



2nd Sunday of Advent Year C

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 8 December 2024

Exploring The WORD

Again we hear about the coming “Day of Christ”, and meet the character of John the Baptist. Just as once before he “prepared the way” for the coming of Christ, so today he does the same for us. Our hearts should be open to his voice, as he calls us to repentance, and asks us to make the way straight for the coming of our Lord. The imagery of this Sunday is particularly rich: the dominant image is of a vast population moving together - the return from exile in the first reading, the going and coming of the sowers in the psalm, the community of the Church preparing together in Paul’s letter. We prepare for the coming of the Lord as His people - a community who cooperate to make the “processional way” of the Holy One - flattening the hills of opposition and ridicule, filling in the valleys of doubt and despair, so that “all mankind shall see the salvation of God.”

PRAYER THIS WEEK

“The word of God came to John .”

In our chaos, Lord,
oh, let us hear once again
The Baptist crying
out to us.

“Prepare the way, make straight the paths.
Every valley filled and hills made low.
All flesh shall see the salvation
of God.”

God of constant newness,
carve fresh roads into our wilderness:
into climate and racial emergency.
Let our whole life point
to Jesus.

He is born here, is with us now.
Jesus, please turn
our deserts into gardens. Amen

ADVENT SPIRITUALITY

Joyful Anticipation

“Advent is a time of joyful anticipation. It is time, the prophet Baruch says, “to take off your robe of mourning and misery,” for God is leading his people “with his mercy and justice for company.” God’s people “are wrapped in the cloak of justice from God,” and they “will be named by God forever the peace of justice.” Paul, too, speaks of joyful anticipation, of waiting for “the day of Christ Jesus.” He encourages the Philipppians to grow in “love, understanding, wealth of experience, clear conscience, and blameless conduct,” and he concludes with a wish: “that you may be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you.” The message of John the Baptist is to prepare the way for the coming of Christ, to make straight the windings and to make smooth the rough ways. We need a “baptism of repentance,” a cleansing from the old ways of “greed and darkness” and a commitment to a new way of living. We need to challenge the wisdom of the world in the way it was challenged by that prophet in the desert.” *Gerald Darring/liturgy.slu.edu*

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

IMPORTANT PARISH NOTICE

Fr Pio will be on annual leave from 3rd—17th January 2025.

There will be **NO 1ST FRIDAY AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS** during this time.

4th Jan 5.30pm Vigil Mass Fr Leo
5th Jan 8am & 10am Mass Fr Chris Skinner
11th Jan 5.30pm Vigil Mass Fr Chris Skinner
12th Jan 8am & 10am Mass Fr Chris Skinner

There will be Liturgical Services during the weekdays. The Church will remain opened for personal prayer until 5pm every afternoon. Thank you

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.

CANOPY & CARPARK FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

Donations Received thus far
\$77,604.25

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

THE WORD OF GOD

2nd Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9
Philippians 1:3-6.8-11
Luke 3:1-6

Monday

Genesis 3:9-15.20
Ephesians 1:3-6.11-12
Luke 1:26-38

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION BVM

Tuesday

Isaiah 40:1-11
Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday

Isaiah 40:25-31
Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday

Isaiah 41:13-20
Matthew 11:11-15

Friday

Isaiah 48:17-19
Matthew 11:16-19
St Lucy, V.M

Saturday

Ecclesiasticus 48:1-4.9-11
Matthew 17:10-13
St John of the Cross, p.D

Christmas Midnight Mass Choir Practice

Tuesday 26 November at 7.30pm in the church.
TUESDAY, 10 & WEDNESDAY, 18 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.



A huge shout out to our Parish Seniors & Martha Group for your beautiful display of Arts, Crafts and delicious baking which contributed very generously to the Fundraising Initiative. We appreciate your generosity. Thank you

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



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

**South
African
Community**



**CLARETIAN
WORD MINISTRY
2025 Bible Diary**
\$20 each

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

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



Holy Cross Seminary
www.holycross.org.nz

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

G.I.F.T. Christmas Mass Celebration Growth in Faith Together for people with intellectual disabilities. Sunday 15th December at 4.00pm at Good Shepherd Church, Telford Ave, Balmoral. After mass please join us for a meal. Everyone welcome.

See the Need. Be the Hope! Catholic Caring Foundation's Christmas Appeal Please support the Caring Foundation's Christmas appeal through your donations and prayers. Your donation will have **double the impact!**. Please feel free to take home our Christmas newsletter and see where your donations are making a difference. Call (09) 360 3012 or email www.caringfoundation.org.nz

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/

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 www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/jubilee2025/jubilee-calendar/

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

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

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

Pondering the Advent Sunday Gospels, Sunday evenings 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd December, on Zoom, 7-7.30 pm. Contact: diannaf@cda.org.nz

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

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JOSHUA Catholic Men's Fellowship Joshua Family Night at St Marks Church

All families are invited to the next Joshua meeting on **Mon 9 Dec at 7.30pm** at St Marks Church Hall, 334 Pakuranga Rd, Pakuranga. Please bring a plate if you can and come and find out what a Joshua meeting is all about!

Our guest speaker for the evening is Pregnancy Choice Director - **Rebecca Crowe**.

Call Mike Lobo 021 280 9285 for more information

TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy

YouTube Recording:
Where does God want us to be? - Muffin Talk with Debbie Miller:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/12/03/where-does-god-want-us-to-be/>

Reflections by Beate Matthies:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/reflections-2/>
For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

PROLIFE FACTS

The PRO-LIFE DIALOGUE 101 TRAINING was hosted by the NZ Centre for Bio-ethical Reform in Christchurch on November 24-26th. Hosted by Canadian presenter Quiana Casamoyer, many ideas on how to engage in effective prolife dialogue were addressed. In order to change people's minds on abortion, we need to address the central question – the humanity of the unborn child. But we need to advocate not only for the unborn child, but also for their family. Conversations should begin at an individual's point of need, which is often the justification of abortion based on the needs of the pregnant woman. A tailor made response based on what they are telling us is required. We must strive to work with people, not against them, and then the common ground we agree upon creates the stage where we can share our heartfelt beliefs with each other.
For more pro-life information, visit Voice for Life at www.voiceforlife.org.nz.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

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

Parents pondering: ENJOY the SEASON
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Enjoy-the-Season.pdf>