



## 1st Sunday of Advent Year C

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 1 December 2024

### Exploring The WORD

As usual, the great Season of Advent begins, not by talking about Christmas, but about the Second Coming. We have had this theme already for the past two weeks, but there is a slight change of emphasis in the Scripture readings offered for this Sunday: here the tone is positive: it is the “promise” of what is to come that we contemplate. Even in the Gospel, though it talks of the dreadful signs that mark the end times, we hear of a promise - “liberation”. For this we should stand erect and hold our heads high. The central theme is that we welcome the coming of a person - Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, and this is what links this Sunday to the coming feast of his birth: we are now preparing to celebrate how he once came: may these preparations also help us to prepare for him when he comes again.

### PRAYER THIS WEEK

*“Be vigilant at all times .”*

Jesus.

You came into our world with all its sorrows.  
Keep us watchful for your presence  
in the midst of our struggles.  
Tell us again that your  
love will triumph.

Make us vigilant. Put our hearts on alert.  
Let us be aware of all the places  
in our world where you are,  
in all beauty,  
anywhere there is love,  
in helping hands reaching out.

Come,  
Lord Jesus, to all the dwellings  
in our lives where you are  
not yet. Amen

### ADVENT SPIRITUALITY

#### Fulfilling God’s Promise

Christian living takes place ‘between the times,’ between the first coming of Christ and his second coming. The first coming was humble, to say the least: an infant born of poor parents in an obscure village. The second coming will be different: “The powers in the heavens will be shaken and people will be distraught at the roaring of the sea and the waves.” Both comings of Christ bring justice. Jeremiah says of the coming messiah that he will be “for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land,” and because of him Jerusalem shall be called “The Lord our justice.” The second coming is also about justice, about God setting things right, about the ransoming of those who “can stand up straight and stand secure before the Son of Man.” Jesus came to us in Bethlehem to renew the world in love and justice. Christ will come again to fulfill God’s promise of love and justice. .”

Gerald Darring/liturgy.slu.edu



### First Friday

on 6 December 2024

Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena 6.30pm  
Mass 7.00pm

## Advent Reconciliation

TUESDAY	10 Dec	Takapuna	7pm
WEDNESDAY	11 Dec	Torbay	7pm
THURSDAY	12 Dec	Northcote	7pm
FRIDAY	13 Dec	Orewa	7pm
TUESDAY	17 Dec	Glenfield	7pm
FRIDAY	20 Dec	Beach Haven	7pm

St Thomas More Parish  
**Christmas Novena Masses**  
16th to 24th December at 6am



### Simbang Gabi

*A Filipino Advent Mass Tradition*

**Daily Mass at 6am starting  
Monday 16 December 2024**

**Simbang Gabi** is a **Filipino Advent Tradition** introduced by the **Spanish Friars** to allow the farmers to hear mass before going to the fields early in the morning. It is a series of nine dawn masses in anticipation of Christmas and to honour the Blessed Mother. While Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the infant Jesus, Simbang Gabi is a time to honour the Blessed Mother.

## Christmas Giving Tree 2024

All gifts and donations must be returned by  
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024**  
Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you



### CANOPY & CARPARK FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

**Donations Received thus far  
\$75,997.29**

A gentle reminder that for every dollar you give to the parish you are entitled to a 33 cents rebate/refund. We encourage you to take advantage of this facility and participate in the St Thomas More planned giving scheme.

Account Name: **GLENFIELD FUNDRAISING**  
Account Number: **02-0108-0708668-003**  
Reference : **Parishioner’s name and Pledge Number**  
*Thank you for your generosity!!*



## THE WORD OF GOD

### 1st Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Thessalonians 3:12-4:2  
Luke 21:25-28,34-36

### Monday

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Matthew 8:5-11

### Tuesday

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Luke 10:21-24  
*St Francis Xavier, P*

### Wednesday

Isaiah 25:6-10  
Matthew 15:29-37

### Thursday

Isaiah 26:1-6  
Matthew 7:21,24-27

### Friday

Isaiah 29:17-24  
Matthew 9:27-31

### Saturday

Isaiah 30:19:21,23-26  
Matthew 9:35-10:1,6-8  
*St Ambrose, B.D*

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



**Tongan**  
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



**Baptism**  
Preparation  
Courses

Classes will  
resume in  
February 2025

We pray for all those  
who have died recently  
and all those  
whose  
anniversaries  
occur at this  
time.



Please pray for our sick  
parishioners & their families

David McNeill, Margaret Russell,  
Anselmo Salazar, Gaye and  
Ciara Rhodes, 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](mailto:office@stthomasmore.org.nz)



**Holy Cross Seminary**  
[www.holycross.org.nz](http://www.holycross.org.nz)

## Christmas Midnight Mass Choir Practice

**Tuesday 26 November** at 7.30pm in the church.  
**Tuesday 3, 10 & 17 December** at 7.30pm in the Church  
All singers and classical/orchestral instrumentalists are  
welcome to join.

## Christmas Family Vigil Mass Choir Practice:

**Monday 9 & 16 December** at 7.30pm in the church.  
All singers and musicians are welcome.

## PARISH SENIOR'S GROUP

**Tuesday December 10**



In the Hall after Morning Mass  
Our Final Gathering for the Year as we look forward to  
Christmas. All Parishioners Welcome to join us for  
Morning Tea, Carol Singing, Music, Dancing.

Bring a small Gift to go in Santa's  
Sack: **Yes**, Santa will be there.

For more information contact  
**Elizabeth Auger on 021 201 8914**



## Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December

at St Mary's Church, 20 Kiteui Ave, Mt Albert.  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet  
of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass, followed by  
Veneration of St Faustina's relic. All Welcome.



## CLARETIAN WORD MINISTRY 2025 Bible Diary

Your purchase supports the mission work  
in India, especially for the poor.  
Thank you for your support

Available from the parish Office at **\$20**  
each



## TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy

**Bible Stories - what do they mean?** with Beate Mat-  
thies

Sunday, 1 December 2024, 7-8.30pm (Zoom).

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/bible-studies-what-do-they-mean-8/>

**YouTube Recording:**

Jennifer Lobo, a lay woman from Goa, in a 2min inter-  
view about St Francis Xavier whose feast day is on 3  
December: <https://youtu.be/vaNHM397s5U>

For more information: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.nz)

## PROLIFE FACTS

A half-page advert in the Weekend NZ Herald announced the presence of Open Adoption: The Gift of Love. The title for the advert read: "If pregnant and not ready, would I consider an Open Adoption?" What is Open Adoption? In Open Adoption, couples who cannot have their own children register with Oranga Tamariki, which is the supervisory agency for adoption. A woman or girl with an unexpected and unwanted pregnancy, who is reluctant to choose abortion, is offered the opportunity to meet potential parents for her child. She makes her choice and after the baby is born, is encouraged to keep in contact as her baby grows up. **For more pro-life information, visit [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz)**

## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

**Kids Corner:** <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Celebrating-ADVENT-Week-Two-PEACE.pdf>

**Parents pondering: Finding PEACE in a dog Named Cheeseburger**  
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Finding-Peace-in-a-Dog-Named-Cheeseburger.pdf>

## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Ellerslie Parish **Advent Retreat** at Our Lady Of Our Immaculate Conception from Monday, **December 2nd to Friday, 6 December.**  
Preached by **Fr. Richard Shortall SJ** from Hamilton.

### Morning Session:

8:00 AM - Mass & Novena  
8:30 - 9:00 AM - Retreat Talk

### Evening Session:

6:30 PM - Mass & Novena  
7:15 - 7:45 PM - Retreat Talk  
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### Local Youth Ministers Wanted!

The Catholic Diocese of Auckland is looking for self-motivated leaders to become paid Local Youth Ministers, working across both a secondary school and parish. This is a unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people! To learn more and to apply, please visit: [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/)  
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**Food For Faith** for Advent. Sign up at [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz) to prepare for Christmas receiving daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor's Food For Faith website.  
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**Year of Jubilee.** Pope Francis has proclaimed 2025 as a Year of Jubilee – Pilgrims of Hope. As well as local initiatives the diocese has a calendar of **Jubilee Events**. At this stage they are presented as date claimers so that you can put them in your diaries so that when notification of registrations been opened your calendars are free. Explore and return regular to <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/jubilee2025/jubilee-calendar/>  
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**On the 'Wings' of the Spirit!** Gather with others in your parish to explore your faith through the Scriptures and to grow in your relationship with Jesus. Get **Wings.Nga Parirau** in your parish today, the **NZ Catholic Faith Formation programme**. Contact Dianna: [diannaf@cda.org.nz](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)  
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Pope Francis has just released his latest encyclical, "**Delexit Nos**", **He loved us**, in the last couple of days and I will host a series of 3 sessions on this in Advent, **4th, 11th, 18th December, 7 – 7.30pm** on Zoom. Contact Dianna: [diannaf@cda.org.nz](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)  
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**Wake and Pray**, Tuesday mornings in Advent, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th December, a half hour Meditation on Zoom 6.15-6.45am  
Contact: [diannaf@cda.org.nz](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)  
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**Pondering the Advent Sunday Gospels**, Sunday evenings 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd December, on Zoom, 7-7.30 pm.  
Contact: [diannaf@cda.org.nz](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)  
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**Nga Tapuwae.** Registrations are open for Ngā Tapuwae **10th to 12th January 2025**. Come and join us in experiencing the footsteps of Bishop Pompallier, Kupe, and the Poynton's with other pilgrims together sharing our Catholic and Māori heritage. This will be a guided pilgrimage. Accommodation at \$80.00 per night per person will be shared living, experience and eating on the Marae. Your own transport will be required. For more information contact Dcn Steve on [stephenf@cda.org.nz](mailto:stephenf@cda.org.nz)