



Fourth Sunday of Advent B

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 24 December 2023

Exploring The WORD

Here we enter a new stage of Advent: having spent so much time on the Second Coming, now we look back, to remember the details of the Lord's First Coming. Today we focus on the character of Mary, and hear of the angel Gabriel being sent to her, to invite her to take her part in the mystery of the Incarnation, "the revelation of the mystery kept secret for endless ages". This mystery springs from the House of David, and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the establishing of that house. An interesting idea is that the first reading talks of David wishing to build a house for the Lord; through the prophet he is told not of the house that he would build, but the House which is his line: eventually, in Mary (betrothed to Joseph) the House of David does itself become the house of the Lord, the womb wherein he has a dwelling place.

A Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

God of goodness, God of surprises,
Send angels of inspiration
to guide and enlighten as you did Mary.

Awaken us again to our true calling,
our true mission: to walk with you
on the paths laid out to us.

Teach us to listen for you
in every corner of our lives
and to await your messengers
in the most unexpected situations
and conditions.

Good and gracious God, just as the angel Gabriel
reminded Mary she was God's highly favoured
one, may we always see ourselves and one
another as highly favoured, and called to bring the
good news of God's love to birth in our world.

We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus.
Amen

ADVENT SPIRITUALITY THE JOY OF LIBERATION

The focus of today's liturgy is the Davidic covenant, the promise of a throne that will last forever. It appears in the First Reading, in the Responsorial Psalm, and in the Gospel, where the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that "the Lord God will give (her son) the throne of David his father." Jesus is to transform that covenant, revealing "the mystery hidden for many ages." The throne in this new kingdom is to be occupied by "the Son of the Most High ... the Son of God." Indeed, he is "Emmanuel," God-with-us. We are very close now to the coming of Christ. What would the world be like if we were to allow Christ to really come as king? What would a world ruled by Jesus Christ be like? Would we have the poverty and homelessness that we have now? Would we have the death penalty? Would there be abortion and child abuse and negligence of the elderly? Would Jesus Christ allow the people of his kingdom to kill each other in wars? If only we could join in consenting to God's rule as Mary did: "Let it be done to me as you say." Who knows what joy the world would know! *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



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Confused About the Christmas 2023 Obligation This Year? You Need to Go to Mass for Both Sunday and Christmas Day

Christmas Eve is also the Fourth Sunday of Advent this year. That means the faithful must attend two Masses to meet their Sunday and Christmas Day obligations.

In a "relatively rare" situation, which last occurred in 2017, Christmas Day this year falls on a Monday.

Because Catholics are obliged to attend Mass for Sundays and holy days of obligation, some have asked whether a Sunday evening Mass on Christmas Eve would fulfill both the obligation for a Sunday Mass and the obligation for a Christmas Day Mass. The Sunday obligation for Dec. 24 can be fulfilled on Sunday, or the Vigil Mass on Dec. 23, and the Christmas Mass obligation can be fulfilled on Monday, any time and the evening masses on Dec. 24. In the case of two consecutive days of obligation, as at Christmas this year, the "prevailing view of many canon lawyers is that each obligation must be fulfilled with a separate Mass."

Appointment of new Parish Priest St Thomas More Glenfield.

We are pleased to inform you that Fr Pio Fong, a Marist, Fijian priest, on loan to the Diocese of Auckland, has been appointed as the new Parish Priest of St Thomas More, Glenfield, effective 3/4 February 2024

Our beloved current Parish Priest, Fr Alfredo Garcia will be on leave for a year. To avoid any speculations, Fr Alfredo's leave from an active Parish ministry is NOT due to sickness or any medical concerns, he is not leaving the Diocese nor the priesthood. He will take on a new appointment at the beginning of 2025.

Come and join in his Farewell and Thanksgiving Mass on
SUNDAY, 28 JANUARY, 10:00 am Mass

THE WORD OF GOD

4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-11,16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Vigil

Isaiah 62:1-5

Acts 13:16-17,22-25

Matthew 1:1-25

Midnight Mass

Isaiah 9:1-7

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-4

Monday

Christmas Day

The Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18

Tuesday

Acts 6:8-10,7:54-60

Matthew 10:17-22

St Stephen, First Martyr

Wednesday

1 John 1:1-4

John 20:2-8

St John, Apostle & Evangelist

Thursday

1 John 1:5-2:2

Matthew 2:13-18

Holy Innocents, Mm

Friday

1 John 2:3-11

Luke 2:22-35

Fifth day of the Octave

Saturday

1 John 2:12-17

Luke 2:36-40

Sixth day of the Octave



The Parish Office will be closed from
22 December 2022 until
15 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 for mass times.

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 area and keep our community safe". Please feel 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/totaraavale



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:

ADVENT Week Four

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

Celebrating FIFTH week in OT

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Celebrating-FIFTH-Week-in-OT.pdf>
How does Jesus answer the 'WHY'

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/How-does-Jesus-answer-the.pdf>

Celebrating SIXTH week in OT

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Celebrating-SIXTH-Week-in-OT.pdf>
Ponderings: Bring to God Whatever Hinders Us

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Bring-to-God-Whatever-Burden-Hinders-Us.pdf>

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

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, 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 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

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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



Our cuppas after the 10am Mass will recommence in February 2024.

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