



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



DECEMBER 21ST 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION,
AND A BLESSED AND FRUITFUL NEW YEAR**

In this short space of time before the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph could well have been journeying towards Bethlehem - a young couple, anxious about their situation, without all the supports of home and family.

As we wish each other all the blessings of the season, let's keep in mind those families for whom Christmas can be a stressful time and commend them to our loving God, who is born afresh into our world when we act in love as his disciples.

*Meri Kirihimete
me ngā mihi o te Tau Hou*

**Blessings to our Parish Priest,
Fr Neil, who celebrated his
59th anniversary of ordination
on the 16th of this month.**

Thank you to all the volunteers who have kept our parish flourishing this year, in whatever contribution they have made, from vision and strategy to cups of coffee. You make things happen and build the bond of love between us.

This will be the last newsletter for this year. The Parish office will close on December 23rd and re-open on Monday, Jan 12th 2026. The first newsletter will be Jan 18th.

Today we arrive with great expectancy at the beginning of the story of Jesus' birth. The key players — Mary, Joseph and the Holy Spirit. In Matthew's version, Joseph of the house of David is the focus of his attention rather than Mary. In fact, it is David, remembered as Israel's ideal shepherd-king and as symbol of God's faithfulness to the covenant, who is the thread running through today's readings.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT — *The Joy of Expectancy*

Isaiah 7:10-14 The maiden is with child.

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

Rom 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.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

28 Dec

Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14 They who fear the Lord respect their parents.

Psalm 127: Blessed are they who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Colossians 3:12-21 Family life in the Lord.

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23 Take the child and his mother and escape into Egypt.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD — *The Revelation Of Christ To The World*

4 Jan

Isaiah 60:1-6 Above you the glory of the Lord appears.

Psalm 71: Let all nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6 3:12-21 It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance.

Matthew 2:1-12 We saw his star and have come to do the king homage.

Ministries	<u>Sat 20 December</u>	<u>Sun 21 December</u>
Welcome	Shawn Pearce-Blom	Marty Willetts
Readers	Robert Mannion Kath Petrie	Ben Upton Vanessa Baldey
Communion	Lisa Mannion Kitt Isidro	Iain G., Maryanne O. Francisca K.
	<u>Sat 27 December</u>	<u>Sun 28 December</u>
Welcome	Kath Petrie	Anne Gibson
Readers	Steve Burke Nicky Witham-Blackwell	John Knight Mary Lyttleton
Communion	Kevin Isidro Kasey Isidro	Adrienne R., Flo S. Pauline B.

Prayer during the week:

Monday: Rosary 6 pm in the church. Last meeting for this year 22/12. Starting again 12/01/2026

Meditative Prayer 6.30 Meeting Room

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

Dec 21: Most Rev Jean Baptiste François Pompallier 1871, Peter Bartlett 2019

Dec 24: Nicol Miller 1999, Joyce Hansen 2019

Dec 25: William Hancock 1978, Alfred Clarke 1980, Pauline Lonie 2014, Rev Fr Paddy Collins 2017

Dec 26: Ian Munro 2023, Ineke Merckens 2023

Dec 27: Elizabeth (Betsy) Knottenbelt 2005, Murray Woodham 2014

Dec 28: Anne O'Sullivan 1984, Kathleen Bell 1996, Gwen Watson 1996

Dec 29: Mary Kyle 1994

Dec 30: Antonio John Martin 1985, Richard Lee 2010, Patrick McHugh 2014, Jacob Gunnell 2022

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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

The Solemn Feast of Christmas will be celebrated at the following times:

Wednesday 24th December ...

Christmas Eve:

5.30pm (Carol singing from 5pm)

9.00pm (Carol singing from 8.30pm)

Thursday 25th December ...

Christmas Day: 9.30am

Liturgical Ministers — Welcomers, Readers, Communion Ministers, Altar Servers

We need volunteers for the three Christmas celebrations of Eucharist. Please indicate your availability by putting your name on one of the sheets of paper, on table at church door.

**New Year's Day Mass
Thurs 1st January, 9.30am**

SCRIPTURE FOCUS THIS ADVENT:

You are invited to prepare for Sunday Mass by reading and reflecting on the Scripture we will hear that weekend.

Marist priest Fr Frank Bird has for several years been helping people make those preparations through his Living the Word project. As the name suggests, Living the Word is an invitation for Catholics and others to allow the Word of God to shape their lives. You can download the resources, and access other rich content, at www.livingtheword.org.nz/pray

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.

As a school community we celebrated the coming of Emmanuel with our Nativity play on Dec 11th, bringing the joy of the season to all who attended. We farewelled our Year 6 leavers with Mass on Tuesday Dec 16th and we wish them well as they step into the next stage of their education.

Merry Christmas to all .

Vimi Chandra, Principal.



Feast Days in The Christmas & New Year Period

- **Tues 23 Dec:** St John of Kanty, priest.
- **Thurs 25 Dec:** Solemnity for The Nativity of the Lord.
- **Fri 26 Dec:** Feast of St Stephen, martyr.
- **Sat 27 Dec:** Feast day for ST JOHN, Apostle and Evangelist.
- **Sun 28 Dec:** Feast for the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph.
- **Wed 31 Dec:** St Sylvester I, pope.
- **Thurs 1 Jan:** SOLEMNITY FOR MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD. World Day of Prayer for Peace.
- **Fri 2 Jan:** Memorial St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen, bishops and doctors of the Church.
- **Sat 3 Jan:** The Holy Name of Jesus.
- **Sun 4 Jan:** The Epiphany of the Lord.
- **Wed 7 Jan:** Solemnity for the Epiphany of the Lord.
- **Sun 11 Jan:** Feast for the BAPTISM OF THE LORD.
- **Tues 13 Jan:** St Hilary, bishop and doctor of the Church.
- **Sat 17 Jan:** Memorial for St Anthony, abbot.
- **Tues 20 Jan:** St Fabian, pope and martyr. St Sebastian, martyr.
- **Wed 21 Jan:** Memorial for St Agnes, virgin and martyr
- **Thurs 22 Jan:** St Vincent, deacon and martyr.
- **Sat 24 Jan:** Memorial for St Francis de Sales, bishop and doctor of the Church.
- **Tues 27 Jan:** St Angela Merici, virgin.
- **Wed 28 Jan:** Memorial for St Thomas Aquinas, priest & doctor of the Church.

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Email: office@devonportcatholic.org.nz

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,
Margaret Pereira

Counters

21/12 Arthur and Frances

28/12 Denise & Karl

Hospitality

21/12 Sue and Ian

28/12 Gerard and Mia

Altar Servers

21/12 School holidays as
available

28/12 As available

Children's Liturgy Leaders

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

28/12 No LWC