



# First Sunday of Advent A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 27 November 2022

## Exploring The WORD

Advent opens with a great promise: In the days to come the hope of a people who need God. ...The master is coming is also a promise, not a threat to breed fear, but to answer our cry. So Advent begins, not with thoughts of the past, with the coming of the Lord we celebrate at Christmas, but with the future, and the promise that He is coming back. We are encouraged to stay awake, and treat every day as the day the Lord will come; we do not do this out of fear for a Master who beats his servants, but out of love of a Master who always treats us with mercy. Nevertheless we must always be watchful, because we can grow sleepy and complacent, saying that we can leave this prayer or that confession or the other change in the way we live to tomorrow. Even as we look forward to the tomorrow of the Lord's coming, we must remember that it might be today!

## Prayer this Sunday

**Therefore, stay awake!...  
So too, you also must be prepared.**

Come, Lord Jesus,  
make us ready for your kingdom.  
Let us find you in the crimson colored dusk,  
in the crescent moon and flying geese,

Let us see you in laughing children,  
in our brothers and sisters everywhere.  
Make us always awake, watching for you,  
prepared, with our hearts open wide.

Teach us how to "greet you the days we meet you  
and bless when we understand."

*Quotation from "The Wreck of the Deutschland" by G.M. Hopkins*

## ADVENT SPIRITUALITY WAKE UP!

Are you awake? Spiritually speaking? As we begin the liturgical season of Advent, we are given the future coming of the Son of God to ponder. As this passage goes on, Jesus says, "Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." By the "day your Lord will come," we should understand three things. The first coming of Christ is obviously that which we most clearly ponder in Advent and Christmas. The unity of human nature with divine nature, in the Person of Jesus, is truly awe-inspiring. But that already took place long ago. Thus, a second coming of Christ that we must continually ponder is His coming by grace, every moment of every day of our lives, once we have chosen to freely give our lives over to His service, for His glory, in accord with His will. When we live with such an interior disposition by which we seek His ongoing "coming" by grace, then we will find that we need to continually "stay awake!" If we do not, then we can be certain that we will miss countless opportunities to become more united to Christ every day and to be used as an instrument of that very grace for His service and glory. If we do not diligently build a habit of becoming attentive to every prompting of grace in our lives, then we will, unquestionably, begin to become "drowsy" and will fall asleep, spiritually speaking. A wonderful measure of our daily attentiveness to the innumerable gifts of grace given to us every day is to also consider how attentive we are to the final and glorious coming of Christ at the end of time. Just as Jesus explains, most people will pay little attention to this final coming, presuming it will not even be in their lifetimes. But if you have that attitude, then you have completely missed the point. The point is preparedness—today, tomorrow and always. True preparedness for the final coming of Christ will not only help you enter the mysteries of these Advent and Christmas seasons by which we ponder the first coming of Christ, it will also help you form a habit of daily attentiveness to grace.

*John Paul Thomas / www.mycatholic.life*



## Safeguarding Workshop

for existing and new volunteers.

St Thomas More parish hall

7pm Monday 28 November.

Lisa-May from the Diocese will be leading the meeting. This workshop is for **all volunteers** in our parish especially new volunteers who have not yet done a workshop. You can complete your police vetting form at the meeting and find out your responsibilities in your particular ministry.

Everyone who has contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults in our parish needs to attend this workshop.

## Christmas Giving Tree

This year we will be making **Festive hampers** for distribution. Please leave your Christmas themed food items under the Christmas tree at the back of the church.

If you wish to donate food vouchers/money, please leave them in the box provided by the tree.  
Final day for donations Friday 9 December.

*Many thanks for your  
generous donations*

Supporting our Parish community,  
St Vincent de Paul & Little Sprouts Charitable Trust



## Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumate

At the 10.00am Mass the parish officially welcomes adults and children who have completed the Period of pre-catechumenate. They now assemble to declare their intention to continue their journey into the Order of Catechumens. The church embraces them as her own, assured of the faith communities prayerful support for them.

We witness in the rite the candidates First Acceptance of the Gospel, Affirmation by the sponsors and the assembly, followed by Signing of the Senses with the cross. Please welcome them in our midst, encourage and support them through prayer and fellowship as they prepare for the sacraments of initiation - Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil Mass in April next year.



## Joshua Men's Fellowship North Shore

**Wednesday 30 November 2022 at  
7.30pm** at St Josephs Centre, Takapuna.

All men together with their spouses/partners are invited. It will be a time to give thanks and celebrate the blessings we have had during 2022 and look forward with hope to the Advent season. With this in mind we will have a shared dinner and request you bring a plate if you can.  
For more information contact Russell at 022 034 5678.

## Advent Reconciliation

WEDNESDAY	7 Dec	Takapuna	7pm
TUESDAY	13 Dec	Orewa	7pm
THURSDAY	15 Dec	Glenfield	7pm
FRIDAY	16 Dec	Northcote	7pm
SUNDAY	18 Dec	Devonport	7pm
TUESDAY	20 Dec	Beach Haven	7pm

## THE WORD OF GOD

### 1st Sunday of Advent

#### Sunday

1 Isaiah 2:1-5  
2 Romans 13:11-14  
Matthew 24:37-44

#### Monday

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Matthew 8:5-11

#### Tuesday

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Luke 10:21-24

#### Wednesday

2 Romans 10:9-18  
Matthew 4:18-22

*St Andrew, apostle*

#### Thursday

Isaiah 26:1-6  
Matthew 7:21, 24-27

#### FRIDAY

Isaiah 29:17-24  
Matthew 9:27-31

#### Saturday

Isaiah 30:19-26  
Matthew 9:35-10, 1:6, 6-8

*St Francis Xavier*

## News from the Diocese

### Taize Prayer For Advent

Friday 9 December at 7pm  
Mary MacKillop Chapel, Mission Bay

### Advent Retreat Day Mary MacKillop Retreat Centre

Mission Bay Led by Sr Jill McLoughlin  
Saturday 10 December 10am – 3pm  
\$30 waged/\$20 unwaged  
Registrations to Sr Julian Langton by 9 December 2022.  
Email: [marymackillopcentre@sosj.org.au](mailto:marymackillopcentre@sosj.org.au)  
or Phone: 09 528 1801

**Marriage & Family Life** would like to invite you to consider becoming Marriage Educators. If you have two hours a fortnight and are passionate about helping engaged couples prepare for marriage and have been married for 5 years or more, please contact Gerry on 021 02247442.

### Young Leaders Celebration Dinner

Youth and Young Adult ministry leaders, you're invited to join Bishop Steve on Sunday 27 November for an evening of affirmation, celebration, and some fantastic kai! To attend, email [samb@cda.org.nz](mailto:samb@cda.org.nz)

**G.I.F.T. Christmas Mass** Sunday 4 December at 4.30pm, Good Shepherd Church, Telford Ave, Mt Eden. After we will share a light meal after in the G.I.F.T. Centre. All intellectually disabled friends and support people are most welcome.

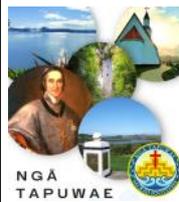
### SCHOLARSHIP for STUDY at TE KUPENGA CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Applications are open for the *Ruth Miller Scholarship* for study at Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College. For further information about this scholarship and to receive an application form, please contact Catherine Ryan, Vicar for Education email: [catheriner@cda.org.nz](mailto:catheriner@cda.org.nz). The closing date for applications is **MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2022**

The **Continental phase of the Synod of Synodality** has opened. Read all about it, how NZCBC are implementing it and how you might be involved <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/synod/> Let's walk together in this additional stage.

**Online Event for Oceania** There will be an **online Preparatory Event for the Continental phase of the Synod**. The Preparatory Event *Our Ocean Home* has been scheduled for two hours on each day of November 28th, 29th and 30th from 5pm to 7pm NZ Time. This scheduling allows all participants to engage with and experience an online process of listening, discerning and conversation together. Please note that the sessions are not repeated but rather explore a different theme each session on *Our Ocean Home*. In the spirit of the synodal process, this event is open to all. Registration: <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/faculties-directorates-and-staff/faculty-of-theology-and-philosophy/annual-lectures-talks-and-conferences/our-ocean-home#register>

Registrations are now open for **Ngā Tapuwāe - Sacred Footsteps 2023**. Our Northland pilgrimage will be from 6-8 January 2023. All are welcome to hiko with us to learn more of our Catholic heritage. We will explore, experience and live the sacred places of Kupe, Bishop Pompallier and the early missionaries. The pilgrimage will conclude with Mass at the place where the first Mass in NZ occurred. Register <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/nga-tapuwae-pilgrimage/> contact: Stephen Fraser 09 360 3052 or email: [stephenf@cda.org.nz](mailto:stephenf@cda.org.nz)



NGĀ TAPUWĀE



### CAN YOU PLEASE HELP US?

Desperate call out for De Paul House Food bank – the shelves are empty!!! All basics – tinned fish, corned beef, long life milk, peanut butter, jam, biscuits, crackers, tea, coffee, school lunch treats, MILO, sugar, flour, rice, shampoo, toothpaste & brushes, dish wash, laundry liquid, soap. Any support would be most appreciated as we head into Christmas and the school holidays. De Paul House, 92 Onewa Road, Northcote.

**St Thomas More CHRISTMAS BBQ** After 10am Mass Sunday 4 December  
This is a wonderful opportunity to thank all our volunteers that help our parish run so smoothly.  
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

## SENIORS Parish group

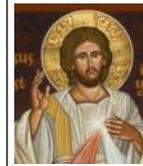
Next meeting  
**10am Tuesday 13 December**  
in St Thomas More parish hall  
Time for some Christmas celebrations!



**ALL WELCOME**

## Auckland Vocations Discernment Retreats

held at the Franciscan Friary in Hillsborough. Come along and discover the plan that God has for you in your life, through active spiritual discernment for young adults 18+. **Men's Retreat:** Friday 9-11 December 2022 **Women's Retreat** Friday 16-18 December Limited discounted Early Bird spots available For more information and to register please email: [aucklandvocations@gmail.com](mailto:aucklandvocations@gmail.com)



## Divine Mercy Devotion / Mass

**Friday 2 December 7pm**  
St Mary's Church,  
20 Kiteuni Ave, Mt Albert.  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass,  
followed by general blessing of St Faustina's relic. **All Welcome**

## PROLIFE FACTS

The National March for Life was established in 2017 to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the passing of the Contraception, Sterilisation, and Abortion Act, 1977. Now, with the very liberal Abortion Legislation Act 2020 regulating abortions in New Zealand, the role of the March for Life is even more critical. The fourth National March For Life is only a week away, at 2pm, on Saturday, 3rd December in Wellington. At 2pm, the march will officially begin, with participants proceeding to Parliament Grounds. The aims of the march are to celebrate life, peacefully protest the practice and legality of abortion, and increase public awareness of abortion, and its impact on women, families and society. The more than 500,000 pre-born babies who have lost their lives to abortion in New Zealand will be remembered. We invite you to participate in the 2022 March for Life and unite with other people of good will in New Zealand in the one common vision of making abortion unthinkable. Please visit [marchforlife.nz](http://marchforlife.nz) for details. **For pro-life info, visit [voiceforlife.org.nz](http://voiceforlife.org.nz).**



If you can't make the march you may like to join the annual **Coast to Coast Rosary for Life & Faith** on **Saturday 3 December** at 3pm which is held to coincide with the **March for Life** in

Wellington. [www.coasttocoastrosary.co.nz](http://www.coasttocoastrosary.co.nz)

**Kids Korner:** <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/1ST-WEEK-OF-ADVENT.pdf>  
**Parent Ponderings:** <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Heaven-and-Angels-Sing-1.pdf>

## NZCatholic

The national Catholic newspaper

New Catholic Māori Group meets with Bishops

Liturgical formation of the People of God in NZ

New school buildings opened in Otara



**'Be amazing young people'**

For sale in church foyer

Join us after 10am Mass for a cuppa hosted by the Indian community



**Columban Calendars 2023 \$12** only a few left

**Daily Mass Calendar books \$3** for sale after Mass



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

Mary Baker, Elena David, Tamar Mathews, Israel Nathan, Mark Delaurier, Mary Anne Clark  
Contact Parish office for changes.

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