

The following deaths and Anniversaries are about this time

- 15 Tony Ryan (brother of Bobby Beal)
Malaki Wacked (grandmother of Edna Peters)
17 Nigel John McGuire
18 Dominic Rogers

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.

Christmas Services

Christmas Carols — St Andrew Church, Tuakau
Carol singing will begin at **8:30pm**, leading into Christmas Eve Mass.

Christmas Eve Mass — St Andrew Church, Tuakau
Mass will be celebrated at **9:00pm on Wednesday, 24 December 2025.**

Children's Christmas Mass — St Patrick Church, Pukekohe
Children's Christmas Mass will be held at **6:00pm on Wednesday, 24 December 2025.**

Donation envelopes

We have discovered a small mix-up with our current gifting envelopes. If you are using envelope numbers 55 or 58, please see Clare after Mass or contact Karen Betty – 0274 303 385 so we can record your details for receipt purposes and for next year's envelopes.

If you would like a new set of envelopes, we also have a few spare numbers available. Please speak with Clare or Karen, and we will assign a set for the January 2026 distribution.

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 13th December 2025

Saturday 20th December 2025

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Welcome to
St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Tuakau

Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle A, Dec 14th, 2025



Physical Address

186 George Street, Tuakau

Postal Address

24 Domain Street, Waiuku
2123

Website:

www.tuakaucatholic.org.nz

Parish Priest

Fr. Robert Steele
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:

Joy and Gladness will be With them

Prayer Thought: A festive feeling pervades today's Mass as we hear of the wonders which are associated with the coming of the Messiah. We are filled with hope as we hear the Good News which his coming will bring.

Readings from Sacred Scripture:

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.

WEEKLY INSPIRATION –REJOICE!



“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near”

– *Philippians 4:4-5*

This third Sunday of Advent calls us to rejoice — not because everything is perfect, but because Christ is near. Just as Jesus reminded John the Baptist of the signs of God's Kingdom unfolding, we too are invited to see God's hand at work in our lives. Salvation is already among us, though not yet complete. The miracles of Jesus continue in the everyday acts of hope, healing, and love we share.

Let our lives reflect joy, even in waiting. Let our hearts prepare room for Christ with faith, generosity, and courage. As we rejoice, we also become heralds of God's coming Kingdom — just as John the Baptist was.

Scripture note :-

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter 14:3-12. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

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

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 M: 021 02247442 Please contact Father Robert as soon as possible in planning your marriage.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle A **21st December**

Theme:- *The Maiden is with Child.*

First Reading: *Isaiah 7:10-14*

Ahaz proclaims the sign that the Lord will give: a virgin shall give birth to a son, Emmanuel.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 23:1-6*

R/. Let the Lord enter! He is the King of Glory

Second Reading: *Romans 1:1-7*

Paul greets the community at Rome and declares himself a servant of Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation:- *Mark 11:9-10 Alleluia, Alleluia! The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia!*

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 1:18-24*

An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel .

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> 021 1789 508

Saints of the week

Monday, 15th of Dec:- Saint Mary di Rosa
Tuesday, 16th of Dec:- Saint Adelaide of Burgundy
Wednesday, 17th of Dec:- Saint John of Matha
Thursday, 18th of Dec:- Saint Gratian
Friday, 19th of Dec:- Saint William of Fenoglio
Saturday, 20th of Dec- Saint Dominic of Silos
Sunday, 21th of Dec:- Saint Peter Canisius



Please email items for the newsletter or Memorial book to minu_mathew@hotmail.com or text to 021 926 935 – Minu Mathew

CATHOLIC NEWS IN YOUR INBOX:

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