



Exploring The WORD

So who is coming? This Sunday's readings help to answer that question. John the Baptist is asked about the coming of the Messiah - is it him? He affirms his role as "a witness to speak for the light", by pointing to the one who stands among the crowd unknown to them who is coming after him. This idea is present in the First Reading, where Isaiah proclaims what the "anointed one" ('Messiah' in Hebrew) will do, and the joy that this will bring. It is interesting that the Psalm appointed for this Sunday is the Magnificat - Mary's song of praise at the announcement that the Messiah would be born of her - in which she sings of the works of the coming Messiah. Paul then reminds us that we are still waiting patiently: "God has called you, and he will not fail you." This is why, on this 'Gaudete' Sunday, we as God's people rejoice in his care, made visible in his promises, fulfilled in Jesus.

A Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent

God of the oppressed,
the broken hearted,
the captives and the prisoners,
teach us to trust that
we have been anointed
to bring your Good News.

While we wait for you to heal our broken world, teach us to work in faithful trust alongside you, cherishing every ounce of goodness, healing, freedom, and release we encounter on the way.
Amen

ADVENT SPIRITUALITY REJOICE IN THE LORD, ALWAYS!

It is a time for rejoicing: "The Lord is near! The earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time." We again encounter John the Baptist echoing Isaiah's oracle: "Make straight the way of the Lord!" This time it appears alongside Paul's ringing exhortation: "Rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks." It also appears—quite significantly—alongside two passages that speak of salvation for the lowly. The First Reading has Isaiah tell of being sent "to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners." The Responsorial Psalm is Mary's song from the first chapter of Luke: "The hungry he has given every good thing, while the rich he has sent empty away." The Alleluia follows this with a rewording of Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord ... sent me to bring Good News to the poor. The message of today's liturgy is clear. The salvation we await with joy will liberate both the individual and the community, and its special focus will be the poor and lowly, not the rich and powerful. "As the earth brings forth its plants ... so will the Lord God make justice." Jesus comes so that our community might no longer bear the scars of poverty and oppression but might instead "be preserved whole and entire, spirit, soul, and body." *Gerald Darring/liturgy.slu.edu*

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



Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechuminate

At the 10.00am Mass the parish officially welcomes adults and children who have completed the Period of pre-catechuminate. 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 on 30th March 2024.

Midnight Mass choir:

Last practice Monday, 18 December at 7.30 pm in the church. All singers and musicians are welcome

Family Vigil Mass Choir:

Last practice Tuesday, 19 December at 7.30pm in the church. All singers and musicians are welcome.

THE WORD OF GOD

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8,19-28

Monday

Jeremiah 23:5-8
Matthew 1:18-24

Tuesday

Judges 13:2-7,24-25
Luke 1:5-25

Wednesday

Isaiah 7:10-14
Luke 1:26-38

Thursday

Songs 2:8-14
Zephaniah 3:14-18
Luke 1:39-45

Friday

1 Samuel 1:24-28
Luke 1:46-56

Saturday

Malachi 3:1-4,23-24
Luke 1:57-66

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



Our Parish
Office
will be closed
from

**MONDAY,
18 DECEMBER 2023
TO
TUESDAY
16 JANUARY 2024.**

Our Parish Office Coordinator
will be on Holiday break

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

NZCatholic



**Just
\$4**

**Please pray for our sick
parishioners & 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@stthomamore.org.nz



Holy Cross Seminary
www.holycross.org.nz

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



The St Vincent De Paul
team would like to send a
heartfelt THANK YOU
for all your support and
generosity throughout the year.
The beautiful Christmas Hampers
and gifts have been received with
hugs, tears and grateful hearts.
Wishing you all a Blest Christmas.



IMPORTANT ONLINE REGISTRATION NOTICE

Dear Parishioners, please continuing using your
Planned Giving Number if you already have one.
Please Do not use the Online Registration number
UNLESS you are a new parishioner. Thank you

NOTICE: New Department of Corrections Facility in this area

Early next year the Department of Correction will be
housing men recently released from correction facilities
who are transitioning back into a community and we have
been selected. It will also be for those serving community
sentences in two residential homes at 320 and 322 Wairau
road. The homes will house men 18 - 45 and 25+. It will be
situated close to daycare centres, primary schools and
churches—St Thomas More being the closest of these. We
have been assured that the men located here will not have
been convicted of sexually assaulting children. That being
said, as a community we are concerned as this facility will
have very valid safety concerns for our community, as they
do for other communities around New Zealand who have
these centres in their communities. We are petitioning our
new local MP to keep his election promise of "helping to
tackle crime in our are and keep our community safe".
Please fee free to contact him yourself as well and keep us
updated on our Facebook group:

Cameron.Brewer@parliament.govt.nz

Local Facebook group: facebook.com/groups/totaravale



Please contact the
Parish Office
if you would like to

**ADVERTISE
ON OUR
PARISH
NEWSLETTER**

12 spaces available!



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

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Kids Corner: Celebrating ADVENT Week Three
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Celebrating-ADVENT-Week-Three-JOY.pdf>

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

Parent Pondering: Face to Face with a Koala in the Christ-
mas Tree <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Celebrating-ADVENT-Week-Three-JOY.pdf>

Next Week: Advent, God's Love, and Our Love for Others
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Advent-Gods-Love-and-our-Love-for-others.pdf>

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

NGA TAPUWAE SELF DIRECTED PILGRIMAGE.

Registrations are now open for Ngā Tapuwāe – A
Self Directed Pilgrimage 2024. Our Northland pil-
grimage sites will be attended by CDA staff to wel-
come you and share the stories at specific times on
12th and 13th January 2024, but you will travel inde-
pendently having organised your transport, accom-
modation, 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,
Steve Fraser on stephenf@cda.org.nz or phone
021439407

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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 Fran-
cis 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

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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

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The **Christmas 2023 Mass Times** have been
published on the CDA website. Here is the link
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/christmas-masses-2023/>

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Credit Controller & Administration - Pompallier Centre Job Vacancy

This full-time role is to provide credit control and
administration support to the Operations Manager
for the collection of Attendance Dues for schools in
the Auckland Diocese. Hours are flexible to
incorporate some evening and Saturday morning
work. Key Tasks include; Collection of compulsory
school Attendance Dues; contact with school
parents via outbound phone calls; follow up of
unpaid accounts and Debtor ledger management.
To view the full advert and to apply, please visit our
website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz under
Diocesan Services and Staff Vacancies.

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To read about diocesan events in the last weeks
and start filling your 2024 diary with opportunities
for faith development, fun and diocesan life
download the latest edition of CDA connect
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/CDA-CONNECT-Christmas23.pdf>
- the link can also be found on the front page of the
diocesan website.

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