



## Third Sunday of Advent A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 11 December 2022

### Exploring The WORD

In many ways the readings this Sunday are simply a continuation of last week. Isaiah gives us more details about the work of the Messiah, and Paul invites us to continue to be patient until the Lord's Coming. What is slightly different is the voice of John the Baptist this week: last week in Matthew 3 he was proclaiming with utter confidence that someone is coming. Now, in Matthew 11, he asks Jesus from prison: Is it you? For us, as we listen to these scriptures, we are being offered something very particular: the prophecies of Isaiah (and indeed the prophet John the Baptist) are pinned down firmly and securely in the person of Jesus, Son of Mary. In fact, Jesus himself, in his reply to John says as much: I am the Messiah that Isaiah prophesied. Again we are invited to hold the images of the prophecies in our minds until Christmas, when we can look on the child in the manger and say We know who this is: it is the promised Messiah God who comes to save us!

### Prayer this Sunday

**Go and tell John what you hear and see.**

Lord Jesus,  
you make the blind to see.  
Help us to see our neighbors' needs.  
You open deaf ears to hear.  
Please open our ears  
to hear the cry of the poor.

You made clean the lepers.  
Clean us too, we beg,  
of the many wrongs we do,  
and the right things we fail to do.

Our mute tongues  
want to sing your praise.  
We want to leap in joy like the stag.  
Heal us, please.

*Anne Osdieck*

## ADVENT SPIRITUALITY HE WHO IS TO COME!

From his cell in prison John the Baptist had heard stories about Jesus, and he sent some of his followers to find out if Jesus is the messiah. Are you 'He who is to come' or do we look for another? they asked Jesus. Jesus had to reply in such a way that John would have no doubt about the genuineness of his messianic activity, and the message he sent back to John was about the blind receiving their sight, the lame walking, the lepers being cleansed, the deaf hearing, the dead being raised, and the poor having good news brought to them. He did not say a word about people praying more or going to the synagogue or making God the centre of their lives: the age of the messiah, as expressed in this report, does not concern "religion" in the traditional sense of the word. One knows that the messiah has come because a real change has taken place in society, a change that involves the liberation of those who have always been cut off from the "main branch" of society. Jesus is the messiah because those who are blind, crippled, diseased, and poor have been liberated from the things which make them the victims of injustice. We can turn the statement around to say that if the dregs of society do not experience liberation, then Jesus is not the messiah. But Jesus is the messiah, and so the dead have come to life: those who have been unable to 'live' in a society that has written them off, are now alive with hope.

*Gerald Darring / [www.liturgy.sluhostedsites.org](http://www.liturgy.sluhostedsites.org)*

## Advent Reconciliation

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



16 to 24 December at 6am

### Midnight Mass choir:

**Mondays** at 7.30 pm in the church.  
All singers and classical/orchestral instrumentalists are welcome.

### Family Vigil Mass Choir:

**Last practice 20 December** at 7pm  
in the church. All singers and musicians are welcome.



## St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

### Christmas Eve, Saturday 24 December 2022

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, Sunday 25 December 2022

7.45 am - Christmas Carols  
8.00 am - Christmas Day Mass

9.45 am - Christmas Carols  
10:00 am - Christmas Day Mass  
12 noon - Chaldean Christmas Mass  
5.00 pm - Christmas Day Mass

### New Year's Eve, Saturday 31 December 2022

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
7:30 pm - New Year's Eve Mass

### New Year's Day, Sunday 1 January 2023

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
8.00am - New Year's Day Mass  
10.00am - New Year's Day Mass

## THE WORD OF GOD

### 3rd Sunday of Advent

#### Sunday

1 Isaiah 35:1-6, 10  
2 James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

#### Monday

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

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

#### Tuesday

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

*St Lucy*

#### Wednesday

Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-26  
Luke 7:19-23

*St John of the Cross*

#### Thursday

Isaiah 54:1-10  
Luke 7:24-30

#### FRIDAY

Isaiah 56:1-3, 6-8  
John 5:33-36

#### Saturday

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

### News from the Diocese

The **Diocesan Pastoral Council** met on Saturday 26 November. Their newsletter is available for everyone to read on the diocesan website <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/November2022.pdf>

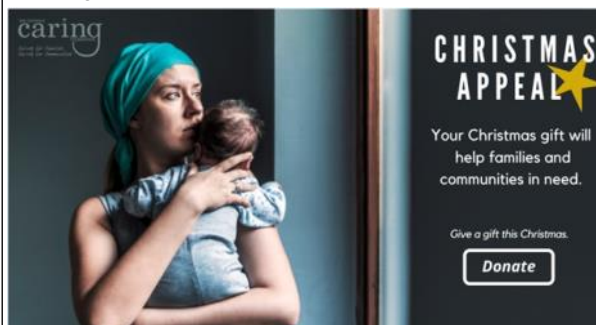
**Marriage & Family Life** would like to invite to you consider becoming Marriage Educators. If you have two hours a fortnight and are passionate about helping engaged couples prepare for marriage and have been married for 5 years or more, please contact Gerry on 021 02247442.

**WYD23 Fundraiser:** Private Screening of Avatar 2 (Rated M), 18 December 2022 2pm, Midcity Hoyts Cinemas \$20 per ticket includes entry, ice-cream, popcorn, drink and sweets. Ph Paula 021827225 or email [mdmwydmovie@gmail.com](mailto:mdmwydmovie@gmail.com)

**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. Please contact Catherine Ryan, Vicar for Education email: [catheriner@cda.org.nz](mailto:catheriner@cda.org.nz). **Closing date 12 DEC.**

**Catholic charity NPH New Zealand** offers a range of Christmas Gifts which help vulnerable children and families in Latin America. E-cards and Gift Certificates available. More info at [www.nph-nz.org](http://www.nph-nz.org) and the **brochures in the foyer.**

**CARING FOUNDATION CHRISTMAS APPEAL**  
Give a more impactful gift this Christmas with a donation to the Caring Foundation. Give a gift of joy to our most vulnerable. [www.caringfoundation.org.nz](http://www.caringfoundation.org.nz)  
Please take home a copy of Bishop Steve's Christmas message and the Foundation's appeal postcard.



Holy Cross Seminary, Auckland, is seeking a **part-time chef** for 25-hours per week over 5-days (Sundays being one). Duties will include responsibility for the weekly grocery shop, as well as x1 evening meal preparation for the Seminarians and Seminary Priests. The successful applicant will be required term time only (x32 weeks per year). If you have the necessary qualifications/experience, send your CV with Cover Letter to [office@holycross.org.nz](mailto:office@holycross.org.nz) by Sunday 1 January 2023.

**missio** TO GIVE A FUTURE WITH HOPE *notearoa*  
The Pontifical Mission Societies help find ways to appreciate the Bible better in our daily life. One way is promoting the **Bible Diary Word in Other Words** Book. It contains a short daily reflection based on the Gospel of each day. The reflections are written by missionary priests, Brothers and Sisters working in various parts of the world. It helps one to pray and get a little insight into the gospel of the day. It is a good Christmas gift for yourself and your friends. **See poster in foyer to purchase**

**MASS & TAONGA BLESSING – 2pm SUNDAY 11 Dec HĀTO PETERA CHAPEL & TE KAMAKA WHARENUI**  
You are invited as a member of our community of faith and Hato Petera Whānau to celebrate Mass and in recognition of the return of taonga – 103 College Road, Northcote | Celebrated by Bishop Steven Lowe and assisted by Auckland Diocese Vicar for Māori Manuel Beazley. The recently launched autobiography of the late Tā Toby Curtis will also be available. For any further questions contact: Manuel Beazley – Diocesan Vicar for Māori: 027 808 8969, [ManuelB@cda.org.nz](mailto:ManuelB@cda.org.nz) Lance O'Sullivan [lance@maihealth.nz](mailto:lance@maihealth.nz)

## SENIORS Parish group



Next meeting  
**10am Tuesday  
13 December**  
in St Thomas  
More parish  
hall. Bring of  
small plate of  
Christmas

treats to share. Lots of fun and music  
**ALL WELCOME**

**Mass and Anointing  
Saturday 17 December  
at 9.15am**



### PROLIFE FACTS

Close to 3000 pro-lifers filled Wellington's Lambton Quay as they walked in the annual March for Life on a sunny Saturday, 3rd December. They came in vans and buses from all over the country, the Far North and the Deep South, gratifying numbers of young people and family groups, chanting "Life is Beautiful" and "March for Life". A small group of pro-abortion protesters were present, holding an incongruous banner "Get Out Fascists!" The Marchers filled the lawns in front of Parliament to hear Kate Cormack, president of Voice for Life, and other speakers. TV3's Newshub covered the event on the evening 6pm news, showing the opposition and the Marchers, with comment from Kate Cormack. The large turnout of young people at the March for Life is a moving witness that many young people are prepared to challenge the status quo supporting abortion and are adding to the ranks of the pro-life movement in New Zealand.

**More pro-life info: [voiceforlife.org.nz](http://voiceforlife.org.nz)**

### 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+.  
**Women's Retreat Friday 16-18 December**  
*See Posters in foyer.* For more information email: [aucklandvocations@gmail.com](mailto:aucklandvocations@gmail.com)

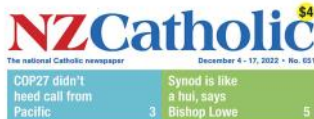
**Journey to the Holy Land**  
with Bishop Steve Lowe  
20 days commencing 5 March '23  
For more information and costs:  
**[www.harvestjourneys.com](http://www.harvestjourneys.com)**



### Divine Renovation

Do you want to see your parish come alive, but you're unsure where to begin? Are you already in the renewal journey, but are looking to get connected with a community of parish leaders for inspiration, encouragement, and fellowship? Wherever you are in the parish renewal journey, the 2023 Divine Renovation Australasia Conference will be a unique and inspiring experience for anyone who wishes to move their parish from maintenance to mission.  
**10-12 February 2023 | Sydney, Australia**  
Register today at [www.divinerenovation.org/draus2023](http://www.divinerenovation.org/draus2023)

Third Week of Advent - <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/3RD-WEEK-OF-ADVENT.pdf>  
Hope is a Blue Eyed Husky - <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Hope-is-a-blue.pdf>



### 'Put out into the deep'



### For sale in church foyer

Enjoy a cuppa after the 10am Mass hosted by the Tongan community  
**All welcome**



### PLEASE NOTE:

There will be **NO** more livestreaming of the Sunday Mass.

There will be **NO** evening Masses or devotions until further notice (but there will be exposition on Thursdays during the day).

### 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)