

St Columba's Parish Newsletter

24 December 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year B

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Reflections on the Readings of the Day

Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

Today's Gospel opens with the message of the angel Gabriel to Mary. Because Mary received the Word of God in a spirit of trust, openness and obedience, God could do great things in her life.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Sunday 8 am and 10 am

CONFESSION The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated:

- after the Saturday morning Mass.
- before and after the Sunday Masses.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AT ST COLUMBA'S PARISH

Sunday 24 December 4th Sunday of Advent Mass Times as normal - 8.00am and 10.00am.

Christmas Eve 7.00 pm (Carols at 6.30 pm)

Christmas Day 10.00 am

Sunday 31 December 8.00am and 10.00 am

Monday 1 January (New Year's Day) 9.00 am

January Sunday Mass Times as normal - 8.00am and 10.00am

NEW YEARS EVE MASS A New Year's Eve Mass will be celebrated by the Waikato Filipino Community in the Church at 6.30 pm on **Sunday December 31.**

JOURNAL FOR COUPLES *Through His Word: Our Journey to Holiness.* A one-year journal of daily scripture reflection by parishioner Melissa Castillo. Cost \$10 Bank Account 38-9020-0131375-00.

Christmas greetings to you all, for a wonderfully blessed and peace-filled Christmas and New Year. Have a safe and festive holiday season! The Parish Office will re-open **Wednesday 31 January 2024.**

SUNDAY MASSES & INTENTIONS			
Sunday		8.00 am	Andy Pereira RIP
		10.00 am	Parishioners
Sunday	Christmas Eve	7.00 pm	
WEEKDAY MASSES			
Monday	Christmas Day	10.00 am	
Tuesday	<i>St Stephen</i>	9.00 am	Fr John Pereira RIP
Wednesday	<i>St John</i>	9.00 am	Craig Hardie RIP
Thursday	<i>The Holy Innocents</i>	9.00 am	Lucy Krone RIP
Friday		9.00 am	Bill Ditchfield RIP
Saturday		9.00 am	Anna Huu Tran

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: The Holy Family

1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

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 **\$7.00**. 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. If you have recently set up an internet payment, please email your name & contact details to the Parish for tax receipt purposes.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

You are invited to come and learn about the Catholic Faith. Our weekly programme is taking a break for January. For further enquiries, please email Fr. Eamon Kennedy at freamonkennedy@gmail.com

FR EAMON FAREWELL

Our Parish Priest Fr Eamon has been appointed to All Saints Parish, Papamoa, after 3 years with us in Frankton. He will be leaving early February after the holidays. If you would like to make a donation to him, please put an envelope clearly marked 'Fr Eamon' in the Sunday collection plate; or online donation via the Parish Account **020342 0050016 03**, using 'Father' as Reference. Thank you.

NATIVITY LETTER FROM POPE FRANCIS

"In front of the crib we discover how important it is for our life, so often frenetic, to find moments of silence and prayer. The silence to behold the beauty of the face of the baby Jesus, the Son of God, born in a lowly stable."

"As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realize that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him,"

Diocesan Snippets

If you're still not sure where and when you can go to a Christmas Mass, check out the Diocesan Website website to find a time for you! 🌲

Christmas Mass times can be found under each location: www.cdh.org.nz/churches-mass-times

Cardinal Tom Williams RIP Cardinal Tom Williams, ONZ, Archbishop Emeritus of Wellington has died, aged 93. A full obituary of Cardinal Tom's life is published here:

<https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/cardinal-williamsrip/>

Bishop Richard has made the following appointments effective February 7, 2024

- All Saints, Papāmoa Coast: Fr Eamon Kennedy, Pastor.
- All Saints, Papāmoa Coast: Fr Philip Billing, Weekend Work only. He is completing advanced studies and needs weekdays free from pastoral assignment.
- St Anthony & St Paul, Huntly/Ngaruawahia: Fr Matthew Gibson, Pastor - In preparation for Advanced Studies 2025
- St Mary, Gisborne: Fr Mark Field, Pastor
- Holy Family, Morrinsville, Te Aroha, Paeroa: Fr Tovia Lusitino, Pastor
- St Columba & Holy Name, Frankton/Raglan: Fr Stuart Young, Pastor.
- St Columba & Holy Name, Frankton/Raglan: Fr Joseph George, Parochial Vicar.
- Holy Cross, Hamilton, Pastor and Parochial Vicar remain Fr Young and Fr George.

Situations Vacant Personal Assistant to the Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton

This is a full-time role, and will suit a person with strong organisational communication skills, IT proficiency, and a high level of integrity, confidentiality, and attention to detail.

For a position description and job application; please confidentially email jobs@cdh.org.nz

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

Christmas Story with Prof Thomas O'Loughlin: <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2021/12/23/the-christmas-story/>

Parish to Parish Bed and Breakfast, a wonderful way for Catholics to meet and enjoy the company of other Catholics. Cost per night: \$50 for one guest and \$30 for each additional guest, including breakfast. To purchase a book with details of hosts in N Z and Australia, contact: Marie Anderson 03 359 5541 or email: marie.ian@xtra.co.nz. *The cost for a book is \$15 which includes postage.*

Prayer & Action fora Ceasefire in Gaza

If you would like to be on a mailing list for more info, contact Sister Barbara: barbpeace9@gmail.com.