



The Nativity of the Lord

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 25 December 2022

Exploring The WORD

There's a wonderful way in which the Christmas message emerges from out of the midnight darkness as we gather for this Mass: the first words of Scripture we hear tonight are like the beaming of a star through the blackness of night: 'The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.'

The mystery of Christmas is this - a great revelation: a light in the darkness, a star through the night, the birth of the Sun of Justice; the showing to the whole world of the love of God, made visible in Jesus. No wonder there is a great throng of the heavenly host shattering the darkness of the cold night on the hillside outside Bethlehem - because the invisible night of sin and sadness is shattered by the light of the Saviour's birth.

Christmas is a very emotive and (in a sense) romantic feast: many of the congregation this evening will come with childhood memories and their own idea of what Christmas is about.

It is important that we are aware of this, so that you we can allow the deepest wonder of this night to penetrate through what can sometimes be rather shallow thoughts about the mystery. Remember it is not about 'then' this is about 'now' and our salvation.

Christmas Prayer

O sweet Child of Bethlehem,
grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas.
Put into the hearts of men and women this peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give to them.
Help them to know one another better,
and to live as brothers and sisters,
children of the same Father.
Reveal to them also your beauty,
holiness and purity.
Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness.
Join them all together in your love.
And give us your heavenly peace. Amen.

Pope John XXIII

CHRISTMAS SPIRITUALITY TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY!

The first people to experience the coming of the savior were shepherds, those lowly, uneducated ones who lived among the animals. They were not the only ones, of course, but they were the first to welcome the savior. It was no accident that such lowly people would be called in first to pay homage to the savior. It is to the lowly, after all, that Christ came first as Lord and Redeemer. The circumstances of his birth testify to that: his mother "wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the place where travellers lodged." Christmas is the great annual renewal of our being a Church filled with wonder at the nearness of her God. The nearer we are to our God, the nearer we should become to those lowly ones who are God's special ones. We are challenged at Christmas to do what Jesus and the angels did: bring the good news of redemption to the outcast and the lowly. The "tidings of great joy [are] to be shared by the whole people," and no one is to be left out, not even the most hopeless or despicable person.
Gerald Darring / www.liturgy.sluhostedsites.org



Wishing you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas and a New Year full of health & happiness!



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

5.00pm - New Year's Day Mass

6.30pm - Chaldean New Year's Day Mass



Shine TV Mass – the broadcast of **Christmas Day Mass** with Bishop Steve will be at 2pm, 25 December 2022. This will be the last Mass on Shine until February 2023. Free-to-Air TV Channel 25 or Sky TV Channel 201

THE WORD OF GOD

The Nativity of the Lord

Sunday

1 Isaiah 52:7-10
2 Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18



Monday

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

St Stephen, first martyr

Tuesday

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

St John, Apostle & Evangelist

Wednesday

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

Holy Innocents

Thursday

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

Fifth Day of the Octave

FRIDAY

Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14
Colossians 3:12-21
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

HOLY FAMILY

Saturday

1 John 2:18-21
John 1:1-18

Seventh Day of the Octave

Pilgrimage to the HOLY LAND

with Fr Alfredo Garcia



Israel
Jaffa
Caesarea
Megiddo
Nazareth
Magdala
Sea of Galilee
Tabgha
Capernaum
Cana
Bethlehem
Jerusalem
Dead Sea
Rome
Cascia
Assisi
Lisbon
Fatima

Join us...
11—28 September 2023



Contact Fr Alfredo for general information email: alfred5garcia@gmail.com
For costings contact: Marc Alexander email: marc.alexander.nz@flightcentre.co.nz
For itinerary information contact: Thad D'Souza email: thaddeus03@hotmail.com

RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION 2022

During the Christmas Masses there will be a second collection for the care of retired priests in the Auckland diocese.



PLEASE NOTE:

There will be **NO** more livestreaming of the Sunday Mass.
There will be **NO** evening Masses or devotions (including Exposition) until 6 February 2023.

SAVE THE DATE

MADE FOR MORE

VISIONS OF THE PROMISED LAND

with CHRISTOPHER WEST MUSIC BY MIKE MANGIONE



WEDNESDAY
JANUARY
18
6:00PM - 9:30PM



Join **Christopher West** and **Mike Mangione** for a dynamic presentation that weaves together live music, media and sacred art for an evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love and human destiny through the lens of *St John Paul II's Theology of the Body*.

Our desire is for all of us to come away with a faith-filled vision of hope that will deepen our wonder and joy of being alive.

Wednesday 18 January 2023. Doors open at 6pm and the event runs from 7-9.30pm. Location: **Sacred Heart College, 250 West Tamaki Road, Glendowie, Auckland.**

Cost: \$37. Tickets available on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com). Registration is now open: [Made for More NZ Tickets](https://www.eventbrite.com). [Wed 18/01/2023 at 6:00 pm | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)

For more information visit:

theologyofthebody.nz
or email madedformoreNZ@gmail.com

LIFE TEEN 2023 SUMMER CAMP



REGISTRATIONS OPEN NOW!

WWW.LIFETEEN.NZ

Registrations are now open! We want your parish or group to join us (AND 400 YOUNG PEOPLE!) at **Life Teen Summer Camp 2023**, Cambridge 18-22 January 2023. To find out more and to register your group, head to www.lifeteen.nz

NZCatholic



Just \$4

'Joy to the world'
For sale in church foyer



Our cuppas after the 10am Mass will recommence in February 2023.

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.

The parish office will be closed from 23 December 2022 until **17 January 2023**. Normal office hours Tuesday to Friday 10am to 3pm will resume 17 January 2023.

Check out the parish website for Mass times etc.
www.glenfieldcatholic.org.nz

TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy

Preparation for this year's Christmas Readings: Listen to an interview and a short video clip with Kieran Fenn fms as he explains the **Infancy Narratives in the Gospel of Matthew**.

Any time online: <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2022/12/08/muffin-talk-with-kieran-fenn-fms/>

Muffin Talk Radio Programme recordings and video clips on religion, interfaith and community available at <https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/muffin-talk/> For more information: www.studyjoy.nz



The latest Catholic Diocese of Auckland Connect magazine is available to be downloaded <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/CDA-CONNECT-Issue-21.pdf>



Journey to the Holy Land with Bishop Steve Lowe 20 days commencing 5 March '23 For more information and costs: www.harvestjourneys.com



For rent: Sunnynook. Two double bedrooms, fully furnished. Available now. Contact **Rosa: 027 278 7403** leave message.



Holy Cross Seminary
www.holycross.org.nz