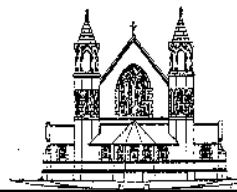




DEVONPORT CATHOLIC  
PARISH  
St Francis de Sales & All Souls  
2a Albert Road, Devonport, Auckland, 0624



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 17TH 2023



**THIRD SUNDAY: GAUDETE SUNDAY: THE SHEPHERDS' CANDLE OF JOY.**

"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people..."

As we continue to approach Christmas Day our joy grows more and more. We are reminded of the joyful anticipation of the shepherds as they hurried towards Bethlehem to meet Jesus, the Lamb of God.

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:**

There will be the usual Sunday Mass times for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (23/24 December)  
The Solemn Feast of Christmas will be celebrated at the following times:

Sunday 24th December ...

**Christmas Eve: 5.30pm** (Carol singing from 5pm)

**9.00pm** (Carol singing from 8.30pm)

Monday 25th December ...

**Christmas Day: 9.30am**

**OCTAVE BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

We have entered the Octave, or eight days, before Christmas, a period when our anticipation of the birth of the Emmanuel intensifies.

The **Gospel Acclamations** in this period welcome the approaching Messiah:

**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.

**Parish Christmas/End of Year Dinner Tonight**

All welcome—potluck at **1 Eton Avenue 6pm Sunday 17 December**. Bring a small plate of food to share (not too big as we don't want to waste food) and something you'd like to drink. Children and any visiting family members are also welcome.

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.

**Responsorial: Luke 1:46-54** My soul rejoices in my God (Magnificat)

**Thessalonians 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**

24 Dec

*Mary, The Ark Of God's Covenant*

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

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

**Romans 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.

<b>Ministries</b>	<b>Sat 16 December</b>	<b>Sun 17 December</b>	<b>From the Property and Finance Committee, which met this week:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome to Jeremy Fleming who has joined the Committee.</li> <li>AV install complete— training needed for operator(s)</li> <li>Figures for November</li> </ul>
<b>Welcome:</b>	Natalie Williams	Emma Mackie-Watts	
<b>Readers:</b>	Robert Mannion Damian Wallis	Gerard Dobbs Kate Kearns	
<b>Communion:</b>	Denise Ross	Adrienne Ramskill	
<b>Ministries</b>	<b>Sat 23 December</b>	<b>Sun 24 December</b>	
<b>Welcome:</b>	Kath Petrie	Greg Shanahan	
<b>Readers:</b>	Steve Burke Nicki Witham-Blackwell	Ben Upton Mary Lytton	
<b>Communion:</b>	Janet Monga	Francisca Knottenbelt	

*Let us remember those whose whom we remember in this month of All Souls, for those who have died recently or whose anniversaries occur at this time:*

- Dec 18:** Matthew Buchanan 2009, Mary (Jo) Aitchison 2017
- Dec 19:** Karl Röllin 2003, Gregory Cooper 2004, Msgr Paul Cronin 2010
- Dec 20:** Rev Frances H Terry 1978
- Dec 21:** Most Rev Jean Baptiste François Pompallier 1871, Peter Bartlett 2019
- Dec 24:** Nicol Miller 1999, Joyce Hansen 2019

	Nov-23	Nov-22
	Act	Act
	NZ\$	NZ\$
<b>Collections</b>		
Cash	995	948
Envelopes	550	715
AP	7,024	7,629
Eftpos	500	320
	9,069	9,613

Spreading the Love this Christmas? Our St Vincent de Paul group is responding to more and more requests for food by local families. In particular these items would be useful: **Cereals, Tinned meat, Tinned veges (not tomatoes) Toiletries, Toilet paper, Cleaning supplies.** Many thanks to those who bring goods to Mass every week, or who donate in the locked box at the back of the church.

**2024 Columban Calendars \$12 each**  
On sale now from church door after Sunday Mass or available from parish office. These are great value and make excellent gifts.

**FROM THE DIOCESE**

**What about the Synod?** The Synod on Synodality was not just a meeting in Rome in October. This week the Synod Secretariat issues guidelines *Towards October 2024* for how local Churches continue the journey together exploring the question “HOW can we be a synodal Church in mission?”. Regional opportunities for holding conversations around this theme will be held post Easter that the diocese might participate in this phase. To find out more head to <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/synod/>. Details about the sessions will be available early 2024.

**Hāto Petera** past students and whānau are invited to comment on draft proposed repurposing plans for the site by 19 January. More information at: <https://hatopetera.com/about-hato-petera/>.

**Hāto Petera repurposing:** All whānau and local communities are encouraged to review the proposals at [www.hatopetera.com/about](http://www.hatopetera.com/about) and provide feedback by **Friday 22 December** to [teresam@cda.org.nz](mailto:teresam@cda.org.nz).

To read about diocesan events in the last weeks and start filling your 2024 diary with opportunities for faith development, fun and diocesan life **download the latest edition of CDA connect** <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/CDA-CONNECT-Christmas23.pdf>

**NGA TAPUWAE SELF DIRECTED**

**PILGRIMAGE** Registrations are now open for Ngā Tapuwāe – A Self Directed Pilgrimage 2024. 12-14 January. To register email, Dcn Steve Fraser on [stephenf@cda.org.nz](mailto:stephenf@cda.org.nz) or phone 021439407

**News from St Leo’s.**

Nga mihi nui kia koutou and a warm St Leo’s greeting to you all.

The last week of term has been a very busy one: On Tuesday and Wednesday we presented the Nativity Play to audiences of kindergarten students, parents and grandparents. The setting was beautiful, thanks to Ruth Christy, and the performances, both dramatic and musical, were enthusiastic.

On Thursday we farewelled two staff members: Adrienne Williams, who has taught at the school for 28 years, many of them as Director of Religious Studies, and Lucia Dawbin, who has been teaching here for 8 years. We thank them sincerely for their generous service.

On Friday we celebrated the Leavers’ Mass, presenting our year 6 students with their candles to carry the light of Christ into their next stage of school life.

Blessings to all for this Christmas Season, Happy and safe holiday, and see you in the New Year!

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\* **Christmas Flowers** \*  
\* Parishioners are invited to offer donations \*  
\* toward the cost of fresh flowers for our \*  
\* church for Christmas. Please place your \*  
\* donation in the box at church door, or direct \*  
\* credit to: Parish a/c 02 0108 0706881 000 \*  
\* (Ref: Flowers) \*  
\* Thank you. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**The Parish Office will close from December 22nd and re-open on January 22nd.** Special Collections will continue to be banked over this period.

**The Wednesday Scripture Group** will finish for the year this coming Wednesday and restart in February. The **Monday Meditation Group** will also finish this week and restart in February.

**Rosary will continue each Monday at 6pm except for Dec 25 and Jan 1.**

## Feast Days in the Third Week of Advent

- **Thurs 21 Dec: St Peter Canisius, priest and doctor of the Church.** Born 1521, at Nijmegen in Holland. Entered Society of Jesus, ordained 1546 and went to Cologne where he founded a Jesuit house. A vigorous defender of Catholicism, he published a catechism which was influential in the Counter-Reformation. Died 1597.
- **Sat 23 Dec: St John of Kanty, priest.** Born in Kanty, Poland, in 1390. Was ordained and taught at the University of Cracow before becoming parish priest at Olkusz. An outstanding teacher of the faith, his holiness and charity to all were noted. He died in 1473.



A loving Farewell and Good Luck Wishes to St Leo's teachers Adrienne Williams (L) and Lucia Dawbin (R)  
May the road rise to meet you in the next part of your lives.



**Kidz Korner:** <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Celebrating-ADVENT-Week-Three-JOY.pdf>

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

**Facebook:** [St Francis de Sales & All Souls](#)

**Parish Priest:** Rev Fr Neil Darragh [neil@devonportcatholic.org.nz](mailto:neil@devonportcatholic.org.nz)

**Pastoral Assistant:** Stephen Bell

**Parish Secretary:** Kathleen Petrie

**Parish Bank Account:** **BNZ 02-0108- 0706881-000**

(If making a donation for a specific purpose, please note that as reference e.g. Flowers)

**St Leo's Catholic School:** (09) 445-9339 [www.stleos.school.nz](http://www.stleos.school.nz)

**St Leo's Catholic School Principal:** Vimi Chandra

**Bishop's Reps:** Clare Wilde, Julia Strickett, Anna Rumble

**Parish Office Hours:** Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9:00am to 12 noon  
closed Wednesdays

**Parish Newsletter:** (*Publication Deadline 9am THURS.*)

**Masses next weekend**

Sat : 5.30pm, Sun: 9.30am

**Masses during the week**

Wednesday and Friday 12 noon, Saturday 9 am.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** after Mass on Saturday

**Ministry Reminders**

**Flowers**

22/12 Christmas Flowers

**Church Cleaning**

16/12 Cleaning Bee

**Counters**

17/12 Alix and Bill Hooper

24/12 Denise and Karl

**Hospitality**

17/12 Shyrelle

24/12 Mia Dobbs

**Altar Servers**

17/12 Joseph W and May U

**Children's Liturgy Leaders**

As available to lead procession of children at Vigil Mass Sat 24 December