



Second Sunday of Advent B

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 10 December 2023

Exploring The WORD

Throughout the first three weeks of Advent our focus is very clearly on the Second Coming of the Lord - not so much on the run up to Christmas (until the last week). If we view Advent as a preparation for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the Baptist who appears today: if it's about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, is a confusing figure: but his role is to preach to us, as he did of old, and to prepare us for the (second) coming of the Lord. Today we have a very graphic reference to the end of time and the Second Coming in the reading from Saint Peter; it is a frightening picture, and so the first reading offers tender words of comfort to help us understand who is coming, and why we should be ready to meet him.

A Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent

Shepherd God,
you have led us into the wilderness
and stayed here with us.

While we wait for the coming of your Kingdom
and the promised of your Infant Son
to be fully realized on earth and in heaven,
teach us to keep our eyes on you,
no matter what.

Help us let go of the things
that distract and destroy us,
trusting that everything we need
is found in you. Amen

ADVENT SPIRITUALITY THE THINGS THAT HINDER US

We are getting closer and closer to the "day of the Lord," a term which the authors of the Christian Scriptures carried over from the Hebrew Scriptures. The author of the Second Letter of Peter describes it this way: "What we await are new heavens and a new earth where, according to his promise, the justice of God will reside." It is the day of God's salvation when "Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven." We await the day of the Lord, but it is to be an active waiting. John the Baptist echoes the prophet's message: "In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!" "Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!" The reading from Peter speaks of our "looking for the coming of the day of God" and of our "trying to hasten it!" We stand, as it were, in a desert, an empty wasteland of broken lives and discarded people. The challenge of Advent is to clear a straight path for God: to end injustices, to stop wars and the preparations for wars, to put discrimination behind us, or in the words of the opening prayer, to "remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy." The promise of Advent is that "the Lord will come to save all nations." *Gerald Darring/liturgyslu.edu*

Advent Reconciliation

TUESDAY	12 Dec	Takapuna	7pm
WEDNESDAY	13 Dec	Orewa	7pm
THURSDAY	14 Dec	Glenfield	7pm
FRIDAY	15 Dec	Beach Haven	7pm



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

Christmas Eve, Sunday 24 December 2023

- 6.45 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, Monday 25 December 2023

- 7.45 am - Christmas Carols
- 8.00 am - Christmas Day Mass
- 9.45 am - Christmas Carols
- 10.00 am - Christmas Day Mass
- 11.30am - **Chaldean Christmas Mass**
- 5.00 pm - Christmas Day Mass

New Year's Eve, Sunday 31 December 2023

- In addition to the normal Sunday Masses
- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**
- 7.30 pm - New Year's Eve Mass

New Year's Day, Monday 1 January 2024

- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**
- 9.00am - New Year's Day Mass
- 7.30pm - New Year's Day Mass

SPECIAL 2ND COLLECTION AT ALL CHRISTMAS MASSES

The Christmas Novena Masses



16th to 24th December, 6am

THE WORD OF GOD

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

Monday

Isaiah 35:1-10

Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday

Isaiah 40:1-11

Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday

Isaiah 40:25-31

Matthew 11:28-30

St Lucy V.M

Thursday

Isaiah 41:13-20

Matthew 11:11-15

St John of the Cross

Friday

Isaiah 48:17-19

Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday

Ecclesiasticus 48:1-4,9-11

Matthew 17:10-13

JOIN US FOR A
**children's
christmas
party**

**FRIDAY, 15th DECEMBER
7:00pm to 9:00pm**

ST THOMAS MORE PARISH HALL

Parents are invited as well, we kindly request that you bring a plate
There will be games and prizes to win!

IMPORTANT PARISH NOTICES

WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES and DEVOTIONS

Will resume in FEBRUARY, 2024

FIRST WEDNESDAY EVENING NOVENA AND MASS,
THURSDAY ADORATION AND EVENING MASS and
FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION AND EVENING MASS

NOTICE: Te Runanga O Ngati Whatua, Te Hā Oranga and Department of Corrections, Auckland

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua, Te Hā Oranga and Ara Poutama Aotearoa (**The Department of Corrections**) are planning to establish a residential service within the North Shore community, at 320 and 322 Wairau Road, Glenfield. Residents will come from corrections facility while serving a community based sentence or order the aim of which is to support and help men in their journey of reconnection. For more information read the letter on the board in the foyer or visit: www.tewhareheruhapai.co.nz or phone 0800698 342 or email: whare@tehaoranga.co.nz

Parish Seniors Group Christmas Gathering

TUESDAY DECEMBER 12

High Tea, Entertainment and Christmas Carols

Bring along a small Gift for Santa's Sack - up to \$5
BE CREATIVE!

And yes, Santa will be there!
ALL ARE WELCOME!



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Kids Corner: [Celebrating ADVENT week Two](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Celebrating-ADVENT-Week-Two-PEACE.pdf)
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Celebrating-ADVENT-Week-Two-PEACE.pdf>

Next Week: [Celebrating ADVENT Week Three](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Celebrating-ADVENT-Week-Three-JOY.pdf)
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Celebrating-ADVENT-Week-Three-JOY.pdf>

Parent Pondering: [Face to Face with a Koala in the Christmas Tree](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Mom-Walks-Into-Living-Room-And-Comes-Face-To-Face-With-A-Koala-In-The-Christmas-Tree.pdf)
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Mom-Walks-Into-Living-Room-And-Comes-Face-To-Face-With-A-Koala-In-The-Christmas-Tree.pdf>

Next Week: [Celebrating ADVENT Week Four](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Celebrating-ADVENT-Week-Four-LOVE.pdf)
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Celebrating-ADVENT-Week-Four-LOVE.pdf>

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Prepare the Way of the Lord: Advent is a special time to reflect, to ponder the Word, and to 'Be still' and silent in the presence of God. Please join a community on Zoom this Advent from the holiness of your home - **Saturday evenings** to ponder the Advent Sunday Gospels; **Wednesday mornings** in silent Meditation; **Wednesday evenings** to reflect on Pope Francis message for us that 'it is confidence that must lead to love'. We ask Mary, our Mother, to open our hearts to the presence of her Son this Advent. God bless. Register with diannaf@cda.org.nz.

Please support the Caring Foundation's Christmas Appeal – donations doubled! Give an impactful gift this Christmas! Give a gift that changes lives! Every donation to the Caring Foundation's Christmas appeal will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$50,000. The Caring Foundation partners with over 60 local agencies to provide the right help at the right time for families and people in poverty and hardship. To find out how to donate, pick up our Christmas post-card today, or check out our website: www.caringfoundation.org.nz
Postcard flyer attached

NGA TAPUWAE SELF DIRECTED PILGRIMAGE Registrations are now open for Ngā Tapuwāe – A Self Directed Pilgrimage 2024. Our Northland pilgrimage sites will be attended by CDA staff to welcome you and share the stories at specific times on 12th and 13th January 2024, but you will travel independently having organised your transport, accommodation, and food. Your pilgrimage will end with the anniversary Mass at Totara Point on 14th January. All are welcome to participate and learn more of our Catholic heritage. You can experience the sacred places of Kupe, Bishop Pompallier and the early missionaries. To register email, Dcn Steve Fraser on stephenf@cda.org.nz or phone 021439407



Our stocks are desperately low! Please donate non-perishable food items for the St Vincent de Paul basket in foyer e.g. breakfast cereals, coffee, tea, pasta, rice, tin fruit/vegetables, tuna, spaghetti, soups, pasta, sauces.

Thank you for your generosity.

TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy

Christmas Story with Prof Thomas O'Loughlin:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2021/12/23/the-christmas-story/>

YouTube Recordings

YouTube and Muffin Talk recordings are available online at:
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/muffin-talk/>

Our next Zoom sessions will be in February/ March on the theme of **Miracles**.

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

Please **DO NOT double park** in the main carpark and block access for drop-offs and emergency vehicles. Also please **DO NOT** park along ST Thomas More Lane - **the residents are inconvenienced by the weekly congestion. Your vehicle will be towed away.**
Thank you

All welcome to share in a cuppa after the 10am Mass hosted by the

Tongan Community



Parish Office will be closing on **Friday, 15 December 2023** and will reopen on **Tuesday, 17 January 2024**.

Merry Christmas and a blessed 2024 to you and your family!!

NZCatholic \$4

Three NZ representatives reflect on Vatican synod experience 3
Young people debate the topic of married Catholic priests 10

Angels in Sanctuary



Just \$4

Sanctuary changes in Dunedin cathedral - pg 3
Six times judged Australia's leading Catholic newspaper

Please pray for our sick prisoners & their families

Gaye Rhodes, Simone Choromanski, Mary Baker, Israel Nathan, Lyn Cotter, Tamar Mathews, Mark Delaurier, Mary Anne Clark
Contact the Parish office if you wish to add names
office@stthomasmore.org.nz



Holy Cross Seminary
www.holycross.org.nz