



## 4th Sunday of Advent Year A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 21 December 2025

### Exploring the WORD

Here we enter a new stage of Advent: having spent so much time on the Second Coming, now we look back, to remember the details of the Lord's First Coming. Today we focus on the characters of Mary and Joseph, and hear of the circumstances surrounding the conception of the child Jesus, and the reaction of Joseph. This mystery springs from the House of David, and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the promise that the Messiah would come from that line. The link between the First Reading and the Gospel is quite explicit today, since Matthew actually quotes Isaiah. Joseph, descendant of King David, is invited to take his place in the great story of God's relationship with the Chosen people. There is great sense of a timeless mystery reaching its focal point, as that which was "promised long ago" (Second Reading) now takes flesh in the womb of Mary.

### PRAYER THIS WEEK

"This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about."

She conceived  
the holy child within her  
because  
"the Holy Ghost over the  
bent world broods  
with warm breast  
and with ah! bright wings."

Softly caring, watching,  
always at hand,  
warming the world  
with love.

God among us.  
God with us.

Be born for us soon,  
soon.

Quote: Gerard Manley Hopkins from "God's Grandeur."

## GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

### God With Us

Sunday's liturgy is about God with us, Emmanuel. We have arrived at the moment of the celebration of God's presence within the human family. The Emmanuel of Advent-Christmas, the God who is with us, witnesses our social life from within the community, so that God is not far away but is actually among us as we become part of each others lives (and sometimes step on them), as we work together (and sometimes against each other), as we try to support each other (and yet abandon millions of people to the miseries of destitution). There is no childish game of hide and seek with this God, who is present to witness our good deeds and our misdeeds. "Let the Lord enter (Ps 24:7c)." We rejoice at the prospect of having God among us, and yet we should also reflect on the awesome responsibility of living in the presence of God. "We who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ" (Rom 1:6) should imitate Mary, who, when faced with the reality of Emmanuel, "placed her life at the service of God's plan" (Catholic Exchange). *Gerald Darring/* [www.liturgy.slu.edu](http://www.liturgy.slu.edu)

## Parish Priest Christmas Message



I pray that this Christmas be a time of peace and joy, a time to share with our family, friends and loved ones. I wish you all a peaceful and

joyful Christmas and we remember and pray particularly for those who may not be able to celebrate due to loss, hardship, illness or other reasons. May they know that they are not alone, and that we are here to support them as a parish community.

Perhaps the Christmas message this year 2025 is an invitation for all of us to become more involved. It is not just about giving more. It is about giving more of ourselves. That is what God did when he became one of us and entered our world at the first Christmas.

As the year comes to an end, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your support and prayers all throughout this year. You have all been a source of inspiration and encouragement for me, and I appreciate you all and am very grateful for your gift of faith.

I pray that the Lord will fill your homes and hearts with His peace, joy and love, and that you will experience His presence and power more intimately and in life-giving ways. May the Baby Jesus rain down His choicest blessings on all of us for a very grace-filled Christmas and prosperous New Year.

With much love and prayerful gratitude.  
Fr. Pio Fong Waqavotuwale.



### Choir Practice

**CHRISTMAS VIGIL CHOIR** – Last Practice on **MONDAY**  
22nd Dec at 7.30 pm

**CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT CHOIR** – Last Practice on **TUESDAY**  
23<sup>rd</sup> Dec at 7 pm

For any information, please contact Sylvia Hartley  
[aldonsylvia@gmail.com](mailto:aldonsylvia@gmail.com)

### St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

#### Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24 December 2025

6:25 pm - Candlelight Carol Service

7:00pm - Family Christmas Mass

11:25 pm - Candlelight Carol Service

12:00 am - Midnight Christmas Mass

#### Christmas Day, Thursday 25 December 2025

8.25 am - Christmas Carols

09:00 am - Christmas Day Mass

12:00 pm - Chaldean Christmas Mass

#### New Year's Eve, Wednesday 31 December 2025

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

7:00 pm - New Year's Eve Mass

#### New Year's Day, Thursday 1 January 2026

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9.15am - New Year's Day Mass

**2ND COLLECTION AT CHRISTMAS MASSES FOR  
THE CARE OF RETIRED PRIESTS**

### CANOPY & CARPARK FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

**Donations Received thus far — \$183,858.02**

Account Name: **ST THOMAS MORE GLENFIELD**  
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

Isaiah 7:10-14

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

### Monday

1 Samuel 1:24-28

Luke 1:46-56

### Tuesday

Malachi 3:1-4,23-24

Luke 1:57-66

### Wednesday

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

### Thursday

#### Nativity of the Lord—

Isaiah 9:1-7

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14



### Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18

### Friday

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-60

Matthew 10:17-22

### St Stephen, First Martyr

### Saturday

1 John 1:1-4

John 20:2-8

### St John, Apostle & Evangelist



Our cuppas after the 10am Mass will recommence in February 2026.

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

John Lee, Margaret & Alan Skinner, David McNeill, Anselmo Salazar, Gaye and Ciara Rhodes, Israel Nathan, Tamar Mathews, Mark Delaurier

Contact the Parish office if you wish to add names  
office@stthomasmore.org.nz

### Kid's Korner



Catholic Diocese of Auckland  
Te Taumata o te Hahi Katorika

Please **DO NOT** double park in the main carpark and block access for drop-offs and emergency vehicles.

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



### IMPORTANT PARISH NOTICES

THURSDAY ADORATION and FIRST FRIDAY EVENING MASS Will resume in **FEBRUARY, 2026**



The Parish Office will be closed from 24 December 2025 until **13 January 2026**.

**Normal office hours** - Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm will resume 14 January 2026.

—oOo—

**Parish Newsletters will be available on the weekend of 24/25 January 2026**

—oOo—

Fr Pio will be on Leave from **5th - 20th January 2026**. There will be Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion during the weekdays and normal Sunday Masses



Tabernacles - where to place them? with Prof. em. Thomas O'Loughlin  
The recording of the online presentation is now online at:

[www.studyjoy.nz/2025/12/03/tabernacles-in-the-catholic-church/](http://www.studyjoy.nz/2025/12/03/tabernacles-in-the-catholic-church/)

**A Christmas Party Story.** A short and true little story...  
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2025/12/07/the-holy-spirit-at-work/>

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

### CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

**Kids Corner:** <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/CELEBRATING-3rd-SUNDAY-OF-ADVENT.pdf>

**Parents pondering: ADVENT: A GIFT OF THE HEART**  
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Advent-A-Gift-of-the-heart.pdf>

## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

**Catholic Caring Foundation's Christmas Appeal Give** a gift to help families and people in need. Please support the Caring Foundation's Christmas appeal through your donations and prayers. Your donation will have double the impact! "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." Take home our newsletter, and donation card, or visit [www.caringfoundation.org.nz](http://www.caringfoundation.org.nz) or call (09) 360 3012.

**Wings.Nga Parirau** Have you tried praying and meeting with others in small groups from the comfort of your own home and table? It's all good! Daily Meditation 6.15am on Zoom Reflection with Pope Leo XIV Dilexi Te, Wednesday evenings 7pm on Zoom Lectio Divina, pondering the Sunday Gospel, Saturdays 7pm on Zoom. Contact Dianna Fouhy, Faith Formation Team, Catholic Diocese of Auckland [diannaf@cda.org.nz](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)

**Catholic Enquiry Centre : Three Part-Time Roles:** The Catholic Enquiry Centre (an agency of the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference) is expanding its digital outreach in 2026 and is seeking passionate, faith-filled people to join the team:

**Digital Ministry Specialist (Content & Platform)** – oversee CEC's website and social media, creating content that helps people explore faith.

**Digital Ministry Specialist (Media Production)** – create short videos, testimonies, and reels introducing Catholic faith and traditions.

**Resource & Enquiry Support Officer** – respond to enquirers and coordinate the dispatch of printed resources across Aotearoa. All roles are **part-time (0.4 FTE)** and may be remote or Wellington-based. Expressions of interest to [carly@catholicenquiry.nz](mailto:carly@catholicenquiry.nz) by Friday 9 January 2026. Roles may be filled sooner for the right candidates.

**Catholic Diocese of Christchurch: Chief Finance Officer.** The Diocese is looking to recruit a Chief Finance Officer (CFO) to lead a passionate and committed team and be a key strategic partner in shaping the future of the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch. The primary responsibility of the role is to safeguard and improve the financial position and performance of the Diocese, enabling the achievement of its pastoral and property objectives. The CFO drives risk management and ensures an excellent standard of reporting. For a full Candidate Brief please email [applications@cdoc.nz](mailto:applications@cdoc.nz). To apply, click on the following link <https://www.seek.co.nz/CFO-jobs/in-Christchurch-Central-Canterbury?jobId=89003868&type=promoted> or attach your cover letter and CV to [applications@cdoc.nz](mailto:applications@cdoc.nz) with 'Chief Financial Officer Job Application' in the subject line. Applications close 11.59pm Thursday 15 January 2026. For more information please phone Annette Pugh on 03 378 3647.

**Property Officer : St Patrick's & St Joseph Cathedral, Auckland.** The Cathedral is looking for a part time (10 hours per week) **Property Officer**, responsible for maintaining the Cathedral buildings and grounds to a high standard of safety and cleanliness. Duties include property inspections, managing contractors, minor repairs, and ensuring security systems and compliance requirements are met. What we're looking for: Trades background and practical maintenance experience; Self-motivated, organised, and able to work independently. Applicants for this position must have NZ residency or a valid NZ work permit. Applications close 19 December 2025. To view the full advert, position description and how to apply, please visit the Diocesan website [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz) Diocesan Services, Staff Vacancies.

