

Feast Days in the Second Week of Advent

- **Mon 7 Dec:** Memorial for **St Ambrose, bishop and doctor of the Church.** Born 339 at Trier, practiced in Roman law-courts and appointed to office in Milan. While still a catechumen was elected Bishop of Milan by the laity – hesitated to accept, but was baptized, ordained and studied theology, became famous as a preacher & defender of the faith. He received St Augustine into the Church. He fought paganism and protected the Church against political power.
- **Tue 8 Dec:** SOLEMNITY FOR **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.** (Gen 3:9-15,20; Ps 98; Eph 1:3-6,11-12; Lk 1:26-38).
- **Wed 9 Dec:** Optional for **St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin**, to whom Our Lady appeared on this day in 1531 at Guadalupe, leaving a miraculous image on his cloak.
- **Fri 11 Dec:** Optional for **St Damasus I, pope.** Born about 305, elected pope by the clergy and people of Rome in 366. He summoned synods to suppress various heresies rife at the time, particularly Arianism and Donatism. He commissioned St Jerome to undertake translation of the scriptures. He embellished and conserved the tombs of the martyrs. Died 384.
- **Sat 12 Dec:** Optional for **Our Lady of Guadalupe.** Our Lady appeared to the peasant farmer Juan Diego, leaving a miraculous image of herself on his cloak.

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. We need volunteers for this.

Contact Stephen 0210608561, or email the parish

We pray for those who have died recently

Vic Clarke

and those with Anniversaries at this time:

Dec 05: Valda Murphy 2002, Alvin Josef 2008

Dec 07: Charles Old 1985, Gwendolyn Brown 2004

Dec 08: Robert Fullerton 1979

Dec 10: John Molloy 1987, Jim McKay 2014

Dec 11: Eileen Light 2008, Martha Jones, 2013

Dec 12: Angus McKenzie 1978,

Patricia Lennan 2005

Alterations

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

Senior Women's Coffee Group Christmas Meeting

10.00am Thursday 10th December at 3b

Winscombe Street. For more information please contact Kathy Lynch 4451645

Other Rosters:

Children's Liturgy

13 Dec—Kate

Morning Tea

13 Dec - Lousie

Flowers

11 Dec—Anne

Counters

13 Dec—Denise & Karl

Cleaning

5 Dec—Emma



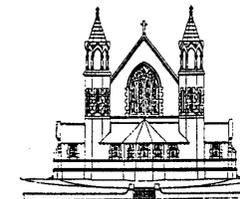
DEVONPORT CATHOLIC PARISH

St Francis de Sales & All Souls

2a Albert Road, Devonport, Auckland 0624

(09) 4450078

www.devonportcatholic.org.nz



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: 6 DECEMBER 2020

The beginning

There has been a wonderful response to the Advent TAKE ONE initiative. There are more than a dozen groups meeting in the parish, each group with its own unique make-up and format. TAKE ONE is not a programme or a method, but rather an idea, and initiative which parishioners are free to take and develop or leave.

Perhaps we too often rely on systems and structures to provide for us giving every detail of how to proceed. A few people have asked me what they should be doing in their TAKE ONE group. While the parish provides the MAGNIFICANT ADVENT COMPANION, this is not the text book. More important is the complex and messy reality of your life in Aotearoa New Zealand in 2020, and how Christ comes to you here and now. Such conversations help us to appreciate that while Christianity began 2000 years ago at the first Christmas, I need to experience a new beginning here and now, and the great news is that Jesus Christ is eager to be God-with-me today and in the reality of my life today.

If you would like to TAKE ONE hour a week in preparation for Christmas to join a few others over a cuppa or more let Corenna know at the office office@catholicdevonport.org.nz

Have a blessed week
John

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.

Meet with Father John and other Parishioners this week:

Monday 7 December. 7.30am – 10.00am & 5.00pm – 7.30pm @ Manuka

Thursday 10 December. 4.30pm – 6.30pm @ Manuka



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

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

Christmas Day

9am Mass



St Vincent de Paul

Thank you to those people who continue to support SVDP, but at this time of year we face increased demand.

We have a basket at the back of the church and are looking for donations of non-perishable food, household cleaning products and personal hygiene items.

Other ways of giving could be through the donation box (also at the back of the church) or directly into our bank account:

010137-0030606-00

Also you may be aware of families or individuals who may need our help.

Please pass their details into the office at 4450078 and we will discretely contact them.

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

Mark's 'good news' begins with John the Baptist: 'a voice cries in the wilderness' ... 'prepare' ... 'make straight' ... 'repent'. People went to hear John not in the temple but in the desert, and what they heard challenged them to 'repent' and act justly. Only in this way could they recognise the one who was to come.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Good News

Isaiah 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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

13 Dec

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.

Lectors:

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

(13 Dec) Sat J Dobbie N Dobbie **Sun** D Williamson D O'Shaughnessy

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

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

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



ROSARY
Every Monday, 6pm
in the church
Come & join in,
reciting this beautiful
prayer.
All Welcome

* **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. *

ADVENT RECONCILIATION RITE 2

Sun 6 Dec	6.00pm	Devonport
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

2021 Columban Calendars \$12 each

On sale now from church door after Sunday Mass or available from parish office.

Thank you from St Leo's School

We would like to thank all the parishioners who supported our annual school Christmas Fair, both in the lead up and on the day. It was a success despite the weather and we are thrilled to say we exceeded our fundraising goal for the day.

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 5 December 9.30am – 10.30am

Saturday 12 December 9.30am – 10.30am

Saturday 19 December 9.30am – 10.30am

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

Christmas Newsletter?

A proposal has been made for the parish to prepare a substantial parish Christmas newsletter with a focus on the faith-lives of Devonport parishioners. While the newsletter would include information about parish groups etc, 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 50 – 400 word reflection. Poetry also welcome, and artwork. The thought is that this newsletter could provide an attractive God-and-people-centred taste of parish life to someone who might live locally but have not contact with the Church. A Catholic parish can seem a foreign place and it can be difficult for the curious, the "returning" Catholic or the newcomer to 'break in'. If the great number who will come to Mass at Christmas were able to take home an attractive newsletter with personal reflection, perhaps with the writer's email address included, a reader might be moved to make contact and a good faith connection is made.

The newsletter would be as large as necessary, perhaps twenty-four A4 pages, and printed in colour. You might send photos to accompany your reflection. People photos are best.

Starter questions for your reflection:

- Your experience as a parishioner in Devonport?
- How did you experience God during the Lockdown?
- Why are you a Catholic today?
- Any tips for praying?
- A book you have read or a Netflix movie/series that has been helpful in your relationship with God.
- Your experience of meeting with others in the Advent TAKE ONE gatherings.
- Etc etc etc...

What do you think? Might you write something? Do you know of someone who has a great story to tell but might need you to encourage them to write?

Then the practical production issues: Is anyone interested in collating the material that arrives into attractive magazine format? We already have a couple of prices for printing – but perhaps you know of somewhere more economical?

Your thoughts and suggestions are welcome office@catholicdevonport.org.nz



St Leo's Catholic School

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

Parish news: 4 December

Y5/6 camp

The Year 5 and 6 children had a great camp last week. Although the weather was not great, it didn't dampen the children's spirits. One of the highlights was learning a new game called gaga ball. It was a skilful, exciting game and even Mrs Harris managed to have a game but one was enough for me! The teachers did a marvellous job organising the trip.

Christmas Fair

We may have been unlucky with the weather last Sunday but the fair was a great success with over \$15,000 raised on the day. A fantastic effort by everyone who helped. It was wonderful to see so many parishioners join us after Mass too. Thank you.

Peninsula Athletics day

A group from St Leo's competed at the Peninsula athletics. Once again they were an enthusiastic group and they spurred each other on with positive encouragement which is one of the great qualities of our school.

God Bless
Maureen Harris

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

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Rosary after 9am Mass Tuesday 8 December

Come along and pray the Rosary, feel free to join for a few decades or stay for the whole thing. For further information please contact Flo Sapa'u

Diocese Notices

A refreshed diocesan website same address <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/> is live. 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 as well as a wealth of information and resources.