



3rd Sunday of Advent Year C

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 15 December 2024

Exploring The WORD

This Sunday is called “Gaudete” Sunday — “Rejoice Sunday”. This comes from the readings we hear today, and it underlines an important point. In the Gospel, we hear John the Baptist telling different groups what to do - they must repent, and change their lives. We might think of this as a rather joyless thing - something which is hard and unrewarding. The message of this Sunday is that repentance and changing our lives to welcome Jesus is something richly joyful. When we are planning to welcome anyone we love to our homes, we set about cleaning and preparing for their visit with enthusiasm - nothing is too much trouble for someone we care for greatly. Even scrubbing the bath or polishing the furniture can be a happy and joyful thing! The message of this Sunday is that preparing to welcome the Lord - even though it may involve hard work - is something utterly joyful, because of our love for Him, and His love for us.

PRAYER THIS WEEK

“The crowds ... tax collectors ... soldiers ... asked John the Baptist, “what should we do?”

What should we do
to ready our hearts
O Lord for your coming?

Your Baptist says we must
give away our coat,
share our food,
make justice for all.

Lord,
baptize us with the fire of your Holy Spirit
burn the chaff from the wheat.
gather us into your kind
and loving arms.
Warm our hearts
to share your
love with everyone. Amen

ADVENT SPIRITUALITY

Hope and Joy

“What an overwhelming message is carried in today’s liturgy: “Rejoice in the Lord always! May we experience the joy of salvation! Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Cry out with joy and gladness!” There is a profound sense of hope for a better world to come, a world in which, the prophet says, “you have no further misfortune to fear and the apostle tells us to dismiss all anxiety from your minds.” The reason for this joy and hope is clear: “The Lord himself is near” ([Second Reading](#)); “there is one to come who is mightier than I” ([Gospel](#)). It is within this context of joyous and hopeful expectation of the coming of Christ that we must understand the exhortations of John to the people. Our work for a better world is preparation for the coming of Christ. It is also a sign that the coming of Christ is near. “The Spirit of the Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor.” That is the message which we are to shout with joy: Jesus is coming with Good News for all those who are suffering because of injustice and peacelessness.” [Gerald Darring/liturgy.slu.edu](#)

Advent Reconciliation

TUESDAY	17 Dec	Glenfield	7pm
FRIDAY	20 Dec	Beach Haven	7pm

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 19th April 2024.

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield

Christmas & New Year’s Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December 2024

7:00 pm - Candlelight Carol Service

7:30pm - Family Christmas Mass

11:30 pm - Candlelight Carol Service

12:00 am - Midnight Christmas Mass

Christmas Day, Wednesday 25 December 2024

8.45 am - Christmas Carols

09:00 am - Christmas Day Mass

11:30am - Chaldean Christmas Mass

New Year’s Eve, Tuesday 31 December 2024

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

7:30 pm - New Year’s Eve Mass

New Year’s Day, Wednesday 1 January 2024

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9.15am - New Year’s Day Mass

SPECIAL 2ND COLLECTION AT ALL CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Midnight Mass Choir Practice

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

Family Vigil Mass Choir Practice:

Last practice Monday 16 December at 7.30pm in the church.
All singers and musicians are welcome.



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.

THE WORD OF GOD

3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-18

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18

Monday

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17

Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday

Genesis 49:2, 8-10

Matthew 1:1-17

Wednesday

Jeremiah 23:5-8

Matthew 1:18-24

Thursday

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25

Luke 1:5-25

Friday

Isaiah 7:10-14

Luke 1:26-38

Saturday

Zephaniah 3:14-18

Luke 1:39-45

IMPORTANT PARISH NOTICE

WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES and DEVOTIONS

Will resume in **FEBRUARY, 2025**

THURSDAY ADORATION and FIRST FRIDAY
ADORATION AND EVENING MASS

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

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

Christmas Giving Tree

This year the Giving Tree program managed to supply
30 beautiful hampers and children's gifts to families in
need in our community through St Vincent de Paul.

We were also able to gift supplies to the Fijian
community and gifts to the
'Little Sprouts' trust.

Thank you to each and
everyone in our Parish for your
support and generosity.

*The smiles on the families
faces says it all!!!!!!*



Parish Office will be CLOSED from

**Wednesday, 25 DECEMBER 2024
to
Monday, 13 JANUARY 2025.**



Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women,

is excited to be launching a new initiative called
DOVECOTES. We invite you to prayerfully consider
joining us by forming a Dovecote in your parish. All it
needs is for two or more women, to support each other to
deepen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ,
through regular shared prayer. Our leaflet called
'Welcome to Dovecotes' available from your
parish, contains all the relevant information. It's
also on our website: www.dove.org.nz or email
Gloria Stafford: dovenational.leader@gmail.com



VACANCY

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference is
seeking an **EXPERIENCED JOURNALIST** to support its
communications efforts in 2025 and beyond. This new
position will assist the Church in sharing its stories and in
keeping the Catholic and wider community informed about
the life, mission and ministry of the Church. A background
in religious journalism would be advantageous, as would
experience in media monitoring. Please send expressions
of interest to communications@nzcbc.org.nz no later than
January 12. The role could be filled sooner than January
12 for the right candidate, so please contact the Bishops
Conference promptly.

PROLIFE FACTS

The streets around Parliament were filled
on Saturday 7th December for the annual
March for Life. Thousands of people attended, each
committed to life and willing to make a public witness to
promote respect for life. The March reminded the nation's
capital that the lives of pre-born children matter and their
right to life should be inviolate. And not only the unborn.
Authorising doctors to take the life of a human being under
our End of Life Choice Act also called us to march. At the
end of the March, we were privileged to hear some
powerful short speeches from Simon O'Connor, Brendan
Malone, and Canadian Quiana Casamayor from the
Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform. **For more
pro-life information, visit www.voiceforlife.org.nz.**

Young Catholic Family Seeking Rental

We are a young Catholic family looking for a 3-4 bedroom
rental in Auckland, ready to move in before the end of
January 2025. As responsible, community-minded tenants,
we are ideally looking for a longer-term tenancy, within the
\$600-\$700pw range. If you have a property available,
please contact Sam Brebner at 027 1800 2238

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Christmas Mass on Shine TV this year
Christmas Mass from the Archdiocese of
Wellington will be broadcast on Shine TV at
3pm. Please let interested people know
especially the housebound.
—oOo—

Christmas Mass Times the diocese has
collected the times of Christmas Masses
throughout the diocese which can be accessed
from the front page of the website or directly
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/christmas-masses-2024/>
—oOo—

Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women, is
excited to be launching a new initiative called
Dovecotes. We invite you to prayerfully consider
joining us by forming a Dovecote in your parish.
All it needs is for two or more women, to support
each other to deepen their personal relationship
with Jesus Christ, through regular shared
prayer. Our leaflet called 'Welcome to
Dovecotes', contains all the relevant
information. It's on our website:
www.dove.org.nz or email Gloria Stafford: dovenational.leader@gmail.com
—oOo—

January 2025 Retreat with Dan and Stephanie
Burke from **Avila Institute and Divine Intimacy
Radio. Sat 4th Jan:** Setting the Captives Free:
Spiritual Warfare and Discernment of Spirits,
**Hillsborough. Full day retreat. Mon
6th Jan:** Awakening the Heart to the Presence
of God; **Meadowbank 6-9pm. Tues
7th Jan:** Deeper Into the Heart of God;
Ponsonby 6-9pm. For more information and to
register: <https://spiritualdirection.com/nz>
—oOo—

Theology of the Body - Registration OPEN for
2025. Human Love in the Divine Plan:
Beginners Course : **Sat 14 and Sun 15
February 2025.** Mission Bay, Auckland. Book
Study on Dr Edward Sri's Men, Women and the
Mystery of Love -Wed evenings starting **12
February 2025;** Hillsborough, Auckland
All adults 20+ are welcome. To register please
visit: theologyofthebody.nz
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**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. www.caringfoundation.org.nz or
call (09) 360 3012.
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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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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/](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/jubilee2025/jubilee-calendar/)
—oOo—

Opening of the Year of Jubilee Join Bishop
Steve in Mass opening the year of Jubilee 2025,
Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph, 11pm,
31 December.

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

**Iraqi
Community**



Last opportunity to
advertise on the
newsletter for
2025.

8 spaces left.

Please contact the Parish
Office on **09 444 8624 / email
office@stthomasmore.org.nz**
on or before Thursday,
19 December 2024

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