



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



DECEMBER 14TH THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



From the Property and Finance Committee. They held a meeting last Tuesday. Exciting property projects have been carried out in 2025. We are all looking forward to the Opening of the Columbarium in February. Jeremy and the PFC which to thank everyone for their support this year.

Christmas Mass times. Very important to Note: Wednesday December 24th

5.00 pm Carol Singing. 5.30pm Vigil Mass.

8.30 pm Carol Singing. 9.00pm Night Mass

Christmas Day Mass December 25 9.30am.

The Lord has pitched his tent among us.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION RITE 2
Remaining North Shore Parishes

December: All @ 7.00pm

Tues 16 th	Northcote	<i>St Mary</i>
Wed 17 th	Glenfield	<i>St Thomas More</i>
Fri 19 th	Beach Haven	<i>St Maria Assumpta</i>

Why not think about a Bible Diary for 2026? Published by the Claretian Order, with proceeds supporting the poor in India, the Bible Diary provides daily readings and guidance. See copies on sale at the back of the Church \$20.

Also the Columban Calendar—a saint for every day in beautiful artworks. \$12, supporting the Columban missions.



From the Liturgy Committee

The newly enlarged Liturgy Committee of Fr. Neil, Stephen Bell (Chair) Damian Wallis and Kath Petrie had its first meeting on Thursday 4 December. Seasonal liturgies were top of the agenda, including Rite II Reconciliations across the North Shore parishes, our Advent and Christmas Masses and a New Year's Day Mass at 9.30 a.m. We will begin looking at the implementation of suggestions in the recent Parish Synodal Liturgy document in January next year. An opening liturgy for the Blessing of the Columbarium on Feb 22 next year is also in the planning.

The joy that is such a distinctive feature of the Advent season comes to the fore on this third Sunday. In some parishes this is evident in the presider's rose coloured vestments. It is certainly manifest in the word of God. Isaiah's joyous vision of a new creation is echoed in Jesus' response to the disciples of John the Baptist—"the blind see again, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the God news is proclaimed to the poor."

Third Sunday of Advent

The Joy of Expectancy

Isaiah 35:1-6,10

Psalm 146: Lord, come and save us.

James 5:7-10 Do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon.

Matthew 11: 2-11 **Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mary's Child: The Emmanuel

Isaiah 7: 10-14 **the maiden is with child.**

Psalm 24: Let the Lord enter! He is King of glory.

Romans 1: 1-7 **Jesus Christ, descendant of David, Son of God.**

Matthew 1: 18-24 **Jesus is born of Mary who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.**

Ministries	Sat 13 December	Sun 14 December
Welcome	Sarah Menzies	Greg Shanahan
Readers	Kath Petrie Steve Burke	Denise O'Shaughnessy John Knight
Communion	Denise Ross Janet Monga	Adrienne Ramskill Kate Casey Iain Gillies

New Roster out next week.

2026 Columban Art Calendars \$12.00

On sale now from church door after Sunday Mass or available from parish office. They are great value and make excellent gifts. Cash, eftpos, or on line banking 02 0108 0706881 00
Ref: Calendar.

We remember in prayer those who have died, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Dec 16: Velma Swann 2018

Dec 17: Faye Patricia Aggett 2023

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

Prayer during the week:

Monday: Rosary 6 pm in the church.

Meditative Prayer 6.30 Meeting Room

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:

St Francis Devonport
02 0108 0706881 000

(Ref: Flowers)

Thank you.

Carmel College 2027

Enrolments Open 27 January 2026, Close 13 March 2026.

Any questions to Jane

admin@carmel.school.nz

From the Diocese

Greetings for the Christmas season.

Bishop Steve invites everyone to celebrate the closing mass for the year of Jubilee. It will be January 4 2026 at our beautiful Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph in Auckland Central. This is a chance to celebrate and give thanks as a Diocese.

Everyone is warmly welcomed to this Mass. The year of Jubilee has been special. We are all pilgrims on the journey together.

Catholic Caring Foundation's Christmas Appeal. Give a gift to help families and people in need. Please take home our newsletter and donation card, or ring (09) 360 3012

NZCBC Catholic Diocese of Auckland newsletter available. See website.

Thank you Father Neil and to the priests who attended our Rite 2 Advent Reconciliation. It was a lovely way to begin our preparations for Christmas celebrations.

St Leo's Catholic Primary School.

Proud to be Catholic and to uphold Mercy Values.

Have you every thought of sponsoring a student to attend St Leo's? This is another way of giving a gift at Christmas.

We are looking for generous sponsors to support families at our St Leo's School by contributing either to attendance dues or a full scholarship for a student in need. A full scholarship would cover attendance dues, BOT fees, school excursions, and stationery, ensuring every child can fully engage in school life without financial barriers. If you can assist or want more information, please get in touch with the school office office@stleos.school.nz. We would be grateful for your partnership and generosity.

A busy and successful year for St Leo's Catholic Primary School. St Leo's farewells Mrs. Schaffer. They send her off with prayers and gratitude. Mrs. Cleasby and family join us in 2026. Welcome to the parish and school.

The Principal, Board of Trustees, students and whanau wish to thank the parish for their support. Thank you for making us feel welcome at the school and parish. They wish to thank Father Neil for all his work as our parish priest. The school is beginning to wind down now. We are grateful for all blessings we have received in 2025.

Tuesday December 16 10.00am St Leo's School celebrate a mass for all the students leaving our school to transition to their secondary schools. School and parish families are warmly welcome.

Ngā mihi nui

Vimi Chandra, Principal

Feast Days in the third week of Advent.

There are no feast days in the calendar for this week.

Wednesday December 17 begins a period of eight day (octave) of intense spiritual preparation in anticipation of the birth of Christ.

O come... Wisdom of the Most High, Ruler of the house of Israel, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Morning Star, King of Peoples, Emmanuel God with us.

Octave before Christmas December 17-24

We enter the 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: **O come...**

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 of Moses on Sinai, come and save us with outstretched arms. **Root of Jesse**, set up as a sign to the peoples, come and save us, and delay no more.

Key of David, who opens 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 who you made from dust of the earth.

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

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Website: www.devonportcatholic.org.nz

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

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Neil Darragh

neil@devonportcatholic.org.nz

Pastoral Assistant: Stephen Bell

Parish Secretary: Kathleen Petrie

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

St Leo's Catholic School: (09) 445-9339 www.stleos.school.nz

St Leo's Catholic School Principal: Vimi Chandra

Proprietor's Reps: Julia Strickett, Anna Rumble, Paulene Walsh

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

Masses next weekend

Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9.30am

Masses during the coming week

Wednesday and Friday 12 noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 5pm

Ministry Reminders

Flowers Sue Story

Counters

14/12 Jeremy & Maria

21/12 Arthur and Frances

Hospitality

14/12 Yem

21/12 Sue and Ian

Altar Servers

14/12 Levente Ven, Takuira
brothers

21/12 School holidays as
available

Children's Liturgy Leaders

14/12 Mary-Jane & Millie
Lendich

21/12 School holidays. No
Children's Liturgy.