



First Sunday of Advent B

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 3 December 2023

Exploring The WORD

Advent opens with a great cry, and a great promise: "Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down!" is the cry, of a people who need God. "...The master is coming" is the promise, not to breed fear, but to answer our cry. Advent begins, not with thoughts of the past, with the coming of the Lord we celebrate at Christmas, but with the future, and the promise that He is coming back. We are encouraged to treat every day as the day the Lord will come; we do not do this out of fear for a Master who beats his servants, but out of love of a Master who always treats us with love and mercy. Nevertheless we must always be watchful, because we can grow sleepy and complacent, saying that we can leave this prayer or that confession or the other change in the way we live to tomorrow. Even as we look forward to the tomorrow of the Lord's coming, we must remember that it might be today!

A Prayer for the First Sunday of Advent

God of light and life
Give us hope as we wait
for your coming again.

When we are tempted
to be grateful to have found you
while others are lost,
send us out into the darkness
in search of those
who need you most.
Amen

ADVENT SPIRITUALITY NEGLECTING THE PRESENT

Advent is a time to recognize that we are "sinful; all of us have become like unclean men, all our good deeds are like polluted rags." Our personal and social sins are many: hatred, violence, oppression, indifference, selfishness, etc.

Advent is also a time of "longing for Christ our Savior," a time in which we "wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus." We look forward to the celebration of Christmas, the commemoration of Jesus' birth, but we also look forward to the "promise and hope" of heaven, which we want God to "teach us to love."

The longing for Christ causes us to want things to change for the better. We want God to find us "blameless on the day of Our Lord Jesus Christ." With Isaiah's words in mind:
"Would that you might meet us doing right, we ask God to increase our strength of will for doing good."

Advent, then, is an expression of our faith in the possibility of a better world. We don't have to be at each other's throats. We can 'do right' in the areas of race relations, family obligations, and personal responsibilities. We can 'do good' to the poor, the elderly, the homeless, and to all our brothers and sisters at home and abroad. We can become blameless, beacons of social justice, examples of faith and love, peacemakers.

The message of Advent is to "be constantly on the watch!" We base this constant watch not on fear but on hope in God's "promise of eternal life." The promise of Christmas is a joyful anticipation that "The Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit."

Gerald Darring/liturgyslu.edu

Advent Reconciliation

WEDNESDAY	6 Dec	Northcote	7pm
THURSDAY	7 Dec	Torbay	7pm
SUNDAY	10 Dec	Devenport	6pm
TUESDAY	12 Dec	Takapuna	7pm
WEDNESDAY	13 Dec	Orewa	7pm
THURSDAY	14 Dec	Glenfield	7pm
FRIDAY	15 Dec	Beach Haven	7pm



**COMMUNAL CELEBRATION
OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK
AND THE ELDERLY WITHIN MASS
SATURDAY, 9TH DECEMBER, 9:15**

Come Join Us!
For Our Annual
**PARISH CHRISTMAS
BBQ LUNCH**
Sunday, 10th December
After the 10am Mass

St Thomas More Parish

*Christmas
Novena
Masses*

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16th to 24th December at 6am

THE WORD OF GOD

1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8

1Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:33-37

Monday

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday

Isaiah 25:6-10

Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday

Isaiah 26:1-6

Matthew 7:21,24-27

St Ambrose, B.D

Friday

Genesis 3:9-15,20

Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12

Luke 1:26-38

Immaculate Conception BVM

Saturday

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26

Matthew 9:35-10:1,6-8

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!



Christmas Family Vigil Mass Choir Practice:
Monday 11 & 18 December at 7pm in the church.
All singers and musicians are welcome.

Christmas Giving Tree 2023

All gifts and donations must be returned by

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 2023

NZCatholic

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

Angels in Sanctuary



Just
\$4

All welcome to share

in a cuppa after
the 10am Mass
hosted by the



South African Community

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

Please pray for our sick parishioners & their families

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

East Coast Bays Catholic Parish- Vacancies

East Coast Bays Parish is a parish with two churches, St John the Baptist church in Mairangi Bay and St Francis de Sales church in Torbay. We are currently looking for two part-time staff members for the office in Mairangi Bay. If you are friendly and welcoming, have a high level of written and spoken English and are IT savvy you might like to consider applying for one of the positions.

Position 1: Office & Communications Assistant

To support the office team in communications activities and processes for the parish and ensure all parishioners are kept informed and supported through different channels of communication. This includes preparing the weekly newsletter and assisting with the updating of the parish website and social media.

Position 2: Liturgy & Pastoral Coordinator

Prepare the efficient delivery and coordination of all sacraments and liturgical celebrations which enhance the parish community of East Coast Bays Parish. This role includes supporting and coordinating processes, programmes and volunteers, and making sure that the parish's liturgical and pastoral needs are met. **Hours:** 12-15 hours/week (with some flexibility)
Location: Parish Office, 395 East Coast Road, Mairangi Bay, Auckland. Detailed Job Descriptions are available on request. beate@ecbatholic.org.nz



First Wednesday Mass 6 December 2023

Exposition **6.30pm**
Novena **7.00 pm** & Mass **7.30pm**

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Prepare the Way of the Lord:

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. Register with diannaf@cda.org.nz

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G.I.F.T. Christmas Mass Sunday
10th December at 4pm in Good Shepherd Church, Balmoral followed by a light meal. All disabled people and their whānau and support workers are most **WELCOME!**

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Te Kahu o te Ora: A Consistent Ethic of Life - a revised and much-expanded version of a 1997 bishops' statement and reminds us that all life is a gift from God. Now available online as an easy-to-read flip book, reached from a button on the NZCBC home page:

<https://www.catholic.org.nz/> Or at

<https://www.catholic.org.nz/resources/te-kahu/>. NZCBC President and Bishop of Auckland Bishop Stephen Lowe says the bishops want every Catholic to read

Te Kahu o te Ora. More information:

<https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/tekahu-flip/>

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Parish Assistant Vacancy

St Luke's Parish in Flat Bush is on the hunt for a Parish Assistant to join the team. 25 hours a week to ensure that the pastoral and administrative needs of the parish are met. The role provides pastoral assistance and is responsible for assisting with Sunday Masses. The applicant would assist with office administration, adult faith formation, co-ordinate music ministry and have a good grasp of social media.

Applicants should be active Catholics and able to partake in the full sacramental life of the church. Good communication, strong planning and organization skills are essential. Applicants must have the right to work in NZ and have a NZ drivers license. For more information, please contact the Parish Priest, Fr Craig Dunford by email office@flatbushcatholic.org.nz

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Advent Retreat Day Mary MacKillop Retreat Centre, 56 Selwyn Ave, Mission Bay Led by Sr Jill McLoughlin, Saturday 9 December 10am – 3pm, \$30 waged/\$20 unwaged Registrations by December 7th MBSpirituality@sosj.org.au or 0210710277

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NGA TAPUWAE SELF DIRECTED PILGRIMAGE Registrations are now open for Ngā Tapuwāe – A Self Directed Pilgrimage 2024, on 12th and 13th January 2024. The 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. To register email, Steve Fraser on stephenf@cda.org.nz or phone 021439407