



## Exploring The WORD

It's only in this last week before Christmas that we begin to hear about the "Christmas story" itself. For the past weeks we have been preparing ourselves to greet the Lord, when he comes. Now we prepare to remember how he first came, by listening to the prophecies of his coming, and by hearing of the events before his birth. We meet the woman, Mary, who herself had been prepared for the coming of the Messiah. She has received the angel's greeting, and his strange news, and has accepted her role in God's plan. Now she hurries to her kinswoman, Elizabeth, who herself bears John the Baptist in her womb. John, just as we heard last week, alerts us to the presence of the Lord, as he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. His joy is that God has kept his promise, and is with his people.

## PRAYER THIS WEEK

*"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb."*

Treasures spilling over,  
secrets pouring out  
in sheer delight.  
The women  
hugging  
as the  
baby  
leaps for joy!

Holy Spirit,  
fill us too.  
With yourself.  
Teach us to love.  
And let us cry out in joy,  
since the Lord has come to be  
within us and within all humankind.

Let our spirits  
jump for joy!. Amen

## ADVENT SPIRITUALITY

### Come, Lord Jesus

Lord, let us see your face. We have come so close to the coming of Christ; it is as though we can stand the waiting no longer. We want to see God's face. And what is that face like when it comes? It is the face of God become poor, the all-powerful God taking flesh in the womb of a virgin, that most disparaged of creatures in Jewish culture. It is the face of God become poor, the all-powerful God being born in an obscure village, Bethlehem, "too small to be among the clans of Judah." It is the face of God become poor, the all-powerful God present in the meeting of two insignificant women, far from the worldly centers of power. Christmas happens. Christ comes, but in strange ways and surprising circumstances. Many of us miss the coming of Christ because we expect him where and when he is not. God has to "make us turn in a different direction" so that we can find Christ in poverty (Bethlehem) and in the poor and outcast (Mary and Elizabeth). Christ, our Savior, not only loved the poor, but rather "being rich he became poor," he lived in poverty. His mission centered on advising the poor of their liberation and he founded his Church as the sign of that poverty among men. **Gerald Darring/ liturgy.slu.edu**

## 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**



### MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear parishioners of St Thomas More  
May God's love and Christ's peace bless you and your families  
abundantly this Christmas and throughout the New Year, 2025.

Do not take for granted the miracle of Christmas but clasp and embrace with all your might the JOY it brings. It is a joy that comes to us as a direct result of knowing Christ Jesus, along with all that he has done for us, and will do, not just in this life, but eternally. Have a blessed and the most joyous of Christmases.



### 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

### CANOPY & CARPARK FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

**Donations Received thus far  
\$80,131.25**

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

### 4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-44

### Monday

Malachi 3:1-4,23-24  
Luke 1:57-66

### Tuesday

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-11,16  
Luke 1:67-79

### 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 2:1-14

### Wednesday

### Christmas Day The Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah 52:7-10  
Hebrews 1:1-6  
John 1:1-18

### Thursday

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-60  
Matthew 10:17-22

### St Stephen, First Matyr

### Friday

1 John 1:1-4  
John 20:2-8

### St John, Apostle & Evangelist

### Saturday

1 John 1:5-2:2  
Matthew 2:13-18

### Holy Innocents, Mm



The Parish Office will be closed from  
24 December 2024 until  
12 January 2025.

### Normal office hours

Monday to Friday  
10am to 4pm will resume 13 January 2023.

Parish Newsletters will be available on the weekend of  
25/26 January 2025

Check out the parish website  
[www.glenfieldcatholic.org.nz](http://www.glenfieldcatholic.org.nz) for mass times.



As 2024 draws to a close,  
we would like to take a moment to express our  
sincere gratitude to everyone who makes De Paul  
House the incredible community it is today.  
In a year filled with uncertainty, thank you for making  
this, and every time of the year brighter for us.

WE WISH YOU ALL PEACE AND  
GOODWILL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

Jan A. Hledge  
GENERAL MANAGER



### 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](http://www.dove.org.nz) or  
email Gloria Stafford: [dovenational.leader@gmail.com](mailto:dovenational.leader@gmail.com)



PRAY CHRISTMAS  
MASS

Christmas Day @ 3pm  
SHINE TV

Free-to-air TV Channel 25

SKY TV Channel 201

## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

**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/>

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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](http://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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**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](mailto: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.

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**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.

## TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy

YouTube Recordings (approx. 15min each):

Christians in Ukraine - Elena Burduk  
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/12/17/christians-in-ukraine/>

How to respond to abuse in the Church? - Fr Joe Grayland

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/12/12/how-to-respond-to-abuse-in-the-church/>

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

## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

**Kids Corner:** <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/HOLY-FAMILY-FEAST-MASS.pdf>

**Parents pondering: SCARS of LOVE**  
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Scars-of-Love.pdf>



**Our cuppas after the 10am Mass will recommence in February 2025.**

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](mailto:office@stthomasmore.org.nz)



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