



# Third Sunday of Advent B

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield 13 December 2020

## The WORD This Week

So who is coming? This Sunday's readings help to answer that question. John the Baptist is asked about the coming of the Messiah - is it him? He affirms his role as a witness to speak for the light, by pointing to the one who stands among the crowd unknown to them who is coming after him. This idea is present in the First Reading, where Isaiah proclaims what the anointed one (Messiah in Hebrew) will do, and the joy that this will bring. It is interesting that the Psalm appointed for this Sunday is the Magnificat - Mary's song of praise at the announcement that the Messiah would be born of her - in which she sings of the works of the coming Messiah. Paul then reminds us that we are still waiting patiently: God has called you, and he will not fail you. This is why, on this 'Gaudete' Sunday, we as God's people rejoice in his care, made visible in his promises, fulfilled in Jesus.

## A Prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent

Joy-filled Giver of Life,  
let the anticipation of your birth  
fill us with overflowing joy.

May our excitement and anticipation  
be a sign to the world  
that you are always near.  
Amen

## ADVENT SPIRITUALITY Rejoice In The Lord, Always!

It is a time for rejoicing: "The Lord is near! The earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time." We again encounter John the Baptist echoing Isaiah's oracle: "Make straight the way of the Lord!" This time it appears alongside Paul's ringing exhortation: "Rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks." It also appears—quite significantly—alongside two passages that speak of salvation for the lowly. The First Reading has Isaiah tell of being sent "to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners." The Responsorial Psalm is Mary's song from the first chapter of Luke: "The hungry he has given every good thing, while the rich he has sent empty away." The Alleluia follows this with a rewording of Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord ... sent me to bring Good News to the poor." The message of today's liturgy is clear. The salvation we await with joy will liberate both the individual and the community, and its special focus will be the poor and lowly, not the rich and powerful. "As the earth brings forth its plants ... so will the Lord God make justice." Jesus comes so that our community might no longer bear the scars of poverty and oppression but might instead "be preserved whole and entire, spirit, soul, and body." *G. D. liturgy.slu.edu*

## QuoteMeal St. Ambrose of Milan (340-397)

Open wide your door to the one who comes. Open your soul, throw open the depths of your heart to see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the sweetness of grace. Open your heart and run to meet the Sun of eternal light that illuminates all men.

## Gaudete Sunday

### What is special about the Third Sunday of Advent?

For much of the Church's history, this Sunday had a special name: "Gaudete" Sunday. The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent itself. Advent, our preparation for Christmas, was originally a forty-day penitential season like Lent. In fact, since it used to begin on November 12 (just after the Memorial of St. Martin of Tours), it was called "St. Martin's Lent." "Gaudete Sunday" was the Advent counterpart to "Laetare Sunday," which marks the midpoint in Lent. On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation. Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose-colored vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored, or if you prefer, pink. The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.



## Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

### Christmas Eve, Thursday 24 December 2020

- 6:55 pm - Children's Nativity Play
- 7:30 pm - Family Christmas Mass
- 11:30 pm - Candlelight Carol Service
- 12:00 am - Midnight Christmas Mass

### Christmas Day, Friday 25 December 2020

- 8:45 am - Christmas Carols
- 9:00 am - Christmas Day Mass
- 11:00 am - Chaldean Christmas Mass

### New Year's Eve, Thursday 31 December 2020

- 7:30 pm - New Year's Eve Mass

### New Year's Day, Friday 1 January 2021

- 9:15am & 7.30pm - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God



The Beach Haven and Glenfield Vinnies charity shops thank you all very much for your kind donations and generous support of the St Vincent de Paul Society. We will close on Saturday 19 December and reopen on Monday 18 January. We wish you all a very holy, peaceful and safe Christmas. God Bless.



## Mass with Anointing

2 January 2021 Saturday 9.15am.

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**THE WORD OF GOD**

**Sunday**

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Monday**

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17  
Matthew 21:23-27

**St John of the Cross,**  
**priest, doctor**

**Tuesday**

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13  
Matthew 21:28-32

**Wednesday**

Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-25  
Luke 7:19-23

**Thursday**

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

**Friday**

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

**Saturday**

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

**Advent Reconciliation**

THURSDAY	17 Dec	Glenfield	7pm
FRIDAY	18 Dec	Beach Haven	7pm

**SENIORS CHRISTMAS**

**Tuesday**  
**15 December 2020**  
in St Thomas More  
parish hall

All are welcome to  
Morning tea after the  
9.15am Mass.  
Bring a wrapped gift  
(no more than \$5) for Secret Santa.  
Carol singing, stories and fellowship.



**Midnight Mass: Tuesday 15 December** at 7.30 pm in the church. The fourth of five practices. All singers and classical/orchestral instrumentalists are welcome.

**Family Vigil Mass: Monday 7 December** at 7.30pm in the church. All singers and musicians, please join us in the church for the second of four practices.

There will be a funeral Mass for Tom Cotter at St Thomas More at 1pm on Tuesday 15 December. **May he rest in peace.**

**Heading North this summer?**

A reminder and encouragement to visit the places of important Catholic history in our diocese, particular Motuti, where Bishop Pompallier remains are interred in St Mary's Church, and Tōtara Point, where the first official Mass was celebrated on 13 January 1838. All are invited to **Mass at Tōtara Point Sunday, 10 January 2021 at 11am** to commemorate the first Mass in Aotearoa.



The map on the poster describes the route. See poster in foyer.

**Christmas Novena Masses**



16 - 24  
December 2020  
6:00 am

**Titipounamu Study & Joy**

More information & registration: [info@studyjoy.nz](mailto:info@studyjoy.nz) or [www.studyjoy.nz/events](http://www.studyjoy.nz/events)  
**Online Session (Evening): Christmas "Self Care Nibbles"** with Clare Barnett. Tuesday, 15 December, 7.15-8.45pm. Fee: \$30. ZOOM  
**Online Session (Retreat Day): Who am I? – Reflecting on our Identity in God** with Eamon Butler. Saturday, 30 January, 10.30am-4pm. Fee: \$60, ZOOM

**THE GIVING TREE**

**Thank you to the tremendous support you gave to our Giving Tree requests.**

*Just one of the many hampers for Little Sprouts.*

Your generosity will ensure that many families will have a joyous Christmas.

Last Thursday Adoration will be **10 December 2020** and will resume on **Thursday 11 February 2021.** There will be no evening Masses/adoration/novenas during January 2021



**St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards**  
**\$2 pack/3 packs for \$5**

**2021 Columban calendars \$12**

**Daily Mass Calendars**  
**\$3.50**

all available after mass or Parish office

**NZ Catholic**

**Kindy farewell**

**The latest issue**  
in your church,  
Sunday Dec. 13

**All Welcome**  
to a cuppa after  
**10am mass**  
hosted by the  
**Tongan community**

**Confirmation & Eucharist 2021**  
Registration forms are in the foyer.

**Please pray for our sick parishioners and their families**

Peter Marshall, Cathy Sigley  
Tamar Mathews,  
Israel Nathan,  
Eloise McFadden,  
Troy Angelo Madrigal and  
Mary Anne Clark  
**Contact Parish office for any name changes.**

**Baptism Preparation Courses** will start again in **February 2021**

**CDA Connect** monthly newsletter concerning happenings in the diocese.  
<https://mailchi.mp/cda/cda-connect-issue-5827470>

**Christmas Vigil play**

If any children of school age would like to participate in the Christmas Vigil play, the first practice will be after the 10am Mass **TODAY Sunday 13 December.** Contact Vasi Jones for more information 021 135 5710 or email: [vasi.jones@gmail.com](mailto:vasi.jones@gmail.com)

**Christmas blessings and gratitude from the Caring Foundation**

Your support for families and communities in need during 2020 has helped the foundation support over 60 agencies working with the poor & the vulnerable. Thank you for your compassion and care. Please keep the Foundation in your prayers, and if able please support our Christmas Appeal.  
[www.caringfoundation.org.nz](http://www.caringfoundation.org.nz)

**The Catholic Caring Foundation's CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

Your Christmas gift will help families and communities in need.  
Give a gift this Christmas  
**Donate**

The Parish office will be closed from 23 December 2020 and will reopen **Tuesday 19 January 2021**

**A refreshed diocesan website** same address <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/> is live. Bishop Pat invites to explore it. You will also find a message from him and Bishop Michael regarding the Mission Map on the site as well as a wealth of information & resources.

**PLEDGE ENVELOPES**

We haven't printed envelopes this year as we missed so many Sunday collections due to Covid-19. However if you need more envelopes please contact Mary in the parish office and she will post you out some extras until our next printing in 2021. Ph: 444 8624 or email: [st.thomas.more@xtra.co.nz](mailto:st.thomas.more@xtra.co.nz)