last weekend that Monday was my 35th anniversary of ordination I had no idea that so many would respond to my invitation to join me for food and drink on Monday morning and evening. Your presence, support and prayer is a great encouragement for me
Thank you
John

ADVENT RETREAT

An hour of reflection led by Fr. John after 9am Mass on each of the three Saturday mornings leading up to Christmas.

Each of the three sessions will stand alone but 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." All welcome

Saturday 12 December 9.30am – 10.30am

Saturday 19 December 9.30am – 10.30am

Baptisms

Baptisms for children of any age will be celebrated on **Saturday 9 January at 11am**. If you would like a child baptised on that date please make contact directly with Father John john@fff.org.nz

Diocese Notices

Heading North this summer? A reminder and encouragement to visit the places of important Catholic history in our diocese, particular Motuti, where Bishop Pompallier remains are interred in St Mary's Church, and Tōtara Point, where the first official Mass was celebrated on 13 January 1838. All are invited to **Mass at Tōtara Point Sunday, 10 January 2021 at 11am** to commemorate the first Mass in Aotearoa.

Christmas blessings and gratitude from the Caring Foundation

Your support for families and communities in need during 2020 has helped the foundation support over 60 agencies working with the poor and the vulnerable. Thank you for your compassion and care. Please keep the Foundation in your prayers, and if able please support our Christmas Appeal. www.caringfoundation.org.nz