

# St Columba's Parish Newsletter

11 December 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

Year A

[www.catholicfrankton.org.nz](http://www.catholicfrankton.org.nz)

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## Reflections on the Readings of the Day

*Isaiah 35:1-6. 10 St James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11*

Today's readings celebrate the signs by which we will recognise the coming Messiah. They proclaim wholeness for what is broken, life for what is dead and hope for those who despair. In Advent we are asked to wait patiently for God. Then we will truly be able to celebrate his transformation in our lives.

### WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Sunday 8 am & 10 am

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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** The spirit of Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the birth of Jesus at Christmas, and it also points to the second coming of Christ at the end of time. On this "Rejoice" (*Gaudete*) Sunday, the pink candle on the wreath is lit and rose - coloured vestments may be worn by the celebrant to signify the joy of the Lord's coming.

### ADVENT RECONCILIATION TIMES

St Columba's Thursday 15 December 7.00 pm

Cathedral Tues-Sat 13-17 December 11am-12 noon

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve 8.00 pm St Columba's

Christmas Day 10.00 am St Columba's

**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](mailto:stcol.parish@xtra.co.nz) Ph: 847 5688.

**2023 COLUMBAN CALENDARS** *Last five* 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 [freamonkennedy@gmail.com](mailto:freamonkennedy@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	<i>St Lucy</i>
Wednesday	9.00 am	<i>St John of the Cross</i>
Thursday	9.00 am	Holy Souls esp FoSS Members
Friday	9.00 am	
Saturday	9.00 am	

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:** Fourth Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14 2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-7 Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

## 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

**Mass & Taonga Blessing – Sunday December 11 at 2pm** Hāto Petera Chapel 103 College Rd, Northcote  
Celebrated by Bishop Steven Lowe and assisted by Auckland Diocese Vicar for Māori Manuel Beazley.

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

**\*Stories, Films & the Bible** with Fr Kevin Waldie SM.

**Monday 12 December: The Father** (2020) Koha/Donation. ZOOM.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2022/11/15/stories-films-the-bible-2/>

**\*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/>

**Annual Christmas Community Dinner Saturday 17 December** 2-8:30pm, Zeal Hamilton, 9 Ward Lane  
If you would be interested in giving your support, please contact the office at 07 856 6989 and ask for Danielle ([daniellem@cdh.org.nz](mailto:daniellem@cdh.org.nz)) or Emma ([emmat@cdh.org.nz](mailto:emmat@cdh.org.nz))

**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](mailto: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](mailto:office@ryanpublications.co.nz) to order.

### Food For Faith for Advent

Subscribe at [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.harvestjourneys.com)