

St. Theresa's Parish

210 St. Andrew's Road Plimmerton

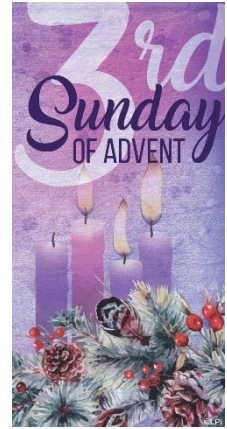
Email: st.theresas1940@gmail.com

Cell: 027 328 9911 Phone: 04 233 1279

Office hours: Mon, Thurs, Fri 10am-3pm, Wed 9am-2pm

Parish Priest: Cardinal John Dew

15 December 2024 | 3rd Sunday of Advent - Year C



In our Parish this week

Reconciliation

Is available **Saturday 14 December** at
10-12pm and 3-5pm

Monday 16 December

10.00am No Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion followed by Adoration until 1.30pm

Tuesday 17 December

9.30am No Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
7:30pm RCIA meeting in the office

Wednesday 18 December

9.30am Mass
11.00am Final school Mass
7.00pm Resource meeting

Thursday 19 December

9.30am Mass

Friday 20 December

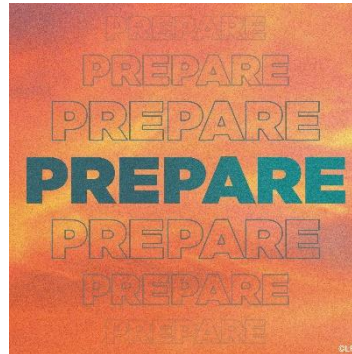
9.30am Mass

Saturday 21 December

10am-12 pm & 3pm-5pm Cardinal John will be available for Reconciliation
11.00am Rosary and Adoration in the Church
6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 22 December- 4th Sunday of Advent

9:30am Mass



3rd Sunday of Advent

On a bright Spring morning, a passerby once saw St. Francis of Assisi hoeing a row of beans and asked him, "What would you be doing right now if you knew this was the last day of your earthly life?" The Saint responded, "I'd keep hoeing this row of beans." Preparing for this world to

end — whether by our death or by Jesus' glorious coming — invites us to live not in the past or the present, but deeply in the present moment.

This same point is on display in the simple advice given by the wild and eccentric John the Baptist. He speaks of the one who is to come who will baptize "with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16). Despite the bizarre awesomeness of this announcement, he tells his listeners to engage in the present moment with simple acts of justice and love as their preparation for Jesus' coming, sharing their clothes and food, eliminating greedy and underhanded practices, being content with their wages. It's so undramatic. But how many actually did it? We don't know. How many of us will commit ourselves to these types of humble and demanding practices in our lives? That's what we should be doing now in our present moment, not worrying about the future.

Advent challenge: Name one way you are doing the bare minimum towards others in your daily life. Or name something you are doing because you are not content with your financial situation. Pray: "Jesus, if it is your will, help me to stop doing these things this week. Help me prepare for your coming." Then make the appropriate changes. - Father John Muir ©LPi

Clergy Appointment 2025

We will be welcoming Fr Ravi Kumar Voliganti as our Parish Administrator from the beginning of February 2025. Cardinal John will continue to be in the Parish until early January and then we will be looked after, for our weekday Masses (Priests to be advised), between Cardinal John leaving and Fr Ravi arriving.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of healing. The life we received at Baptism, strengthened in Confirmation, and nourished in the Eucharist is sometimes lost or severely threatened by our sinfulness and needs healing. And Jesus, in his great mercy, has given us a sacrament whereby we are restored both to our loving God and to the Church. And as a result of receiving this gift, we are restored to our baptismal state of innocence. We are truly forgiven and recreated. But even with this understanding and assurance, going to confession is hard.

We are masters at making excuses. "What will Father think of me if I confess what I did?" Or, "Why can't I just tell God I'm sorry? Why do I have to go to a priest?" "Why confess, I'm just going to sin again anyway?" "It's no big deal." "What's wrong with that?" The list goes on and on.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is not about our sins; it's about God's forgiveness. If a sacrament is an effective sign which does what it says that it does, then the acknowledgement of sin (our confession) and the words of absolution truly bring about the forgiveness of our sins and a return to baptismal innocence.

While confession may be hard—and it probably always will be—the consoling words of absolution make it all worthwhile. "I absolve you [set you free from all guilt and blame] from your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Reconciliation will be available this **Saturday 14th December 10am-12pm and 3pm-5pm;**

Saturday 21st December 10am-12pm & 3pm -5pm.

Please note there will be no Rite II Reconciliation this year.



THANK YOU
for your generosity

Wow!

Thank you very much to the Parish for your generous donations for the Christmas hampers this year.

A massive thank you to the wonderful team who made up the hampers:

Joss, Kev, Tracy, Kiri, Emma, Trish, Cath, Robyn, Bruce and Dilran. Your energy to pack 95 parcels was incredible.

Also thank you to the amazing drivers who picked up and delivered the 95 parcels – your time was much appreciated.



REMEMBER
in your prayers

Anniversaries – May they RIP

Bruce Bishop, Ruth Sampson, Connie Fyfe, Patricia Terry, Frances Thwaite, David Renshaw, Ian Selby-Bennetts

Those who are sick: Richard Gibbs, Arthur O'Leary, David Wootton, Jocelyn Bryant, Luca Ashworth, Cristina Fleming, Patricia Maher, John Montgomery, Robert Arthur and all parishioners who have Covid or are sick.



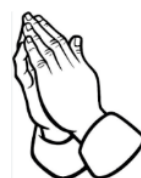
On Sunday we welcomed Adelaide Bryan into the Church through Baptism.

Please keep her and her family in your prayers.



A Chance to Sing this Christmas Sunday 15 December 4pm - 6pm
Everyone is welcome to join in singing traditional carols at St Joseph's

historic church Pāuatahanui, concluding with some delicious cake & goodies. Spend a relaxed afternoon mingling with friends and supporters at this family-friendly event. Parking is limited so share transport if possible.



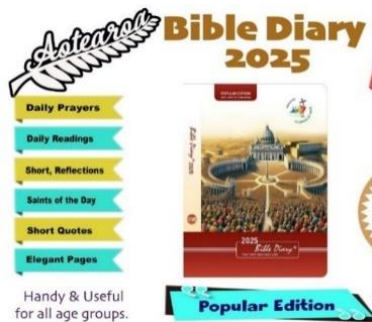
The Prayer Group will not meet again until Wednesday 5 February 2025. For any prayers requests please phone: Anne Dodds 027 311 0551

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

23 rd December:	9:30am Mass
24 th December:	6:00pm Christmas Eve family Mass
	9:00pm Christmas Eve Mass
25 th December:	9:30am Christmas Mass
26 th /27 th December:	No Mass or Liturgy of the Word
28 th December:	6:00pm Vigil Mass
29 th December:	9:30am Mass
30/31 st December:	No Mass or Liturgy of the Word
1 st January 2025:	9:30am Mass
2 nd /3 rd January:	No Mass or Liturgy of the Word
4 th January:	6:00pm Vigil Mass
5 th January:	9:30am Mass



A BIG THANK YOU to New World Paremata for their generous donation of food for our food bank which was delivered yesterday.



2025 Bible Diary

These are now on sale after both Masses.

Contact Michelle Barber on: 027 4439915
Or email:

michellebarber@gmail.com for a copy.



Parish to Parish for Bed and Breakfast
Catholics throughout New Zealand, and a few in Australia, host Catholics in

their homes. It's a wonderful way for Catholics to meet and enjoy the company of other Catholics. There is a contribution made of \$50 for one person, and \$30 for each additional guest, per night, that is, two people would pay \$80 per night.

If you wish to purchase a book with the details of the hosts, the cost is \$15. This includes postage. To order please contact or order from Marie Anderson, 2 Brent Place, Christchurch 8053, phone 027 2800 611, email: marie.ian@xtra.co.nz

YEAR OF JUBILEE : NGĀ TAPUWAE JUBILEE HIKOI 2025

Join in and experience the footsteps of Bishop Pompalier, Kupe, and the Poyntons, with other pilgrims, together sharing our Catholic and Maori heritage. This is a guided pilgrimage. Information is available at www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/lifeinfaith/nga_tapuwaee-2025 or contact Deacon Steve Fraser stephenf@cda.org.nz
Registrations are now open. Dates are 10th to 12th January 2025. Own transport required.



Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women

is excited to be launching a new initiative called Dovecotes. We invite you to prayerfully consider joining Dovecotes. To support each other to

deepen your personal relationship with Jesus Christ, through regular shared prayer. Our leaflet called 'Welcome to Dovecotes' is available in the foyer. It contains all the relevant information, you can also visit : www.dove.org.nz or email Gloria Stafford: dovenational.leader@gmail.com for further details.



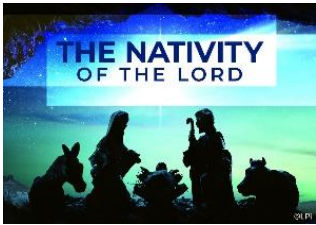
Food for Faith: Sign up at www.foodforfaith.org.nz to prepare for Christmas by receiving daily email encouragements with Fr. John O'Connor



ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL 2024

This December we ask you to support our Seminarian Formation Programme.

Throughout December, Archbishop Paul invites you to contribute to the Archbishop's Appeal, which supports the formation of our Archdiocesan seminarians. Your generous donations will help cover the costs of their education at Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland, as well as their travel to and from the Archdiocese and ongoing pastoral care. Please consider making a gift to help nurture and support those preparing for a life of service to the Church. Donations can be made to **02-0536-0003306-13**; Reference: your name; Code: AB Appeal.



Does your child love to get dressed up? We are calling for all performers big and small to star in the **Christmas Eve nativity play** during the **6pm vigil at St Theresa's Church**. It's so special to hear the little voices of our youth singing at Christmas, so please sign your children up by messaging Lauren Johnstone at 021450643. Practices will be held right after school in the church - it's like free babysitting! Practices start **3pm – 4pm on December 12, 16, 18, 19 & 23**.

Service Rosters for Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 December - 3 rd Sunday of Advent		
Mass Time:	6:00 pm	9:30 am
Sacristan	Mike Montgomery	Veronica Young
Greeters	Laupepa Va'a	Alwyn Kelly & Gary Calderwood
Welcomer /Prayers of Faithful	Noemi Thomas	Anne Dodds
Altar Servers		Finlay Blank Cooper Baldwin
Karanga		Janet McClean
Children's Liturgy		Bronagh & Luke Barber
Proclaimer of The Word	Rommel Anthony	Veronica Young
Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Rosaleen Larsen, Mike Montgomery	Dorothy Gibbs, Russell Plume, Laurie Smith
Hospitality		Rosaleen & Jeff Larsen
Altar Society		Klara Noldan

Service Rosters for Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 December -4 th Sunday of Advent		
Mass Time:	6:00 pm	9:30 am
Sacristan	Kelly Ross	Sef Truyens
Greeters	Volunteer	Blank Family
Welcomer /Prayers of Faithful	Carmel Keane	Audrey Hinder
Altar Servers		Brooke Barber Lucy Barber
Karanga		Frankie Blank
Children's Liturgy		School holidays no Children's Liturgy
Proclaimer of The Word	Juliana Ritter	Phil Reiher
Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Kelly Ross, Mary Cruz	Hamish Baker, Catherine Blank, Luke Barber
Hospitality		Volunteer please
Altar Society		Klara Noldan

B	Y	D	P	R	O	E	P	H	S	PRISON
L	P	N	O	S	I	R	P	E	O	BLIND
I	P	I	T	L	O	U	H	P	C	LAME
D	A	L	A	P	E	T	I	P	L	LEPERS
N	H	B	H	A	O	P	P	Y	E	CLEANSED
P	W	E	H	L	L	I	E	P	A	LIFE
A	T	O	C	A	Y	R	F	R	N	HAPPY
L	S	I	M	C	P	C	I	I	S	CLOTHES
A	E	E	T	E	P	S	L	S	E	PALACES
C	L	E	A	S	N	E	D	E	D	PROPHET
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