

*The following deaths and Anniversaries are about this time*

- 9 Patricia Hooper (cousin of Irene Dromgool)  
11 Vera Geraghty  
14 Jack Schreurs  
Jaqueline Twomey

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Saints of the week

*Monday, 8th of Dec:- The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

*Tuesday, 9th of Dec:- Saint Syrus of Pavia*

*Wednesday, 10th of Dec:- The Blessed Virgin of Loreto*

*Thursday, 11th of Dec:- Saint Damasus I*

*Friday, 12th of Dec:- Saint Walaricus*

*Saturday, 13th of Dec:- Saint Lucy*

*Sunday, 14th of Dec:- Saint John of the Cross*



Church Notices

Altar Flower Donations

A donation box for the **Church Altar flowers** will be placed at the back of the church and collected after each weekend Mass. Your generous contributions help keep our altar beautiful and welcoming.

Any donations and assistance are deeply appreciated — thank you for your continued support.

Volunteers

We are also looking for volunteers to assist as **Ministers of the Word** and **Eucharistic Ministers**.

If you're able to help, please contact:

**Litia Lockington** – 021 0832 9971

**Clare Williams** – 021 178 0667

Reconciliation Times during Advent with the below dates will start at 4pm.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**Your support is greatly appreciated!**

# Welcome to St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Tuakau

*Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle A, Dec 7th, 2025*



Physical Address

186 George Street, Tuakau

Postal Address

24 Domain Street, Waiuku  
2123

Website:

[www.tuakacatholic.org.nz](http://www.tuakacatholic.org.nz)

Parish Priest

Fr. Robert Steele

[office@pukekohecatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@pukekohecatholic.org.nz)

Mobile: 021 1133840

Assistant Priest:

Fr Joseph Doan

Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil, 5:00 pm

Wed & Fri, 11:00 am

Reconciliation:

Saturday: 4:30 to 4:45 pm or

by appointment

Anointing of the sick:

First Friday, during Mass at

11:00 am

Introduction:

*Repent, for the Kingdom of God is Close.*

*Prayer Thought: John the Baptist points us on the way to coming of Christ. We hope to be sharers in his kingdom—a kingdom of beauty and peace, as Isaiah's vision shows us..*

Readings from Sacred Scripture:

First Reading: *Isaiah 11:1-10*

*A descendent of Jesse will usher in a time of peace.*

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 71:1-2.7-8.12-13.17*

*R/. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.*

Second Reading: *Romans 15:4-9*

*Both Jews and Gentiles glorify God for the salvation found in Christ Jesus.*

Gospel Acclamation:- *Mark 11:9-10 Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see salvation of God. Alleluia!*

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 3:1-12*

*John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching a message of repentance.*

WEEKLY INSPIRATION –WATCHFULNESS



**“I am baptizing you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me.”**

– *Matthew 3:11*

As we journey through Advent, we meet John the Baptist — the voice crying out in the wilderness, calling hearts back to God. His message is simple yet powerful: **repent, renew, prepare.**

Just as John made way for Christ through humility and obedience, we too are invited to clear space in our hearts. Let us turn away from what weighs us down and walk towards what draws us closer to Jesus.

### **Scripture note :-**

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

**Mothers Group:** All mothers and their children under the age of 5 are invited to "St Gianna's Mothers and Children Group". The morning starts with an element of formation and group discussions while your children enjoy a safe area to play, followed by Mass and lunch (provided). Join us on the **second and fourth Tuesdays** of the month from **10am - 1pm**. This group is run by Family Life International at their 'St Gianna's Home for Mothers and Babies' in Pukekohe Auckland. First session will be on Tuesday 29th of April.

Contact Amie for the address: 027 350 8227; werthenextgen@gmail.com

**OneLicense** exciting Update. Are you struggling to have musicians to play at each Mass? OneLicense has launched a new Recorded Audio License. With this add-on you can legally play master recordings and self-produced recordings in worship services, embed them into slides, and more! For more information please see <https://www.onelicense.net/how-it-works#recorded-audio> If you wish to add one on to your current license, please email your Auckland Diocese Group Manager Tina Coll on [tinac@cda.org.nz](mailto:tinac@cda.org.nz)

### **Engaged / Planning a wedding? Catholic Diocese of Auckland – Approved Marriage Preparation Course**

Book your Marriage Preparation Course early 1 year for NZ and 18months for overseas weddings. Register & Book here: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/our-courses/> For more information contact: Gerry at [gerrys@cda.org.nz](mailto:gerrys@cda.org.nz) M: 021 02247442 Please contact Father Robert as soon as possible in planning your marriage.

### **Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle A 14th December**

**Theme:- Joy and Gladness will be With them**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 35:1-6,10

*In the day of the Lord, all sorrow and mourning will cease.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 145:7-10

***R/. Come, Lord, and Save us***

**Second Reading:** James 5:7-10

*Be patient, and be ready; the coming of the Lord is near.*

**Gospel Acclamation:-** Mark 11:9-10 Alleluia, Alleluia! ***The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!***

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 11:2-11

*Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.*

Please email items for the newsletter or Memorial book to [minu\\_mathew@hotmail.com](mailto:minu_mathew@hotmail.com) or text to 021 926 935 – Minu Mathew

### **CATHOLIC NEWS IN YOUR INBOX:**

What's happening in the Catholic Church in New Zealand? What is Pope Leo doing and saying? What are the big stories affecting people of faith in our country? Get Catholic headlines delivered to your inbox each Tuesday and Friday. Sign up today at: <https://cathnewsnz.com/>

**Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women** is moving to small parish-based groups called Dovecotes, where women may experience the warmth of fellowship, the power of prayer and the joy of worship. If you feel a need for a Dovecote in your area, please contact Gloria: [dovenational.leader@gmail.com](mailto:dovenational.leader@gmail.com) or Ph 0272456742. website: [www.dove.org.nz](http://www.dove.org.nz)

### **Literacy Aotearoa (RYALT) seeking a tutor**

- Training is provided online and is free.
- Face-to-Face coaching takes place in a public place like the Library, or maybe a Hub if the community has one. Some of our students don't have devices to use to be online.
- Coaching sessions are one on one - no groups or classes.
- It's up to the coach and student to come to an agreement on how often they meet and for how long.
- The average session lasts about an hour.
- We don't have a curriculum - instead we focus on what the student feels they need to work on. It could be filling in forms, trying to pass a drivers licence, learning to read (some of our students are beginners), becoming more confident with writing especially in spelling.

**For more information please contact  
Rowena Bonne** <[krmbonne@gmail.com](mailto:krmbonne@gmail.com)> 021 1789 508