



St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield

Fourth Sunday in Advent YEAR C

23 December 2018

The WORD This Week

It's only in this last week before Christmas that we begin to hear about the Christmas story itself. For the past weeks we have been preparing ourselves to greet the Lord, when he comes. Now we prepare to remember how he first came, by listening to the prophecies of his coming, and by hearing of the events before his birth. We meet the woman, Mary, who herself had been prepared for the coming of the Messiah.

She has received the angel's greeting, and his strange news, and has accepted her role in God's plan. Now she hurries to her kinswoman, Elizabeth, who herself bears John the Baptist in her womb. John, just as we heard last week, alerts us to the presence of the Lord, as he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. His joy is that God has kept his promise, and is with his people.

Lord, let us cry out in Joy.

Treasures spilling over; secrets pouring out in sheer delight.

The women hug and, baby leaps for joy.

Holy Spirit, fill us too with yourself.

Teach us to love and let us cry out in joy, since our Lord has come to be within us and within all humankind.

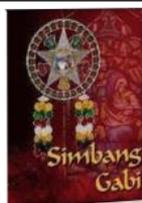
Let our spirits jump for joy.

Anne Osdieck

GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

Come Lord Jesus

Lord, let us see your face. We have come so close to the coming of Christ; it is as though we can stand the waiting no longer. We want to see God's face. And what is that face like when it comes? It is the face of God become poor, the all-powerful God taking flesh in the womb of a virgin, that most disparaged of creatures in Jewish culture. It is the face of God become poor, the all-powerful God being born in an obscure village, Bethlehem, "too small to be among the clans of Judah." It is the face of God become poor, the all-powerful God present in the meeting of two insignificant women, far from the worldly centers of power. Christmas happens. Christ comes, but in strange ways and surprising circumstances. Many of us miss the coming of Christ because we expect him where and when he is not coming. God has to "make us turn in a different direction" so that we can find Christ in poverty (Bethlehem) and in the poor and outcast (Mary and Elizabeth). Gerald Darring / liturgy.slu.edu



COME & CELEBRATE

The last day of our SIMBANG GABI Novena Mass Monday 24 December at 6am

Pope Francis says

'Welcome the surprises of Heaven this Christmas!'

Pope Francis has encouraged all to look out for the surprises that Christmas brings.

But it is on the night of Christmas that the biggest surprise comes: The Most High is a small child," he said. "To celebrate Christmas, then, is to welcome the surprises of Heaven on earth."

Speaking at his weekly general audience, Pope Francis reflected on the surprising elements of Christ's birth, and the way each Catholic can replicate the feelings at the first Christmas in his or her heart by making room for silence.

"Christmas is preferring the silent voice of God to the noisiness of consumerism. If we can be silent in front of the crib, Christmas will be a surprise even for us, not something seen before," he said. "Be silent in front of the nativity," he advised. "This is an invitation for Christmas, take some time. Go before the nativity and stay in silence."

The daily Gospels in Advent warn against becoming weighed down by the "anxieties of daily life." "These days we rush, maybe as we never have during the year. But this is the opposite of what Jesus wants," he said.

Pope Francis, even though his time will be filled with events, will deliberately give 'space to silence', just as he recommends others do.

We will celebrate Christmas well, "if, like Joseph, we will give space to silence; if, like Mary, we say 'here I am' to God; if, like Jesus, we will be close to those who are alone; if, like the shepherds, we will leave our enclosures to be with Jesus," Pope Francis said. "It will be Christmas, if we find the light in the poor cave of Bethlehem."



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



THE WORD OF GOD

4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday

Micah 5:1-4
Psalm 80
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke: 39-44

Monday

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12,
14, 16
Psalm 89
Luke 1:67-79

Tuesday

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18

The Nativity of the Lord

Wednesday

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59
Psalm 31
Matthew 10:17-22

St Stephen, the first martyr

Thursday

1 John 1:1-4
Psalm 97
John 20:2-8

St John, apostle, evangelist

Friday

1 John 1:5-2:2
Psalm 124
Matthew 2:13-18

The Holy Innocents, martyrs

Saturday

1 John 2:3-11
Psalm 96
Luke 2:22-35

Haere Mai! Nau Mai!

You are invited to the 180th 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.*



CHRISTMAS CHOIR
All singers for the 9am Christmas day Mass please arrive by 8.30am.

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.

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 Or phone 022 1300 730 to secure your place.

Thursday Adoration

will resume on

Thursday 7 February 2019.

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



Board Required: 18 Year old, Catholic student. Moving from Christchurch to North Shore to study. Board needed for the year. References can be provided and for more information, please contact Jonathan Challies at director.jc12@gmail.com or on 0221739278.

Mass & anointing of the sick
9.15am every 2nd Saturday of the month followed by a cuppa
Starts again 9 February

Office Closed
Parish Office will reopen **Tuesday 15 January 2019**

Pilgrimages departing in 2019 to

The Holy Land, Medjugorje and within NZ. Expressions of interest welcome.

Visit: www.pilgrimage.nz or see noticeboard for details. Contact Patricia Parsons on 0274 219 064. Email: info@mirpilgrimages.co.nz

Altar Servers ROSTER 29 & 30 Dec

Saturday 29 December 5.30pm Vigil	Leon Digges Aaron Rodrigues Projectionists: Carlo Urbino
Sunday 30 December 8.00am	Keith Fernandes TJ Projectionist: Damian Nam
Sunday 30 December 10.00am	Andrei Cruz Charles Cruz Anjelo Cruz Projectionist: Mary Hartley



Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy 2019

De Paul House extends our heartfelt thanks to the wonderfully generous parishioners, community and individuals who have supported us over the past year. Thank you for supporting our Christmas food hampers and gifts.

With your help we have blessed nearly 100 families – with 240 children receiving gifts. De Paul House has been supporting vulnerable families for over 32 years. We received over 500 calls seeking help with housing this year. **Together we are making a difference.** We wish you and your families the joy of the Christmas season.

Auckland Divine Will Conference

Wednesday 16 & Thursday 17 Jan 2019 (2nd 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 two years in advance. He has trained about 3 dozen priests in Australia but sadly none from New Zealand.

Pilgrimage to graves of Mary and Thomas Poynton on Sunday 13 January 2019

to commemorate 180th Anniversary of Bishop Pompallier's First Mass in Aotearoa New Zealand after 10.30am Mass at St Luke's Church, Bayswater Ave and starting at Lych-gate entrance at O'Neills Point Cemetery. Refreshments served at St Luke's afterwards, all warmly welcome. Contact Eileen 021 0822 4744 or email Eileen: eileenpearce1@gmail.com



The latest issue
in your church Sunday Dec. 23

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



NB: No cuppas 30 December and all of January 2019

Baptism Preparation courses will recommence in March 2019.

Group baptisms will be held on the third Saturday of each month at 11.30am.



Church Cleaning 29 December 2018

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

Holy Cross Seminary
www.holycross.org.nz



Mercy Spirituality Centre

104 The Drive, Epsom. Ph. 638 6238 or www.mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz

RETREAT DAY: Rediscovering Wholeness of Life in Christ: How

gratitude opens the way with SARAH COOPER. Saturday 16 February 9.30am-3.30pm. \$65 incl 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 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