

The following deaths and Anniversaries are about this time

- 9 Patricia Hooper (cousin of Irene Dromgool)
- 11 Vera Geraghty
- 14 Jack Schreurs
Jaqueline Twomey
- 15 Tony Ryan (brother of Bobby Beal)
Malaki Wacked (grandmother of Edna Peters)
- 17 Nigel John McGuire
- 18 Dominic Rogers
- 22 Peter Yeo (father of Sharon Lam)
- 23 Julia Mary Donovan
Akenese Sapa'u (mother of Flo Sapa'u)
Gerry Rogers

May God Grant them Eternal Rest

Columban Art Calendar 2024 is available in the foyer for \$12 per copy.

This Week in Liturgy, Sunday, cycle B, weekdays of Advent

Monday, 11th of Dec:- Saint Damasus I, pope

Tuesday, 12th of Dec:- Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wednesday, 13th of Dec:- Saint Lucy, virgin and martyr

Thursday, 14th of Dec:- Saint John of the Cross, priest and doctor of the Church

Friday 15th of Dec:- Second week of Advent

Saturday, 16th of Dec:- Second week of Advent

Prepare the Way of the Lord: Advent is a special time to reflect, to ponder the Word, and to 'Be still' and silent in the presence of God. Please join a community on Zoom this Advent from the holiness of your home - **Saturday evenings** to ponder the Advent Sunday Gospels; **Wednesday mornings** in silent Meditation; **Wednesday evenings** to reflect on Pope Francis message for us that 'it is confidence that must lead to love'. We ask Mary, our Mother, to open our hearts to the presence of her Son this Advent. God bless. Register with diannaf@cda.org.nz



Welcome to St. Andrew's Catholic Church

Sunday, 10th Decemeber, 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent Cycle B



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Priest Administrator

Fr. Mathew
Vadakkevettuvazhiyil

Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil, 5:00 pm
Wed & Fri, 11:00 am

Reconciliation:

Saturday: 4:00 to 4:45 pm or
by appointment

Anointing of the sick:

First Friday, during Mass at
11:00 am

Mass at Pokeno: 17th Dec

(Venue): St Mary on the Hill
Anglican Church, at 5pm,
Shared refreshments at 6pm;
Christmas Carols with the
Anglican community: 7pm

Introduction:

Here is the Lord!

Today the Church proclaims the Good News to the whole world: the glory of the Lord is about to be revealed. By lives of loving service we prepare the way for Him to come into our hearts.

Readings from Sacred Scripture:

First Reading:- Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

Isaiah tells the people to prepare a way for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:- Psalm 85:9-14

R/- Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading:- 2 Peter 3:8-14

Peter teaches that we must always be holy because the return of the Lord cannot be predicted.

Gospel Acclamation:- Luke 3:4.6

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading:-Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist preached repentance and baptized the people, in preparation for the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

"Searching for unique Christmas gifts? Look no further, you'll find your perfect gifts at **Saintly Gift!** From cute nativity sets to cuddly plush toys, chewable rosaries, Catholic themed wrapping paper, Catholic toys, and many more. Make this Christmas truly special. Discover the joy of giving with Saintly Gift - Where Tradition meets your Christmas Celebration! Visit us at www.saintlygift.com"

Enquires contact Natoba Lockington on 021982452

Bible Diary 2024: A good Christmas gift for someone you love. It contains daily prayers, daily Mass reading, short reflections, saints of the day, short quotes - indeed, handy and useful for all age groups. Copies are available in the foyer and the cost per copy is NZ\$20/-

Advent Reconciliation: St.Andrew's Tuakau, **Wednesday, 20 December at 7:00 pm;**
St. Patrick's Pukekohe - **Tuesday, 12 December at 7:00 pm.**

Christmas Mass: Mass at night on **Sunday, 24th December at 7:00 pm**

Scripture note :-

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.



G.I.F.T. Christmas Mass Sunday 10th December at 4pm in Good Shepherd Church, Balmoral followed by a light meal. All disabled people and their whānau and support workers most WELCOME!

Scripture Readings for Sunday, 17th December, Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle B
Commentator and prayers: Clare Williams
Eucharistic Minister: Litia Lockington
Theme:- Exult for Joy of the Lord
First Reading:- Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11 (Nimmi Abraham)

The Lord's salvation will be made known to the poor and the oppressed.

Responsorial Psalm:- Luke 1:46-50,53-54 R/- My soul rejoices in my God

Second Reading:- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (Sashini Mahe)

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to rejoice and pray always.

Gospel Acclamation:- Isaiah 61:1

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading:- John 1:6-8,19-28

John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.

One-Liner

"I want to die peacefully in my sleep like my grandfather...Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car."
"Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like banana."

Please email items for the newsletter or Memorial book to

nimmibaksu@gmail.com or text to **0274308557** – Nimmi Abraham

Catholic Hospitality in New Zealand and Australia, payment per night is \$50 for one guest and \$30 for each additional guest, e.g. a couple would pay \$80 per. night for bed and continental breakfast. This is a wonderful way for Catholics to meet and enjoy the company of other Catholics. To purchase a book of details of hosts, contact Marie Anderson, 033595541 or email me at marie.ian@xtra.co.nz

Please support the Caring Foundation's Christmas Appeal – donations doubled! Give an impactful gift this Christmas! Give a gift that changes lives! Every donation to the Caring Foundation's Christmas appeal will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$50,000. The Caring Foundation partners with over 60 local agencies to provide the right help at the right time for families and people in poverty and hardship. To find out how to donate, pick up our Christmas post-card today, or check out our website: www.caringfoundation.org.nz

NGA TAPUWAE SELF DIRECTED PILGRIMAGE Registrations are now open. Our Northland pilgrimage sites will be attended by CDA staff to welcome you and share the stories at specific times on **12th and 13th January 2024**, but you will travel independently having organised your transport, accommodation, and food. Your pilgrimage will end with the anniversary Mass at Totara Point on 14th January. All are welcome to participate and learn more of our Catholic heritage. You can experience the sacred places of Kupe, Bishop Pompallier and the early missionaries. To register email, Dcn Steve Fraser on stephenf@cda.org.nz or phone 021439407

Life Teen Aotearoa Summer Camp 16-20 January 2024, for your teens. Throughout the week we aim to support parishes to walk alongside their young people and get to know them on a deeper level. Every year we deliver more mess, more fun and more amazing opportunities to connect with Jesus in a personal way. We do this through thought provoking keynote sessions, small group discussion times and lots of opportunities to just have fun with your teens. Registrations are closing! So if you are ready to help lead your teens closer to Christ and have the #bestsummerever then go to www.lifeteen.nz to register your group or to apply as a Summer Missionary. Contact samuelb@cda.org.nz for queries