

Second Sunday of Advent A



St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 4 December 2022

Exploring The WORD

Throughout the first three weeks of Advent our focus is very clearly on the End of Time, and the Second Coming of the Lord - not on the run up to Christmas (that only comes in the last week). If we view Advent as a Season preparing for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the Baptist who appears today: if it was about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, becomes a confusing figure: his role is to preach to us, as he did of old, and to prepare us for the (second) coming of the Lord. Everything gets more specific today: what is being preached is not an event, but a person: Isaiah promises him, John welcomes him, Paul invites us to imitate him. We have here a thumbnail portrait of the Messiah useful to refer to when we get to Christmas and he is revealed as a child in a manger!

Prayer this Sunday

***A voice of one crying out in the desert,
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.***

John cried out in the desert, prepare!

Prepare! Reshape your life!

Change your mind, change your heart!

The one is coming who is the very Spirit of God!

Christ, we want to have all these.

Talk to our hearts.

Set us on fire with flames that are your Spirit.

Lord Jesus, we wait for you.

Pour your Spirit into our lives,
like water rushing down to the sea.

Fill us with your gifts of wisdom,
understanding, counsel,

strength, knowledge, wonder and awe.

Reshape us with your love, your own love.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Anne Osdieck

ADVENT SPIRITUALITY PUBLIC REPENTANCE

This was both a very intense and yet very holy encounter. It was intense in that Saint John the Baptist, who had become quite popular and respected and was considered a great prophet, spoke harshly toward the Pharisees and Sadducees. "You brood of vipers!" he says. This was not the way the Pharisees and Sadducees were normally spoken to. John speaks this way because it was the truth. These religious leaders were not leading anyone closer to God. One only needs to ponder all that Jesus would eventually say to the Pharisees and Sadducees to understand what kind of people these religious leaders had become. So this passage is certainly intense. But it is also very holy. It is holy because this "brood of vipers" needed to be chastised. They needed to be condemned and challenged. They needed to be humbled. And there is nothing more humbling than sincerely repenting of one's sins in a public way. Notice that John does not dismiss the leaders outright. Rather, he requires of them "evidence" of their repentance. Why? Because of the spiritual damage these men did to the people of Israel on account of their pride, self-righteousness, hypocrisy, love of public honors, condemnation of others, etc. They had so distorted the faith that the good of their souls required public repentance. It required that everyone see sincere good fruits flowing from their lives as a sign that they had changed. Though this is a tall order for the Pharisees and Sadducees, it's the way to holiness for them. The same is true for us. If you have allowed yourself to fall into some of the same traps as the Pharisees and Sadducees, then you, too, will greatly benefit from clear and humble public change. If you have struggled with self-righteousness, a critical tongue, a "holier than thou" attitude or a judgmental attitude toward others, then you might have great need for a humble and public repentance.

John Paul Thomas / www.mycatholic.life

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

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



Midnight Mass choir:

Mondays at 7.30 pm in the church.

All singers and classical/orchestral instrumentalists are welcome.

Family Vigil Mass Choir:

Tuesday 6 & 20 December at 7pm

in the church. All singers and musicians are welcome.



Christmas Novena Masses

16 to 24 December at 6am

THE WORD OF GOD

2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday

1 Isaiah 11:1-10
2 Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

Monday

Isaiah 35:1-10
Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday

Isaiah 11:1-10
Matthew 18:12-14

St Nicholas

Wednesday

Isaiah 40:25-31
Matthew 18:12-14

St Ambrose

Thursday

Genesis 3:9-15, 20
Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12
Luke 1:26-38

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

FRIDAY

Isaiah 48:17-19
Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday

Ecclesiasticus 48:1-4,
9-11
Matthew 17:10-13

St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

NZCatholic

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COPIES didn't
heed call from
Pacific
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Synod is like
a hui, says
Bishop Lowe
5

'Put out into the deep'



For sale in church foyer

Parish BBQ
after the
10am
Mass.
**All
welcome**



CAN YOU PLEASE HELP US?

Desperate call out
for De Paul House Food
bank – shelves are empty!!!
Any support would be most
appreciated. De Paul House,
92 Onewa Road, Northcote.

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

News from the Diocese

Come sing with us our Christmas prayers. On **Thursday 8 December at 2pm** in the chapel of St Benedicts, Bishop Steve will pray the Mass of Christmas day which will be filmed for broadcast on Shine TV. We would deeply appreciate a good congregation so... please consider joining us and adding your prayers and voices.

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>

Taize Prayer For Advent

Friday 9 December at 7pm Mary MacKillop Chapel

Advent Retreat Day Mary MacKillop Retreat Centre Mission Bay Led by Sr Jill McLoughlin Saturday 10 December 10am – 3pm Registrations to Sr Julian Langton by 9 December 2022. Email: marymackillopcentre@sosj.org.au

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.

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

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. **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

Part-time qualified chef Holy Cross Seminary for 25-hours per week over 5-days (Sundays being one of those days). 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 (x 30 weeks per year). Interested in this role? please send your CV with Cover Letter to office@holycross.org.nz by Sunday, 11 December 2022.

If anyone would like to donate their unwanted artificial Christmas trees to the parish please contact Fr Alfredo. Email: alfred5garcia@gmail.com



missio

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 Lance O'Sullivan lance@maihealth.nz



First Wed – 7 December 2022
Exposition 6.30pm
Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help 7pm **Mass 7.30pm**
Novena continues on Wednesdays at 6.30pm.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Thursday 8 December
Mass 7.30pm

SENIORS Parish group



Next meeting **10am**
Tuesday 13 December
in St Thomas More parish hall. Bring of small plate of Christmas treats to share
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 *See Posters in foyer.* For more information email: aucklandvocations@gmail.com

PROLIFE FACTS

Shelton Smith, Christian editor of The Sword of the Lord, said in 1973, the year that Roe v Wade legalised abortion: "Just because Congress passes a law and says it's all right to do a certain thing does not mean that it's all right to do it. Abortion is still just as wrong today as it was the first day of January 1973." Fortunately 2022 saw Roe v Wade overturned in the United States, but in our own country abortion is legal and becoming increasingly normalised. However, a well-known phrase attributed to Edmund Burke states: "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph in the world is that good men do nothing". Therefore we encourage you over the Christmas period to reflect on whether you are willing and able to defend the cause of life in 2023. Please reach out to Voice for Life at www.voiceforlife.org.nz if you can help in any way, or one of the many other pro-life organisations in New Zealand.



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

We have some parishioners who are in need of urgent help. For more information please contact Fr Alfredo either after Mass or via email: alfred5garcia@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



Kids Korner: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/2nd-WEEK-OF-ADVENT.pdf>

Parent Ponderings: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/The-College-Student-Who-Found-Her.pdf>