

The following deaths and Anniversaries are about this time

- 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

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.**

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle A, Dec 21st, 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:

The Maiden is with Child

Prayer Thought: The birth of Christ is almost upon us now, We are reminded in Isaiah's prophecy of the long-awaited Emmanuel—God in our midst. Like Joseph, we need to make room for Jesus to enter our lives and our world.

Readings from Sacred Scripture:

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 .

WEEKLY INSPIRATION –OBEDIENCE



“Joseph did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took his wife into his home. ”

– Matthew 1:24

Joseph's obedience was quiet, courageous, and rooted in trust. Without fully understanding God's plan, he chose to listen and act, placing faith above fear and compassion above pride. This passage invites us to reflect on how we respond when God's will challenges our expectations. Like Joseph, we are called to trust that God is at work, even in uncertainty, and to welcome His presence into our lives with open hearts.

Scripture note :-

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: “Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means “Yahweh saves.” He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: “. . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us].”

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

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.

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil Mass 24th December

Theme:- Tomorrow you will see his Glory

First Reading: *Isaiah 62:1-5*
The Lord delights in his people.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 88:4-5,16-17,27,29*

R/. I will sing forever of your love ,O Lord.

Second Reading: *Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17,22-25*
God chose the people of Israel, and from them he raised up Jesus, the Savior for all people.

Gospel Acclamation:- *Mark 11:9-10 Alleluia, Alleluia! Tomorrow there will be an end to the sin of the world and the saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!*

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 1:1-25*
After being visited by an angel in a dream, Joseph takes Mary as his wife.

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.

Saints of the week

Monday, 22nd of Dec:- Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

Tuesday, 23rd of Dec:- Saint John of Kanti

Wednesday, 24th of Dec:- Saint Adam and Eve

Thursday, 25th of Dec:- The Birth of the Lord

Friday, 26th of Dec:- Saint Stephen

Saturday, 27th of Dec:- Saint John the Evangelist

Sunday, 28th of Dec:- The Holy Innocents

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:

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/>

