

Parish of St Francis & St Therese

Reverend Father John Webb – Parish Priest

Mass Times: Monday 10am Christ the King, Selwyn Village
Tuesday 9:15am St Francis, Selwyn Village
Saturday 9:15am St Therese, Selwyn Village
Reconciliation by appointment.



First Sunday of Advent 28th November 2021

Today's Readings: 1st Rdg: Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 26

2nd Rdg: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36



Dear Parishioners,

As we set out on a new Liturgical year, the Liturgy gives us an overview of God's relationship with his people – hence the Jesse Tree which the children usually dress during Advent (yet another victim of Covid). The ultimate focus of Advent is the coming of Christ – which is two-edged; we look forward to celebrating his coming as a child on that first Christmas night, but we also look forward to his second coming at the end of time. Advent reminds us that we are the heirs to the promises made to the Jewish people. It reminds us that the history of Israel was leading and pointing to the coming of Christ. The first reading in this Sunday's liturgy points to His first coming, the Messiah whose reign will be one of justice, peace and wisdom. The Gospel alludes to His second coming at the end of time. We live in the in between times. After His first coming but before His second coming. As we start our Advent journey, let us follow in the footsteps of Jesus and live by his message of hope, love, justice and compassion.

You are always in my prayers. God bless. Fr John.

 Week 1 Hope	 Week 2 Faith
Reminds us... Jesus is coming Bible verse Romans 15:12-13 Bible verse Luke 2:10 Reminds us... The joy at the coming birth of Jesus	Reminds us... To prepare the way of the Lord Bible verse Luke 3:4-6 Bible verse Luke 2:14 Reminds us... "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours"
 Week 3 Joy	 Week 4 Peace

HOPE: "There shall be a root of Jesse and he who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles in him the Gentiles shall hope. Now may the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. That you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit". Romans 15:12-13

SUNDAY ZOOM SESSION WITH FR JOHN 11AM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6421926224> Meeting ID: 642 192 6224 Passcode: 884422



the nathaniel centre
THE NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTRE

PO Box 12243 | Wellington 6144 | New Zealand | Tel 64 4 499 2251
www.nathaniel.org.nz | administrator@nathaniel.org.nz

Address: 46 Pt Chevalier Road, Pt Chevalier. **Ph:** 09 846 7612, **Fax:** 09 846 7616,

Email: stfrancis-ptchev@xtra.co.nz **Secretary:** Ms Paula Betham

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am – 2:30pm; except Thursday Office Closed.

Parish Account: RC Bishop of Auckland (Pt Chev) BNZ Auckland 02-0100-0120982-017

St Francis School Principal: Mrs Lisa Bateman Ph: 846 4696



GETTING PREPARED FOR THE COVID TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM



Government announcement 4pm on 29th November looks likely to advise a date for us to move to the traffic light system. There is more detailed information on www.covid19.govt.nz.

This simple table below sent from Bishop Patrick Dunn.

What does the traffic light system mean for church gatherings?

Here's a simple table:

Traffic light	With 'My Vaccine Pass'	Without 'My Vaccine Pass'
RED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gatherings up to 100 people / 1m distancing Record keeping / scanning required Face coverings recommended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gatherings up to 10 people Record keeping / scanning required Face coverings recommended
ORANGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gatherings of unlimited people Record keeping / scanning required Face coverings encouraged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gatherings up to 50 people / 1m distancing Record keeping / scanning required Face coverings encouraged
GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gatherings of unlimited people Record keeping / scanning required Face coverings encouraged indoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gatherings up to 100 people / 1m distancing Record keeping / scanning required Face coverings encouraged indoors

After the last lockdown, we didn't resume Parish Masses until Alert Level 1. The introduction of the traffic light system and vaccination passes, changes things up a little. Our Bishops have organised meetings with our Priests to help plan, discuss practical options and any concerns. We will also be calling a Parish Council/Liturgy meeting to plan further. We will keep you informed as decisions are made.



A lot of people are feeling confused, overwhelmed and are just plain over it all! We've done it before we can do it again TOGETHER! Please be patient and kind.

CHOSEN NOT TO GET VACCINATED?

Part of the planning process is trying to find out how many of our Parishioners, if any, are **unvaccinated** (for whatever reason). We need to enable your spiritual needs are also met. In this regard we ask our unvaccinated brothers and sisters please email the parish office to advise of same – no reasons need to be given and no judgement will be made, it is simply so that we can plan. Numbers only will be shared, not names or personal details. Thank you.

TRYING TO GET YOUR Vaccine Pass visit

<https://mycovidrecord.health.nz/>

- Request **My Vaccine Pass** for use within Aotearoa New Zealand
- Request an **International Travel Vaccination Certificate**
- View your **vaccination record**

If you need help to get your vaccine pass, Paula can help, just contact the Parish Office at any time.



Pray For The Sick

Tony Soon, Robbie Rowe, Audrey Earl,
Chan San Mooi, Maureen Barbafiera
Russell Finnemore, Murray Hobson, Deacon
Kalolo Pasina and Maree van den Hurk.

Pray for the Deceased

Pray for all those who are recently deceased
especially Fr Jacques Duquesne
Please pray also for all those whose
Anniversaries occur around this time.

Upcoming Readings

Sunday 5th December 2021

2nd Sunday of Advent Yr C

1st Rdg: Baruch 5:1-9 **Psalm** 127

2nd Rdg: Philipians 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Next Baptism Preparation Class TO BE CONFIRMED

Sacramental Programme

Lessons are now complete, thank you to all
involved.

We will contact you again once we know when
our Masses will be

We are happy to announce that **Ray White Pt. Chevalier - Von Group Ltd.** (*previously known as "the Professionals Real Estate Point Chevalier"*) have agreed to be a major contributor towards our St. Francis School Canopy project should at least one person in our St. Francis network that is looking at selling their property approach **Derek von Sturmer of Ray White Pt. Chevalier - Von Group Ltd.** directly on **027 533 7357** or Derek.vs@raywhite.com. Accordingly, if you're looking at selling, please contact Derek directly and let him know that you are from St. Francis.

Please also let **Stuart King know (027 818 2403)** so we can keep track of the approaches.

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thank you

Father John and the Parish Finance Committee would like to send out a Huge Thank You to those Parishioners who have continued making their regular pledge giving and building fund donations. It is greatly appreciated, particularly, as like other households, costs and expenses continue despite the Covid lockdown. To compound the issue, Hall and billboard advertising income has reduced considerably. Fortunately, the Parish has received the Government's Resurgence and Wage Subsidy payments that has helped offset part of the reduced income and pledge giving.

So thank you once again for your continued generosity and support.

Church Renovation Project

By way of an update, our timeline has been pushed out due to Covid and we are hopeful to be in a position to update Parishioners by the end of the 1st quarter of 2022 regarding design plans and estimated costings.

SPONSORSHIPS

Major Sponsorship(s): >\$25,000
will receive prominent signage recognition.

Minor sponsorship(s): >\$ 10, 000
will receive signage recognition.

BUY-A-BRICK

\$500+ contribution:
will receive a guaranteed name plaque.

\$200-\$500 contribution:
will go into a draw for a name plaque.

Payments can be made by bank transfer to the Parish
Bank Account.

RC Bishop of Akld BNZ 02-0100-0120982-017



The **2022 Columban Art Calendars** are now available for purchase at \$12 per calendar. Simply transfer your payment into the Parish Account 02-0100-0120982-017 with Ref "2022 Cal." Email the Parish Office stfrancis-ptchev@xtra.co.nz with the delivery address and Paula will either post it to you or arrange a collection date from the Presbytery Office.

Ever-living God, grant that we may always try to want and do what you want us to do. May we serve you with a sincere heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

¹⁴ The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah.

¹⁵ In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot ; he shall do what is right and just in the land.

¹⁶ In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: "The LORD our justice."

Ko te kupu a te Ariki - The Word of the Lord



PSALM

Psalms 26

Response: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

⁴ Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths,

⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and for you I wait all the day.

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

⁸ Good and upright is the LORD; thus he shows sinners the way.

⁹ He guides the humble to justice, and teaches the humble his way.

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

¹⁴ The friendship of the LORD is with those who fear him, and his covenant, for their instruction.

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Brothers and sisters:

¹² May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you,

¹³ so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen.

¹ Finally, brothers and sisters, we earnestly ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that, as you received from us how you should conduct yourselves to please God and as you are conducting yourselves you do so even more.

² For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

Ko te kupu a te Ariki - The Word of the Lord



GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples:

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

²⁶ People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

²⁸ But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

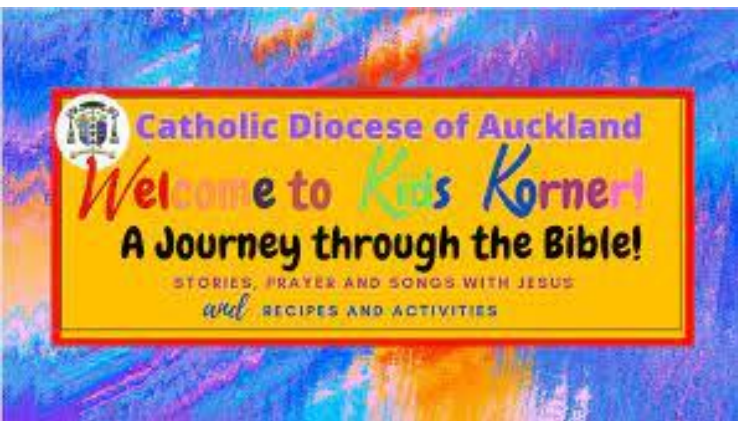
³⁴ "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise

³⁵ like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth.

³⁶ Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."

**Ko te rongopai a te Ariki - The Gospel of the Lord.
Kia whakanuia rā koe, e te Ariki, e Hēhu Karaiti -
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

LITURGICAL RESOURCES



Kids Korner:
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/download/kids-korner/>
Parent Ponderings:
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/download/parent-ponderings/>

Liturgy of the Word for families with children:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Advent-1st-Sunday-Year-C.pdf>

The diocese has a number of resources available on its website to support people during this time <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/home-2020-new-design/the-church-and-covid>

Shine TV Sundays at
2.00pm Free-to-air
TV Channel 25, Sky
TV Channel 201

Catholic Mass showings



NZCatholic

The national Catholic newspaper Nov. 28-Dec. 11, 2021 - No. 628

NZ bishops issue parish guidelines for traffic light framework 3 Caritas director Julianne Hickey moving on from her role 11

Park and Pray



SYNOD – For a Synodal Church. There are number of resources available on the diocesan website to inform people of the background, resources available to support and process of this important moment in the Church's story. <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/synod/> This includes suggestions for how individuals might get involved.



A reminder that I formally give you **dispensation** from the **obligation** to participate at Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.



(cc 87 #1, 1247). * Bishop Patrick Dunn 24 March 2020

The **priests** are still **praying Mass**, privately without a physically present Congregation. They are **praying for all people** and with all people.

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/da517399-e74a-4f9c-8c03-9c9cd286da00>

New CDA Connect issue out now!

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/services/cda-connect/>

Daily Reflections from Bishops Pat and Michael Reflections from the Bishops on Facebook [Bishop Pat](#) and [Bishop Michael](#)

Lectio Divina reflectinfdxzg on the daily Gospel readings (contact anita@stpatricks.org.nz to join) at 10.00am and 8.00pm from the team at the Cathedral Parish

Breaking Open the Gospel of the Day Members of the Diocesan Community proclaim the Gospel of the Day and reflect on its meaning in our lives and this situation [YouTube](#)

On-line Rosary (contact anita@stpatricks.org.nz to join) at 9am daily with the Cathedral of St Patrick's and St Joseph

MOTHER OF DIVINE MERCY REFUGE CHRISTMAS GIFT DONATIONS

Sadly this year, we don't have a list of children's names and ages to sponsor. This is mainly because the Refuge has been experiencing such high numbers of families going through during this lockdown, it's simply too hard to know who will still be with them (MDM) around Christmas time.

Instead we ask that if you are in a position to sponsor a gift, **you choose any age and gender from newborn – 14 year olds**. The gifts received will be given out and they (MDM) will meet any shortfalls. Simply note on the gift the age and gender the gift is suited to and they will do the rest.

Paula will have the white van on site on **Wednesday 22nd December from 9am – midday** to collect the gifts and any food or sundry donations you may want to give. As per last time, the van will be parked outside the Parish Office and will be left open during the day for drop offs.

For any further information, please contact the Parish Office.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!



NOTICES FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE

Advent Prayer and Action | An invitation – Advent is a Season of Hope. As we move out of a period of stay-at-home orders, with Covid-19 a reality in our communities and a sense of uncertainty we are hopeful that all shall be well. In this season when we prepare with hope for the coming of Emmanuel – God with us all are invited to join a circle of prayer. Prayer for ourselves, our communities, the world. Each morning from the **first Sunday of Advent 28 November – Christmas Eve** at 8.30am on the diocesan Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/aucklandcatholic> advent prayer will be offered. Young people from our school communities, representatives from parish and ethnic communities, diocesan staff will lead us prayer. We the diocese gathering to pause and pray together. Then at 10.30 am [1-24 December] same place we will upload an Advent Calendar. Not a digital chocolate but it will open up an Advent Action. A simple way to connect with the Gospel and live the hope of Advent. Please join us.

The Great Diocesan Christmas Quiz Sunday 5 December, 7pm Back by popular demand! After having such a blast at our first quiz night, we're back with another opportunity to win up to \$500 for your parish school or faith community. Grab your best Christmas outfit and join us for another night of trivia-filled fun! <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87540912405>

Muffin Talk Radio Programme recordings and video clips on religion, interfaith and community available at <https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/muffin-talk/>

Synod The Diocese have had a wonderful response to the Synod information sessions. Part of the feedback was that people would appreciate comprehensive information and guidance on the process that they could be easily distributed. This has been compiled and can be found on the website <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/synod/> On the website you are also able to sign up for the fortnightly Synod Newsletter <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/synod/synod-newsletter/>



Make your own Jesse Tree

The Jesse Tree is named for Jesse, the father of King David. Stories from the Old Testament are told, and symbols are hung on Jesus' 'family tree'.

Read one Bible Story/ verse per day that begins with creation (December 1st) and ends on Christmas Day with the birth of Jesus. Hang an ornament each day that goes along with the verse.

You can design your own Jesse Tree however you like, with twigs and branches that have fallen off trees; cardboard; string; however you like.

The ornaments are a separate attachment to this email (it's 5 pages long), you can colour them in and hang them on your Jesse Tree.

Once you've created your own, send us a photo so we can share your creation.

Here are some examples:



Make your own Advent Wreath

You can create your own Advent Wreath however you want with wire and real greenery or cut out a paper plate and paint it or even just use playdough if you like.

The Circle = Eternity of God
Green = Life Everlasting
4 Candles = 1 for each week of Advent

- Hope (purple)
- Love (purple)
- Joy (rose)
- Peace (purple)
- Some people also have a white candle. This represents Christ.

Once you've created your own, send us a photo so we can share your creation.

Here are some examples:



BLESSING FOR YOUR ADVENT WREATH

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.