



CATHOLIC PARISH OF RICCARTON

ST TERESA'S CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent
17 December 2017



Today's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 6: 1-2, 10-11
Psalm Response: My soul rejoices in my God
Second Reading: Thessalonians 5: 16-24
Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28
For weekday readings visit: www.universalis.com/mass



Next Sunday's Readings

First Reading: Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
Psalm Response: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord
Second Reading: Romans 16: 25-27
Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

Mass Times:

Sunday 8am, 10am, 7.00pm
Monday: 6.00pm
Tues to Saturday: 12.05pm
Thursday: 9.00am-School Mass
Tues to Fri: 11.10am-Student Mass
at Rochester & Rutherford Hall, 77
Ham Rd - All welcome

Adoration:

Monday: 5.00 - 6.00pm
Tues to Fri: 11am-12pm
Tue, Wed, Fri: 5.30-6.30pm
Thursday: 8.30- 9.30pm
Saturday: 6.30 - 7.30pm
Sunday: 5.30 - 6.30pm



Reconciliation:

Tues-Sat: 11.30 -11.50am
Sun: 6.30 -7.00pm
8.00pm - 8.30pm

Lectio Divina

Weds 2.00pm and 7.00pm

Men's Breakfast - Fri
6.30am

Legion of Mary Weds 7.00pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Antoine Thomas, CSJ

Tertiary Chaplain:

Fr Michael-Thérèse, CSJ

Brothers in Residence:

Brother John Van
Brother Jan

Parish Pastoral Assistant:

Aiber Castillo
pastoral@stteresas.org.nz

Parish Secretary:

Marie Marshall
office@stteresas.org.nz

Pastoral Council

Chairperson: John Thieme

Finance Chairperson:

Andrew de Jong

Office Phone: (03) 348 6456

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www.communityofstjohn.nz



St. Teresa's Church

Brothers of St John

Quote of the Week



"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you."

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Christmas is near! Christ is coming!

Let us put aside all the pressure and tensions within and without and say the wonderful words once again, "Come Lord Jesus, come!"



This is a time of great joy, if you remember the joy you had as a little child on Christmas day you can also remember the anticipation that was in your heart. As we grow older our joy in Christmas can diminish, usually because we get used to it. We stop looking forward to it. In fact, our joy is usually relative to the amount that we desire. Joy comes when our desires are fulfilled.

The first Sunday of Advent the Gospel showed us what we are to desire: that Christ might come for us this Christmas. Both last week and this week the Gospel speaks about John the Baptist to get us ready. John calls us to "make straight the way of the Lord". Our desire gets foggy and mixed over time. Sin and the multiple anxieties of the world cloud our capacity to truly desire to see God. That is why today's Gospel says that though John himself is not the light, he came to testify to the light. Today God would like to clear out all the fog and call you to get ready; He is coming for your soul this Christmas!

How can we get ready? There are many ways:

- Pray as a family every night before the family's Nativity scene
- Go to confession as a family
- Attend Mass every day until Christmas begins
- Pray the Joyful mysteries of the Rosary every day
- Fight the demons within: don't let any bad thoughts root themselves in you
- Read a brief daily Advent devotional book
- Visit a Retirement home and hand out Christmas presents

Though these acts may seem minor, they are not! Let us never forget that it is through simple acts like these that we make things meaningful.

Fr Michael Thérèse



Please pray for:

† Our Holy Father Pope Francis, and all Priests; for our sick and for those who have died recently, for the little unborn babies and for all souls of the faithful departed.

In Memoriam - Rest in Peace - December

18th: 1983 Terrence John Brennan O'Brien, 2005 Patrick Timothy Bendall

19th: 1961 Sarah O'Rourke, 1984 Mona Williams, 1992 Stephen Justin Doocey

20th: 1967 Nora Aileen Walshe, 1979 Elsie Isabel Crampton, 1982 John Bernard Wakefield Redwood

21st: 1978 Elizabeth Leahy, 2002 Nora May Olsen, 2004 Yiu (Lui) Yuk Ngor (Maria)

22nd: 1951 Florence Eliza Say, 1989 Catherine Doreen Poulter

23rd: 1954 Mary Lawless, 1986 Monica Marion Farmer, 1989 Anna Catherine Topp,

1989 Ronald Cooper Findlay, 1999 Noeline Marie Archer, 2001 Michael King

25th: 1949 Mary Margaret Moran, 1954 George Robert Berney, 1992 Sister Margaret Brailey SJC



Kid's Corner

Today is the third Sunday of Advent, also known as 'Gaudete Sunday'. The term 'Gaudete' means 'Rejoice'. Rose vestments are worn to emphasise our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath. As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasises the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Saviour means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing close when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom.



Parish Notices

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration: Substitute Adorers urgently required for the coming holiday period (until the end of January)

It is a real challenge for organisers to ensure there are no gaps in the roster for the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St Gregory's Church, Bishopdale. We have urgent need for substitute adorers for: 1-2am Mondays; 1-2pm Wednesdays; 5-6 pm Wednesdays, 2-3am Fridays and 10-11am Sundays, throughout January. Backup is available should you need to skip a week from time to time. Please contact Mike Doolan on 342 9905 or mike.doolan97@gmail.com if you can commit to this. It can involve personal sacrifice to travel to the chapel to adore Jesus for an hour but it is also a beautiful, peaceful devotion. You will not be unrewarded if you do this!

Changes at St Teresa's. By now most of you will know that Fr Antoine will be departing mid February for a long overdue Sabbatical and Fr Michael Thérèse will become Parish Priest assisted by Fr Sean Mary who will be joining us in 2018. Please pray for the Brothers as we all move into the New Year.

Mass Monday 18th: There will be no Adoration or 6.00pm Mass on this day as the Brothers will be attending a gathering of the Clergy and there will be School Prizegiving in the church from 5.30pm.



St Vincent De Paul. Thank you so much for all the food items and Christmas gifts that have been donated. This week we require a top up of spaghetti, baked beans, tinned fish, jams and spreads. Cash donations can be placed in envelopes from the foyer and dropped in the safe. Thank you so much.

Final rostered morning tea for 2017 after 10am Mass today will be served in the hall. All parishioners & visitors are warmly invited to join us.

Legion of Mary. Meetings will resume 17 January 2018.



Christmas Mass Times: Please note that Christmas day is on a Monday. Attending Mass on Sunday does not fulfil your Christmas obligation nor does attending Mass on Christmas fulfil your Sunday obligation. Please see our Mass times to ensure you're able to attend Mass on both days! ☺

Sat 23rd Dec 7pm Vigil 4th Sunday of Advent
Sun 24th Dec 8am 4th Sunday of Advent
Sun 24th Dec 10am 4th Sunday of Advent

Sun 24th Dec 7.30pm Christmas Vigil
Monday 25th Dec 12am (Midnight) Christmas Vigil
Monday 25th Dec 8am Christmas Mass
Monday 25th Dec 10am Christmas Mass
NB: There will be no 6.00pm Mass on Christmas Day

Diocesan Notices (More notices on notice board)

End of Life Choice Bill:

At the time of writing, David Seymour's 'End of Life Choice' bill is about to have its first reading and vote in parliament (Wednesday 13 December). The bill seeks to legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide in New Zealand for those over 18 years with a terminal illness or an irremediable condition. At the time this notice is in your parish newsletter, the result will be known. If the majority of MPs voted 'no', the bill will have been defeated and will not progress any further. If the majority of MPs voted 'yes', then the bill will go to Select Committee where the public can submit their views on it. This Select Committee process will be specifically about Seymour's bill. The Health Select Committee conducted an inquiry last year about the issues of euthanasia and assisted suicide, releasing their report in August 2017. With over 21,000 unique submissions, 80% of those were opposed to the legalisation of euthanasia and assisted suicide. Legalising euthanasia or assisted suicide would endanger the lives and well-being of people who are vulnerable, including those suffering from mental health issues, our elders, and the disabled.

Regardless of the outcome of Wednesday's vote, this issue is important and will continue to be a topic of public debate. More information and resources on this issue will be provided in January. You can also check out www.nathaniel.org.nz/euthanasia. Or NoToAssistedSuicide.NZ

JESUS AND JEWISH WISDOM: Fr Frank Kelly will be giving a one hour talk at 7.00pm on **Sunday 17th December** at the St Joseph's Parish Centre, Papanui. Entry free and everyone is welcome.

YOUTH FOR CHRIST (YFC) ENTRY CAMP : A fun filled camp that will give you the freedom to develop your faith and lifelong friendships! It's going to be days full of talks, worships, healing, fun activities, opportunities to expose your talents and laughter with new friends. See you there! **Where:** Woodend Christian Camp Kaiapoi. **When: Jan. 26-28, 2018. Age Group :** from 12 to 22 yrs For registration inquiries pls email to: entrycamp2018@gmail.com

PRO-LIFE FACTS: In their new 38-page booklet "The


Unforgotten Babies: the inspiration behind the Buttons Project", Peter and Marina Young write about their experience of abortion and the stories they have received from post-abortive women all over New Zealand who heard about the Buttons Project. To receive the booklet, visit www.buttonsproject.org. For more pro-life information, visit www.righttolife.org.nz

MISSION SISTERS' CHRISTMAS APPEAL: The Mission Sisters in the Christchurch Diocese invite you to support one or more of their Missions in Asia, or to make a general donation, as described in their Christmas Gift Catalogue distributed in the parish today. This Christmas Gift will truly make a difference.

HOSPITAL CONTACTS: Most hospitals no longer provide names of Catholic patients to our chaplains. If there is someone from your family going to hospital please advise the chaplain:

Burwood Hospital: Kirsten Challies 027 437 6737
Christchurch Hospital: Angela McCormick 364 0640 (x89554)
Hillmorton Hospital: Michael Hempseed 021 501 683
St George's Hospital: Fr Chris Orr 351 9502

CATHOLIC SHOP: opening on Sundays in December 10am - 12pm. For Advent and Christmas gifts, bibles, candles, rosaries, greeting cards, books, and more. **Usual opening hours: Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm.** Visit us at 373 Manchester Street, Christchurch, next to St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, ph 03 366-2853, e-mail catholicshop@chch.catholic.org.nz

Next Week 24 December	8am	10am	7pm
<i>Extra Ordinary Ministers of HC</i>	Sheila McLaughlin	Suzi & Diggs De Gouveia	Gabrielle O'Connor
<i>Readers</i>	Clare Doocey & Mike Doolan	Christine Tiu & Jhanna Mosa	See notice in church foyer
<i>Altar Servers / Handmaids</i>	Zyromme & Stephen	Maua, Josh & Connor <i>Zara & Olivia</i>	NO 7.00PM MASS 
<i>Greeters</i>	Tony Bowker	Margaret Lui	Maree & David
<i>Collectors</i>	Tony Bowker & Raymond Tiong	Tim Jones, Antonio Bisnar & Loma	Les, Margaret, Lolong & Peter
<i>Counters</i>	Warren & Loma		