

# St Columba's Parish Newsletter

17 December 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

Year B

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

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## Reflections on the Readings of the Day

*Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8. 19-28*

Today's Gospel opens with John the Baptist calling us to repent and change our lives. His spirit of attentive openness to the action of God in his life, is a model for our own spiritual growth.

### 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.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** *The spirit of the Liturgy during Advent is one of expectant preparation for both the feast of Christmas, and the second coming of Christ. Today 'Gaudete' ('Rejoice') Sunday signifies the joyful closeness of the Lord's coming; so rose-coloured vestments may be worn instead of purple.*

**RCIA** At the 8.00 am Mass today Alexia, Natasha and Sarah will be accepted as catechumens on their journey to the Catholic faith. Please keep them in your prayers.

**JIM CLARE RIP** Sincere condolences to Anne Marie Clare and the family on the death of Jim. Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Parish on **Thursday 21 December** at 11.00 am. *May he rest in peace.*

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AT ST COLUMBA'S PARISH

Sunday 24 December 4<sup>th</sup> 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

\***2024 COLUMBAN CALENDARS** are now sold out! Copies are still available from the Cathedral office during the week, or from the Fairfield Parish office. Cost \$12.00 each.

\***2024 CLARETIAN BIBLE DIARIES** Now available. Cost \$20 each. Payment by Eftpos. If paying online, please use the Ref *Diary*. Cash may be given to Fr Eamon on Sunday.

\***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.

**SIMBANG GABI** a traditional 9-day series of Masses will be celebrated at St Columba to prepare spiritually for Christmas from **Friday 15 – Saturday 23 December at 6.30 pm** every evening. *All welcome.*

SUNDAY MASSES & INTENTIONS		
Sunday	8.00 am	
	10.00 am	Parishioners
WEEKDAY MASSES		
Monday	9.00 am	Communion Service
Tuesday	9.00 am	Pereira & Hill Family RIP
Wednesday	9.00 am	
Thursday	<b>11.00 am</b>	Requiem Mass Jim Clare RIP
Friday	9.00 am	
Saturday	9.00 am	Holy Souls

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

1st Reading: Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16    2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27    Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

### INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

You are invited to come and learn about the Catholic Faith. Our programme runs weekly on **Wednesday nights at 7.00 pm** at the Parish Centre which is next door to St Columba's Catholic Church.

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 **\$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.*

### THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath is made of evergreen boughs formed in a circle, which has no beginning or end. This reminds us of our God, who is eternal. The candles—three purple and one pink—represent *light*: Jesus, the Light of the world, who shines in our darkness, and shows us the way to the Father. Purple is the symbol of penance. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent as a foretaste of 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

**Bishop's Ordination** [View photos and thank you message on facebook here](#)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:marie.ian@xtra.co.nz). *The cost for a book is \$15 which includes postage.*

**Catholic Family Support Services Fundraiser** (0800) 24 20 25 Account Details: 02-0342-0008002-00 \$100 will cover a small food hamper, \$150 a large food hamper, for a family in need this Christmas.

### Prayer & Action for a Ceasefire in Gaza

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

**Food For Faith:** A selection of Fr John O'Connor's reflections from the [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz) website is now available as a book. It is offered for people who are seeking greater maturity of faith.

His popular *Food for Faith* page has daily reflections for Advent. Sign up: [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz)

**This year leave the gift-wrapping to us, as proceeds help cover costs for teens, chaperones, and missionaries attending Life Teen Summer Camp in January.**

**DROP OFF INFORMATION** Chanel Centre 51 Grey Street, Hamilton East 8:30AM-5:00PM Monday-Friday. Paper, ribbon, etc is provided. *Please bring your gifts in bags or a box that is properly labelled with your contact details.*