



CATHOLIC PARISH OF RICCARTON

ST TERESA'S CHURCH

First Sunday of Advent
3 December 2017



Today's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17, 64: 1, 3-8
Psalm Response: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.
Second Reading: Corinthians 1: 3-9
Gospel: Mark 13: 33-37.



Next Sunday's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11
Psalm Response: Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation.
Second Reading: St Peter 3: 8-14
Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8

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

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Parish Secretary:

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Pastoral Council

Chairperson: John Thieme

Finance Chairperson:

Andrew de Jong

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www.communityofstjohn.nz



St. Teresa's Church

Brothers of St John

Quote of the Week



"The time of Advent is a time of hope. Jesus wants us to love Him. It is His desire that we be holy, very much His own."

St. Josemaria Escriva

1st Sunday of Advent

Our Mother, the Catholic Church, in whom we have been baptised, invites us to start this new liturgical year by hearing this Gospel:

"Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to keep watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning; lest coming suddenly he finds you sleeping. And what I say to you I say to all: Watch."(Mk 13:33-37)



Is it not important for us to hear Jesus using the word **"watch"** three times?! It is indeed very prudent to remain in a state of grace every day before we appear before God at our final judgment. Advent is not just about preparing for the historical first coming of Jesus but also his final coming in glory!

The second word, **"pray"** is the meaning of being really prudent! It is very imprudent not to pray every day. It is very imprudent to live for ourselves only and not for God who calls us to adore Him and to love Him as our heavenly Father and Creator.

Advent season may mean lots of shopping, planning of holidays etc.. Yet, for us who are disciples of Jesus Christ and understand the real meaning of Advent, should we not meditate on how the Blessed Virgin Mary prepared herself for Christmas? Was she agitated or was she adoring Jesus inside her womb?

The only Christmas present she expected with great joy was Jesus given by God the Father, the Savior of the world. Thus, **"watch and pray"** and let us love and forgive one another before it is too late.

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. We pray for the little unborn babies and for all souls of the faithful departed, especially Rosalino Flores.

In Memoriam - Rest in Peace - December

4th: 1988 George Hayes, 2000 Carla Bolgar, 2002 Andrew John O'Rourke
5th: 1982 Cyril Patrick Burns, 1988 Thomas Patrick Doocey, 1989 Helen Joyce Wylie, 2000 June Townsend, 2005 Essie Margaret Clark, 2012 Mary Ina Ferigo
6th: 1962 Mary Reardon, 1987 Gladys Eileen Steele, 1995 Elsie Mary McSweeney, 2000 Patricia McKenzie, 2014 Maurice John Huria, 2014 Georgina Myrtle Daly
8th: 1991 William Fitzgerald Warren, 1993 Olive Margaret Snedden
9th: 1981 Ellen Pender, 2003 Malcolm Charteris, 2004 William Simpson, 2005 Maulana John Ghozali
10th: 1992 Marguerite Mary Rose Johnston, 2007 Kathleen Veronica McHugh, 2011 James Bede De Lore



Kid's Corner



Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ which we celebrate at Christmas. This Sunday we light the first candle on our wreath, it is a purple one. This candle represents hope – it reminds us of the words from the Prophet Isaiah when he announced the coming of the Messiah – Jesus. The people hoped in his coming as we too are waiting and hoping for Jesus to come.

Parish Notices

Youth Group: is finished for 2017. We will return in February with a day retreat on Saturday 10th Feb and regular youth group Tuesday 13th Feb. Have a blessed Christmas and happy new year! From the STYG family ☺

St Teresa's School If you are interested or know of anyone who is interested in enrolling their children at our Parish school, please make contact with Jess in the office. We are presently finalising our numbers for 2018. Thank you.

Thursday Talk - Next talk Thursday 14th. Father Martin, former Dean of Study for the Congregation of St John, will give the first Advent talk at 7:30 pm. All parishioners warmly invited to attend



St Vincent De Paul Thank you so much for all the food items donated weekly. This week we require a top up of cereals, pasta and pasta sauces, jams and spreads. Cash donations can be placed in envelopes from the foyer and dropped in the safe. Thank you so much.

Morning tea after 10am Mass today will be served in the hall. All parishioners & visitors are warmly invited to join us.



Legion of Mary. Meet every Wednesday in the hall meeting room at 7.00pm. New members are welcome.



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: No 6.00pm Mass on Christmas Day

Diocesan Notices (More notices on notice board)

BE A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS: Please join us at the Diocesan Vigil for Life **Saturday 9th December**, in solidarity with the National March for Life, Wellington. We will pray for the 500,000 unborn children aborted in NZ, for their families, and greater protection for human life. Mass at 12 noon at St Teresa's, Riccarton, with prayer afterward at the Nurses' chapel, in front of the Public Hospital.

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

SUBS REQUIRED OVER CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR FOR THE ADORATION CHAPEL Over the past four years the Diocesan Perpetual Adoration Chapel has remained open right throughout the Christmas period. This year we have a large number of people going away and require extra people to help out. If you are going to be at home this Christmas and would be happy to cover an hour to two please contact Matt on 366-9869 or chchadoration@gmail.com. It would be much appreciated.

VILLA MARIA COLLEGE IS TURNING 100! Villa's Centennial is just around the corner, with a weekend of special events planned for **16-18 February 2018**. This is a celebration for our whole community! Register your attendance today at www.villamaria100.co.nz or call 348 4165.

MARCELLIN COLLEGE'S 60TH JUBILEE is coming up next year from **23-25 March 2018**. Registrations now open at www.marcellin.school.nz.


FOOD FOR FAITH is offering an online Advent retreat. Sign up to receive daily encouragements in preparation for Christmas. More information and sign up at www.foodforfaith.org.nz

EXCITING BOOK LAUNCH: *Divine Love, Life Love, Human Love*. Read about a young girl's conversion to God's love. Fr Thanh Tran's inaugural book launch is on **Friday 8th December** at 6.00pm in St Gregory's Parish Centre. If you can't make the launch, books can be purchased (\$20.00) through the St Joseph's Parish Office, 352 9275.

DOVE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Invites All Women to come and enjoy Dove's Christmas Celebration *plus a special treat!* A time for Testimonies - letting others hear what Dove means to you. Please bring a small plate of your cultural or traditional Christmas food to share at afternoon tea. Advent is a beautiful time to appreciate and realise how much Dove helps, encourages and embraces all women with the love of Jesus – don't worry if you've never been before, come along, bring a friend **ENJOY!** *Prayer Ministry Available, Fellowship, Christmas Carols* **Saturday 9th December 1pm – 3.00pm** Christ the King Parish Centre, Greens Rd. For more info phone Diane Findlay 0274312026

CALLED TO BE A SISTER OF MERCY? The Sisters of Mercy New Zealand are hosting an afternoon for single woman (18 years and older) to explore a vocation with the Sisters of Mercy. Date: Saturday **9 December**, 1.30pm-5pm. Venue: Sisters of Mercy, 141 Main North Road, Papanui, Christchurch. Registration or enquiries: Sister Monika, vocations@mercy.org.nz or 021 1132448 or Facebook: mercynz.

CHRISTMAS FOR THE CITY is a gift to families and the people of Otautahi from the churches of Christchurch. A Christmas party experience that caters for people of all ages and communities across our city. Saturday **16 December 4-9pm** ARA City

Next Week 10 December	8am	10am	7pm
Extra Ordinary Ministers of HC	Mel Castillo	Virgie Herd & Patelize Letiu	Ramanie Weerasinghe
Readers	Mike Doolan & Aimee Pernites	Dianna Hanne & Suzi de Gouveia	Thea Martinez & Luc Etienne
Altar Servers Handmaids	Joash & Joachim	Bob, Andrew & Mau <i>Miracle and Pina</i>	Connor & Rob 
Greeters	Joanna & Roger Clifford	Veronica Keen	Lilan Weerasinghe
Collectors	Tony Bowker & Raymond Tiong	Tim Jones, Antonio Bisnar & Loma	Les, Margaret, Lolong & Peter
Counters	Pat, and team		