



# CATHOLIC PARISH OF RICCARTON

## ST TERESA'S CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
24 December 2017



### Today'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



### Next Sunday's Readings

**First Reading:** Genesis 15: 1-6, 21: 1-3  
**Psalm Response:** The Lord remembers his covenant forever  
**Second Reading:** Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19  
**Gospel:** Luke 2: 22-40

### 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

**Priory:** (03) 343 2527

**Web:** www.stteresas.org.nz.  
www.communityofstjohn.nz



St. Teresa's Church  
Brothers of St John

### Quote of the Week



"Jesus is the Sun  
and Mary is the  
dawn  
announcing His  
rising."

Pope Francis

### 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Day

Dear parishioners,

This is our last bulletin for December until the 21<sup>st</sup> of January. As you know too well from experience, Advent and especially the few days preceding Christmas, seems to be lived by many people, even Christians, as a time of hectic tidying up, of running around meeting deadlines, a time of shopping to buy many presents for many people. Yet, let us not lose sight of the fact that the **only true Christmas Present is the one God our Father gave us: Jesus, His beloved Son and the second Person of the Holy Trinity, our Saviour.**



How did the Blessed Virgin Mary live her first Advent? How did she prepare her first Christmas with Joseph? When they arrived in Bethlehem with no place to stay, nobody to welcome them, they ended up in a stable...

It is indeed in poverty that Jesus, Son of God, the "Word made flesh", was born on our earth. Mary and Joseph became the first Christian married couple. Yet, seeing God made flesh in front of them away from the noise of the world, filled their hearts with joy. Likewise, in spite of all the hardships of our life, our loneliness at times, Jesus is now present among us with flesh and bones! This is the mystery

of Christmas which we can believe in because God infuses in us the gift of Faith at our baptism.

The meaning of Christmas could be summed up in the verse from St John's Gospel: **"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that those who believe in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting" (John 3:16)**

The way He manifested His loving mercy toward the poor sinners that we are was by choosing a virgin woman whom He made Immaculate from conception. Mary's body became the first living and holy tabernacle of the presence of God in the flesh.

During this busy Christmas time, don't hesitate to swing by a church to adore Jesus in silence as Mary and Joseph did; our Lord "lies" inside the tabernacle (our permanent crib!) just for us to come and adore away from the noise of the world. Are not St Joseph and our Lady, who adored and contemplated Jesus in silence, the model of married couples and an inspiring example of prayer for their children?

The Brothers wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Holy Year 2017.

Fr. Antoine



### Please pray for:

† Our Holy Father Pope Francis and all Priests; for our sick and for those who have died recently, especially for Raul Florencio Jr, and for all souls of the faithful departed, especially Hipolito Vicente and Josiah Sisson.

### In Memoriam - Rest in Peace - December/January

**26<sup>th</sup>:** 1956 John Hanrahan, 1958 William Morgan McSweeney, 1972 Wouterus Jansen  
**27<sup>th</sup>:** 1967 Margaret May Way, 1978 Elizabeth Ann Leahy, 1991 Kevin Gallagher, 2002 Nora May Olsen, 2005 Francis Edward (Ted) Erasmuson  
**28<sup>th</sup>:** 1981 Thelma Anne Poole, 2001 Acushla (Cush) Marie Dyer, 2001 Michael King  
**29<sup>th</sup>:** 1981 Lorraine Marie Unwin, 1988 Tui Wishart Thomas, 1993 Nancy Enid Thom, 1996 Mary O'Kane  
**30<sup>th</sup>:** 1955 Hannah E Hodge, 1981 Thelma Poole, 1989 William Edward Bellamy  
**31<sup>st</sup>:** 1988 Stewart James Clark, 1991 Kevin Matthew Callaghan  
**1st Jan:** 1979 Andrew Oliver Muir, 1997 Terence Raymond McSweeney  
**2nd Jan:** Andrew Muchmore



## Kid's Corner



In today's Gospel, we hear the story of the Angel Gabriel visiting Mary to tell her she will give birth to the Son of God. The Angel said to her "Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you. Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Holy Spirit will come upon you!" Mary replied, "I

am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me." Mary gave God the ultimate YES!

Let us also give God our YES, when we wake up in the morning a simple prayer of offering the day to God or if God asks us to do something that might be out of our comfort zone, we can look to Mary to help us say YES as she did.

## Parish Notices

Do you ever feel like there is something missing in your life? We want you to know that no matter how often you come to Mass, you are always welcome here as joyfully as the prodigal son and that Jesus and the Church loves you. This year we wanted to show everyone who attends a Christmas Mass at this parish that they are loved and valued; so we have a Christmas present for you from our church. We would like to gift every family here a copy of the book **Rediscover Jesus**. This book has been changing lives all over the world, now we want you to be able to read it and rediscover Jesus. Did you know that Jesus loves YOU unconditionally, I don't mean the person next to you, or just someone really holy, I mean each and every single person here.

If we really knew how much Jesus loves us it would change countless lives. Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ and we hope that he will be born into your lives when you read this book. We believe we have enough books for one per household, so please make sure you take just one per household. Matthew Kelly the author of the book said, "The Gospel is the blueprint and the invitation to complete joy," we want you to have that joy this Christmas



**St Vincent De Paul** Thank you SO much for all the Christmas presents and goodies you so kindly donated - we were overwhelmed with the response. If you know of anyone who needs help over the holidays please direct them to the Welfare line- 389 7484 ext 1. Thank you so much for all you have helped with during 2017



**The Parish Office** is closed and will re-open Monday, January 15th. Marie (Parish Secretary) and Aiber (Pastoral Assistant) wish you all a blessed and restful Christmas.

**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! ☺

**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: No 6pm Mass on Christmas Day**

## Diocesan Notices (More notices on notice board)



**Villa's Centennial** is just around the corner, with a weekend of special events planned for 16-18 February 2018. The celebrations include a family-friendly fun day, complete with an historic exhibition, Devonshire Tea, College tours, entertainment, craft market, food trucks, music and more! A very special Mass & Morning Tea will take place on Sunday 18 February and everyone is welcome – but you'll need to register your attendance.

You don't need to be a Villa past pupil to attend, this is a celebration for the whole Catholic community. Register today at [www.villamaria100.co.nz](http://www.villamaria100.co.nz) or call 348 4165.

**Anti-Euthanasia submissions** requested to oppose David Seymour's End of Life Choice Bill. One sentence is enough, more is even better! Closing date: 20 February, but please act as soon as possible to help protect. See [www.parliament.nz](http://www.parliament.nz) under Parliamentary Business, then search for the Bill.

**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 021 021 501 683

**St George's Hospital:** Fr Chris Orr 351 9502

**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](http://www.buttonsproject.org). For more pro-life information, visit [www.righttolife.org.nz](http://www.righttolife.org.nz)

**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](mailto:entrycamp2018@gmail.com)



<b>Next Week 31 December</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>7pm</b>
<b>Extra Ordinary Ministers of HC</b>	Selena Chan	Marleen Head & Virgie Herd	Ramanie Weerasinghe
<b>Readers</b>	John Reilly & Remy Nicdao	Terry Wales & Christine Tiu	Diane Moore & Brian White
<b>Altar Servers   Handmaids</b>	Joash & Joachim	Sean, Andre & Raphael Malia & Serena	Anggha & Jacob 
<b>Greeters</b>			
<b>Collectors</b>	Tony Bowker & Raymond Tiong	Tim Jones, Antonio Bisnar & Loma	Les, Margaret, Lolong & Peter
<b>Counters</b>	Mike D & Gerry K		