

St Columba's Parish Newsletter

18 December 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year A

www.catholicfrankton.org.nz

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Reflections on the Readings of the Day

Isaiah 7: 10-14 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-24

Today's readings remind us that God has promised to remain always with his people through the birth of a child 'Emmanuel' which means *God-is-with-us*. Because Mary received the word of God's promise in a spirit of openness and trust, God could do great things in her.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Sunday 8 am & 10 am

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated every Saturday morning at 9:30 am.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION TIMES

Cathedral Tues-Sat 20-24 December 11am-12 noon

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve 8.00 pm St Columba's
Christmas Day 10.00 am St Columba's

SIMBANG GABI Novena of Masses continues in the Parish every evening at 7 00 pm until **Friday 23 December**. All are welcome to join this devotion and spiritual preparation for Christmas.

CHURCH CLEANERS WANTED If anyone would like to join in one of the volunteer groups helping to keep our Church tidy, please contact the Parish Office: stcol.parish@xtra.co.nz Ph: 847 5688.

HOLIDAY MASS MINISTRY ROSTER For all January, would Readers and those who assist Father with Holy Communion please volunteer for any Sunday that you will be here at Mass, even if not your normal time. A roster for you to fill in will be in the sacristy along with a folder of each Sunday's Prayers and Readings Thank you!

2023 COLUMBAN CALENDARS Last two copies available from the Parish office at \$12.00 each. Order by email and collect. Payment by Eftpos / correct change appreciated. If paying online, please use Ref CAL.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

You are invited to come and learn about the Catholic Faith on Wednesday nights at 7.00 pm at the Parish Centre. For further enquiries, please email Fr. Eamon Kennedy at freamonkenedy@gmail.com

EFTPOS / TAP N GO / INTERNET BANKING

We now have **Eftpos** in the Parish, also a **Tap n Go** donation system in the foyer of the church which allows donations of \$5.00. For those who may wish to make a contribution via **Internet Banking**:

Parish Bank Acct: 020342 0050016 03

Ref: PLGVNG

Thank you to all who support the Parish financially.

SUNDAY MASSES & INTENTIONS		
Sunday	8.00 am	
Sunday	10.00 am	Parishioners
WEEKDAY MASSES		
Monday	9.00 am	Communion Service
Tuesday	9.00 am	
Wednesday	9.00 am	
Thursday	9.00 am	
Friday	9.00 am	
Saturday	9.00 am	

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Christmas Day

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10 2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6 Gospel: John 1:1-18

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath is rich in Christian symbolism. It is made of evergreen boughs formed in a circle, with no beginning or end. This reminds us of our God, who is eternal.

The four candles represent *light*: Jesus, the Light of the world, who shines in our darkness, and shows us the way to the Father. There are three purple candles for the first, second and fourth weeks of Advent. Purple is the symbol of *royalty* and *penance*. The pink candle is used on the third Sunday of Advent, to symbolise the coming joy of Christmas. Our Advent prayer, acts of kindness and self-denial help make our hearts ready to welcome Jesus our Lord, as he comes to us on Christmas Day.

Diocesan Snippets

Christmas Mass Times 2022

A big welcome to everyone who may wish to attend any of the Christmas Masses within our Diocese. Click [here to view](#). Safe trip to those with travel plans. Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Notices from *Titipounamu Study & Joy* Online Sessions (Evening): www.studyjoy.nz

*The Infancy Narratives in the Gospel of Matthew with Kieran Fenn fms.

Monday, 19 December, 7-8.30pm. Koha/Donation. ZOOM.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/the-infancy-narratives-in-the-gospels/>

Holy Cross Seminary To read their December newsletter, please [CLICK HERE](#).

The Word in Other Words Bible Diary is produced by the Divine Word Missionaries. It is a reflection on the daily Word of God in the light of contemporary missionary experiences. It is very helpful especially during these times of the covid pandemic where many still pray at home on Sundays. It is a good Christmas gift. Cost \$20.00. To order email info@missio.nz.

Religious Christmas Cards

St Vincent de Paul are again offering the opportunity to purchase cards which properly reflect the true meaning of Christmas at a very affordable price. Email office@ryanpublications.co.nz to order.

Food For Faith for Advent

Subscribe at www.foodforfaith.org.nz to receive daily email encouragements in preparation for Christmas. Also sign up for weekly Homily Studio & daily Lectio Divina podcasts at the same link.

Parish to Parish for Bed and Breakfast Catholic Hospitality in New Zealand and Australia.

September 2022 edition now available from Marie Anderson, email: marie.ian@xtra.co.nz

Ph: (03) 359 5541

Catholic Family Support Services | Christmas Hamper Appeal

You can make a difference today. Small Hamper - \$50 / Large Hamper - \$100. Contact (07) 856 3760 or direct deposit into their account: 02-0342-0008002-00 (with your name and contact details).

2023 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 Formation Course 19 – 22 January & 14 – 16 April,

Sacred Heart Parish Centre, Ponsonby, Auckland. Contact cgsaotearoa@gmail.com

Journey to the Holy Land | 5th March 2023 with Bishop Steve Lowe

Download [here](#) for more information. Contact: Anastasia James, Travel Consultant, Harvest Journeys NZ Toll-Free: 0800 819 156 www.harvestjourneys.com

Family Weekend | April 15-16, 2023 St Thomas More Church, Mt Maunganui.

Registration now open! Use "EARLYBIRD" as a promo code to get a discount - **Limited time only**

Click [this link](#) to sign up and book accommodation.