



YEAR C

## Third Sunday in Advent

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield  
16 December 2018

### The WORD This Week

This Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday-Rejoice Sunday.

This comes from the readings we hear today, and it underlines an important point. In the Gospel, we hear John the Baptist telling different groups what to do-they must repent, and change their lives. We might think of this as a rather joyless thing - something which is hard and unrewarding. The message of this Sunday is that repentance and changing our lives to welcome Jesus is something richly joyful. When we are planning to welcome anyone we love to our homes, we set about cleaning and preparing for their visit with enthusiasm-nothing is too much trouble for someone we care for greatly.

Even scrubbing the bath or polishing the furniture can be a happy and joyful thing! The message of this Sunday is that preparing to welcome the Lord-even though it may involve hard work-is something utterly joyful, be cause of our love for Him, and His love for us.

**Lord, let the peace  
that surpasses understanding  
guard our minds and hearts.**

What should we do  
to ready our hearts  
O Lord, for your coming?  
Your Baptist says, we must  
give away our coat,  
share our food,  
make justice for all.

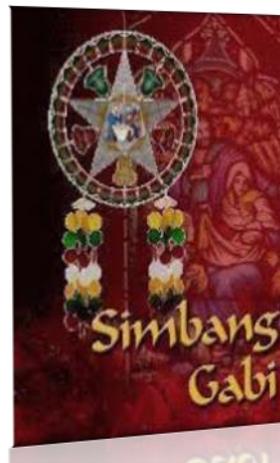
Lord, baptize us  
in the fire of the Holy Spirit,  
burn the chaff from our wheat,  
gather us into your kind  
and loving arms.

Warm our hearts to share  
your love with everyone.

Anne Osdieck

### GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY Hope and Joy

What an overwhelming message is carried in today's liturgy: "Rejoice in the Lord always! May we experience the joy of salvation! Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Cry out with joy and gladness!" There is a profound sense of hope for a better world to come, a world in which, the prophet says, "you have no further misfortune to fear and the apostle tells us to dismiss all anxiety from your minds." The reason for this joy and hope is clear: "The Lord himself is near" (Second Reading); "there is one to come who is mightier than I" (Gospel). It is within this context of joyous and hopeful expectation of the coming of Christ that we must understand the exhortations of John to the people. Our work for a better world is preparation for the coming of Christ. It is also a sign that the coming of Christ is near. *Gerald Darring / liturgy.slu.edu*



**COME & CELEBRATE**  
**Monday 17 December until 24**  
**December at 6am.**  
**Literally means "Night Mass",**  
**Simbang Gabi** is a novena (nine day series) of dawn Masses practiced by Roman Catholics in the Philippines from 16th to 24th of December in anticipation of Christmas. The nine successive masses held in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary represent the nine month stay of the infant Jesus in the womb of His Mother, that leads to the celebration of the Solemnity of Christmas on December 25.

## Christmas Masses

**24 December Monday**  
Carol service 6.25pm  
**Family Christmas Vigil**  
7.00pm

**24 December** Carol service 11.25pm  
**Midnight Mass**  
12 midnight

**25 December** Carols 8.45am  
**Christmas Day Mass**  
9.00am  
Chaldean Mass 11.30am

**31 December Monday**  
**New Year's Eve**  
7.30pm Mass

**1 January New Year's Day**  
9.15am

### FOOD and FRIENDSHIP No Charge!

"Eddie's Meals"  
at Rosmini College  
Auditorium,  
36 Dominion St,  
Takapuna.  
Friday - 6pm  
21 December

Eddie's Meals aims to bring together, through food and conversation, people who might eat alone, people who live without much excess, people looking for friendship, those feeling isolated or lonely. **Bring nothing - just come.** Or bring along someone who would enjoy and benefit from the experience.



### Collect your baptism certificates!

If you have had your child baptised during 2018 and not collected your certificates please email Mary: [st.thomas.more@xtra.co.nz](mailto:st.thomas.more@xtra.co.nz) or phone the parish office 444 8624 to arrange pickup.

## THE WORD OF GOD

### 3rd Sunday of Advent

#### Sunday

Zephaniah 3:14-18  
Canticle Isaiah  
Philippians 4:4-7  
Luke 3:10-18

#### Monday

Genesis 49:2, 8-10  
Psalm 72  
Matthew 1:1-17

#### Tuesday

Jeremiah 23:5-8  
Psalm 72  
Matthew 1:18-24

#### Wednesday

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25  
Psalm 71  
Luke 1:5-25

#### Thursday

Isaiah 7:10-14  
Psalm 24  
Luke 1:26-38

#### Friday

Songs 2:8-14  
Psalm 33  
Luke 1:39-45

#### Saturday

1 Samuel 1:24-28  
1 Samuel  
Luke 1:46-56



**Vigil Family Mass:** All singers and musicians, please join us in the church for the third of three practices on **Monday 17 December at 7.30pm.**  
**Christmas Morning Mass:** Singers are needed for this Mass, if you can help please contact Paula [stmnglenfieldmusic@gmail.com](mailto:stmnglenfieldmusic@gmail.com)



### 2019 Columban Art Calendar

**\$12 - on sale after Mass or from parish office.**

*These make great Christmas gifts.*

Plus

**St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards \$2.50 for 5 cards**

### Thursday Adoration

will resume on **Thursday 7 February 2019.**

There will be no evening Masses, adoration or novenas during January 2019



## Advent Reconciliation

Sunday	16 Dec	Devonport	5pm
Tuesday	18 Dec	Takapuna	7pm
		Beach Haven	No reconciliation

### Haere Mai! Nau Mai!

You are invited to the 181st anniversary of the First Mass celebrated at Totara Point on 13 January 1838. Mass followed by a shared picnic lunch will be on 13 January 2019 at 11am at Totara Point, Hokianga. While in the Hokianga you can also visit the resting place of Bishop Pompallier at Motuti.  
*See poster in foyer.*

### FIRE WARDENS

We are still looking for fire wardens to cover all the Masses. If interested, please email the parish office or write your name on the clipboard in the foyer. **Thanks**



### Auckland Divine Will Conference

Wednesday 16 & Thursday 17 Jan 2019 (2<sup>nd</sup> day is continuation) 10am – 6pm Mass @ 9.15am Parish Hall, St Thomas More Catholic Church. Bring a plate for a shared lunch. Tea/coffee provided. Entry is free but donations to defray costs would be appreciated

#### About the Speaker:

World-renowned Divine Will expert, Mr Tony Hickey, teacher of Sacred Scripture & Theology, Manchester, England, who spoke in Auckland in 2013, 2015 & 2017. His speaking schedule is usually booked out 2 years in advance. He has trained about 3 dozen priests in Australia but sadly none from New Zealand.

### Hear the Cry of the Poor and of the Earth.

A day of retreat and reflection on hearing the 'cry of the poor and of the earth' through the lives of St Mary MacKillop who urged us to 'seek the poorest' and ecologist Julian Tenison Woods. **9am - 4pm Saturday 23 February 19** Mary McKillop Centre, 30 Holgate Rd, Kohimarama. Cost: \$15 including lunch. Register with Peter Garrick [peterg@cda.org.nz](mailto:peterg@cda.org.nz) Or phone 022 1300 730 to secure your place.

### Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Consecration of your family home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus will start again in the New Year. *Details in the 2019 newsletters.*

### Pilgrimages departing in 2019 to

The Holy Land, Medjugorje and within NZ. Expressions of interest welcome. Visit: [www.pilgrimage.nz](http://www.pilgrimage.nz) or see noticeboard for details. Contact Patricia Parsons on 0274 219 064. Email: [info@mirpilgrimages.co.nz](mailto:info@mirpilgrimages.co.nz)

The Parish office will be closed from Christmas day and reopens **Tuesday 15 January 2019**



### Altar Servers ROSTER 22 & 23 Dec

<b>Saturday</b> 22 December 5.30pm Vigil	Andre Sadsad Keith Fernandes DJ Sadsad <b>Projectionists: Simon Chong</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 23 December 8.00am	Daniel Lobo Jairus Joseph <b>Projectionist: Ric Reyes</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 23 December 10.00am	Thomas Khedhir Jaycee Martinez <b>Projectionist: Al James</b>

### Confirmation First / Eucharist 2019

Forms are now in the foyer to enrol your child into the sacramental programme. Complete the form and return to the box in the foyer or hand into the parish office.

**ALL WELCOME to a cuppa after the 10am Mass Hosted by the Filipino community**



**NB:** No cuppas 30 December and all of January 2019

**Baptism Preparation courses will recommence in March 2019**



### Church Cleaning 29 December 2018

Lina, Bushra & Nada Bashouri, Layth Kalooti  
**Queries ph Sharon 441 6454**

**Holy Cross Seminary**  
[www.holycross.org.nz](http://www.holycross.org.nz)

### FROM THE CATHOLIC CARING FOUNDATION

The Foundation would like to sincerely thank all parishioners for their prayers and support of Bishop Pat's Foundation, throughout 2018. Through your support, the Foundation was able to give grants to over 50 organisations who care and support families and communities in need throughout the diocese. We couldn't have done this without your support. Thank you. We wish you and your loved ones a blessed and safe Christmas. [www.caringfoundation.org.nz](http://www.caringfoundation.org.nz)



### Mercy Spirituality Centre

104 The Drive, Epsom. Ph. 638 6238 or [www.mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz](http://www.mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz)

### RETREAT: Who are You O God and Who am I?

with CHRISTINA CATHRO rmdm. 11, 12 & 13 Dec, 10am-1pm. \$65 per 3-day Retreat. We fall into a particular way of seeing and know God that we are given a lifetime to unveil. This is a silent morning retreat with input from Christina, time to oneself and group sharing. **RETREAT DAY: Rediscovering Wholeness of Life in Christ:** How gratitude opens the way with SARAH COOPER. Saturday 16 February 9.30am-3.30pm. \$65 including lunch. **MUSIC WORKSHOP: Psalms and Gratitude** with Fr CHRIS SKINNER sm. Saturday 23 February, 10am - 1pm. \$30 including morning tea. **DREAMWORK 101: Introduction to Dreamwork** with MARGARET BOWATER. Friday 23 Feb, 6-9pm and Saturday 23 February, 9.30am - 4pm. \$130. St Columba Centre, Ponsonby Road, Auckland. email: [info@mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz](mailto:info@mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz) to register.

### Please pray for our sick parishioners & their families

Peter Marshall, Patrick Pabalan, Emelda Armishaw, Joan Rumble, Tamar Mathews, Israel Nathan, Eloise McFadden, Mary Jury and Gary & Cathy Sigley  
**Contact office for any name changes ph 444 8624**