

*The following deaths and Anniversaries are about this time*

- 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  
26 Laurie McMahan  
Mary O'Leary  
Kathleen McKeirnan  
Francis "Graham" Holz  
27 Mary Patricia Holz  
28 Jacqueline Sullivan  
Josephine McMurray  
Philip McMurray  
29 Stanley Cronin

*May God Grant them Eternal Rest*

*This Week in Liturgy, Sunday, cycle B, weekdays of Advent*  
**Monday, 18th of Dec to Wednesday, 20th of Dec:-** Third week of Advent  
**Thursday, 21st of Dec:-** Saint Peter Canisius, priest and doctor of the Church  
**Friday 22nd of Dec:-** Third week of Advent  
**Saturday, 23rd of Dec:-** Saint John of Kanty, priest

**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](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)



# Welcome to St. Andrew's Catholic Church

Sunday, 17th Decemeber, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent Cycle B



### Physical Address

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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:

**Exult for Joy of the Lord**

Today is sometimes called Gaudete ('Rejoice!') Sunday. We are filled with that reassuring, confident joy that God will visit his people and reveal his goodness. He will not fail us.

### Readings from Sacred Scripture:

**First Reading:-** Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

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

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.

"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](http://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;**  
**Christmas Mass:** Mass at night on **Sunday, 24th December at 7:00 pm**  
**The Christmas 2023 Mass Times** have been published on the CDA website. Here is the link <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/christmas-masses-2023/>

## Scripture note :-

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.


The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

### Credit Controller & Administration - Pompallier Centre Job Vacancy

This full-time role is to provide credit control and administration support to the Operations Manager for the collection of Attendance Dues for schools in the Auckland Diocese. Hours are flexible to incorporate some evening and Saturday morning work. Key Tasks include; Collection of compulsory school Attendance Dues; contact with school parents via outbound phone calls; follow up of unpaid accounts and Debtor ledger management. To view the full advert and to apply, please visit our website [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz) under Diocesan Services and Staff Vacancies. **Hāto Petera** past students and whānau are invited to comment on draft proposed repurposing plans for the site by **19 January 2024**. More information at: <https://hatopetera.com/about-hato-petera/>.

**Hāto Petera repurposing:** All whānau and local communities are encouraged to review the proposals at [www.hatopetera.com/about](http://www.hatopetera.com/about) and provide feedback by **Friday 22 December 2023** to [teresam@cda.org.nz](mailto:teresam@cda.org.nz).

 To read about diocesan events in the last weeks and start filling your 2024 diary with opportunities for faith development, fun and diocesan life download the latest edition of CDA connect <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/CDA-CONNECT-Christmas23.pdf> - the link can also be found on the front page of the diocesan website.

*Scripture Readings for Sunday, 24th December, Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle B*  
**Commentator and prayers:** Sherwin Perez  
**Eucharistic Minister:** Theresa Madejoza  
**Theme:- Jesus, Born of the House of David**  
**First Reading:-** 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16 (Von Cassidy)  
*The Lord promises David that he will raise from his descendents a kingdom that will endure forever.*  
**Responsorial Psalm:-** Psalm 89:2-5,27,29  
**R/- Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**  
**Second Reading:-** Romans 16:25-27 (Clare Williams)  
*Paul praises God for making his revelation known.*  
**Gospel Acclamation:-** Luke 1:38  
*Alleluia, Alleluia!*  
**I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.**  
*Alleluia!*  
**Gospel Reading:-** Luke 1:26-38  
*The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.*

### One-Liner

"Never trust atoms, they make up everything."  
"The problem isn't that obesity runs in your family. It's that no one runs in your family."—parade.com

Please email items for the newsletter or Memorial book to [nimmibaksu@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.lifeteen.nz) to register your group or to apply as a Summer Missionary. Contact [samuelb@cda.org.nz](mailto:samuelb@cda.org.nz) for queries.