



## MASS TIMES

*These times are subject to change*

Day	Time	Church
Sunday	Vigil 5pm Saturday 8am 9am <i>9.30am</i> 10.30am <i>5pm</i>	St Mary Immaculate St Mary Immaculate St Joseph's # <i>St Thomas More</i> St Mary Immaculate <i>St Thomas More</i>
	<i>The 9am Mass on 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month is in Te Reo Maori</i>	
Monday	8am	St Joseph's
Tuesday	8am	St Mary Immaculate
Wednesday	9.15am	St Therese, Bethlehem
Thursday	8am	St Mary Immaculate
Friday	8am 12.05pm	St Joseph's % St Mary Immaculate
Saturday	8am Mass	St Mary Immaculate

# First Sunday at St Therese Chapel, Bethlehem. % First Friday at Omokoroa, 9.30am

\* During school term only

### Parish Priest:

Fr. Philip Billing

### Assistant Priest:

Fr. Arnold Punzalan

### Deacons:

Rev Ricky Kuka

Rev Sid Wells (Retired)

Rev Don Beckett (Retired)

### Hospital Chaplain:

Leanne Brooks (021 056 3326)

### Parish Council Chairperson:

Terry Considine (027 829 9467)

### Parish Finance Chairman:

Ashley Hayes (578 5190)

### Deadline for newsletter:

Thursday midday

### Deadline for ANCHOR Magazine:

Second Tuesday in February 2021

(Please submit articles electronically if possible)

### SCHOOLS:

Aquinas College (543 2400)

Principal: Mr Matthew Dalton

DRS: Susan Van Zyl

St Mary's School (578 8066)

Principal: James Murray

DRS: Mrs Teresa Rush

### St Vincent de Paul

Mary Elmiger / ph. 021 022 43443

Support Centre / ph. 578 3814

### PARISH OFFICE

#### Parish Administrative & Pastoral

#### Co-Ordinator:

Margie Cooper

PO Box 15-124, Tauranga 3144

(114 Elizabeth St, Tauranga Central)

#### Email:

office@taurangamoanacatholic.nz

#### Pastoral Assistant: Cheryl Standing

#### Email:

pastoralassistant@taurangamoanacatholic.nz

#### Office Hours:

Monday to Friday: 8.30am to 2.30pm

#### Phone: (07) 578 6209

#### Website:

www.taurangamoanacatholic.nz

## Health & Safety

Please take care and have consideration for others when entering and exiting the Church property.

Thank you.

**Think safety.**

**Act Safely.**

## CONFESSIONS

### St Joseph's Church:

Friday 7.30am *or by appointment*

### St Mary Immaculate Church:

Friday 11.15am,

Saturday 8.30am *or by appointment*

### PARISH ADDRESSES

St Joseph's Church (& Presbytery), 10 Pitua Rd, Te Puna

St Mary Immaculate Church, 114 Elizabeth St, Tauranga

Cluny Retreat Centre, 21 Thirteenth Ave, Tauranga

Aquinas College, 183 Pyes Pa Rd, Tauranga

St Mary's School, 11 Thirteenth Ave, Tauranga

St Therese Chapel, 217 Bethlehem Rd, Bethlehem

St Thomas More, 17 Gloucester Rd, Mt Maunganui

# The Parish of Saint Thomas Aquinas

*Incorporating*

St Joseph's Church, Te Puna

*and*

St Mary Immaculate Church, Tauranga

✠

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**13th December 2020**



parish of  
**St Thomas Aquinas**

Kia ora and a warm and joyous welcome to all who gather to celebrate today on this 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – Gaudete (rejoice) Sunday .

To know Jesus is to know God so intimately that God becomes like a spring within us from which we can drink and be refreshed, and renewed. To know God in this way is a cause of great joy. This is the joy announced to the shepherds at the first Christmas, and is announced to us once again today.

Please make a note in your calendar for this coming Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm to be present at our parish communal celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation at St Mary Immaculate Church. Priests will be available to hear individual confession. On Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm, St Joseph's, Te Puna there will be a second opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. This is a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas and our allow our Saviour to be reborn again in our Christian lives.

Congratulations to Srs Roida Sinaga, Rose Dan Lyu and Augustina Yang who made their first profession, taking the vows of obedience, chastity and poverty in the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny last Tuesday evening at the Cluny Chapel, St Mary's Catholic School, Tauranga. It was a wonderful and joyful celebration with Bishops Steve and Denis presiding. Well done sisters! We look forward to continuing your journey of faith with us in Tauranga.

This weekend we welcome with great joy the following children into God's family the Church through the gift of baptism, Genevieve McPherson, Aamaiah Bibi and Olive Bibi.

Please keep in your prayers Christine Gunfield and her family as they mourn the loss of their mother and grandmother Jean who passed away on Thursday morning. Requiescet in pace.

To the communities of Aquinas College and St Mary's School enjoy your summer break. May the Lord bless you and keep you safe, renewed and refreshed for 2021.

Gaudete – rejoice.

**Father Philip**

**Parish Priest**

**Gaudete Sunday**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**



**HAMILTON DIOCESE** - There is now a direct link where parishioners can see the full content of the Diocesan snippets online at: [newsletter.cdh.nz](https://newsletter.cdh.nz)

Remember to download the Parish App.

Should you wish to make a donation to the Parish, the Parish account number is: 02 0342 0050032 000

## TE PUNA GIFTING SUNDAY TODAY / 13<sup>th</sup>

**DECEMBER** - As Christmas is fast approaching please remember our annual gifting Sunday today December 13th at Te Puna. This year we will be working alongside St Vinnies Support Services in Cameron Road. Our focus will be more on special Christmas food items, toiletries, towels, face-cloths. A special box will be at the church. Your generosity may bring hope and a smile to someone who is finding this Christmas difficult. Thank you. Any enquiries ring Mary 548 2730.

## TRIDUUM MASS FOR CHRISTMAS

On the **21st until the 23rd of December at 7pm** at St Mary Immaculate everyone is invited to the Filipino devotion of **Simbang Gabi**. The Filipino Community of our Parish entitled it as **Simbang Gabi sa St. Mary: A Triduum Mass for Christmas**. This is a short version of the full nine-day novena of masses said in the Philippines. Come early to hear and enjoy your favourite Christmas Carols performed by the Filipino Choirs in Tauranga. Also kindly bring with you pantry goods and items to fill the Christmas baskets for the Vinnies. Spread the word. All are welcome.

## 2021 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS

Available from the Parish office, \$12 each. The calendars will also be available for sale at the weekend Masses this weekend. Be in quick, not that many calendars left.

## UNSHAKEABLE JOY / still time to join!

**A 26-Day free online Retreat this Advent.** Join Chris Stefanick alongside Cardinal-elect Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher to the papal household for Saint Pope John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict, and Pope Francis, for a FREE online 26-day retreat. Began Sunday, November 29th, daily videos and reflections that fit into your busy day. Visit the link:

[Real Life Catholic/Unshakeable Joy](https://www.facebook.com/UnshakeableJoy) and spread the word. Or scan QR code to register.



## KETE KORERO

The latest edition of Kete Kōrero is now also available online: <http://ketekorero.cdh.nz/>

## SVDP FOOD DRIVE

Please help support our local families and people in need. SVDP are in desperate need of any non-perishable items such as canned food, pasta, rice, cereals, snack bars, laundry power, cleaning items etc. any basic necessities. Many families go without at this time of the year, **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE** by filling a bag for SVDP, "PLEASE HELP US HELP PEOPLE". There will be SVDP stamped brown paper bags available at the Saturday Vigil mass and Sunday morning masses (8am and 10.30am) **this weekend** (12/13<sup>th</sup> December). Once the bag is full, you can drop at the SVDP, Cameron Road shop/Support centre, or bring into church the next time you come. The SVDP are the only support agency open during Christmas, please help. Thank you for supporting the SVDP Society!



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**2020 / Hamilton Diocese**  
For all Christmas Mass times across the Diocese. Invite your family and friends to come and celebrate the birth of Christ. Please visit:

[cdh.org.nz/christmas-mass-times-2020](http://cdh.org.nz/christmas-mass-times-2020)

**Hamilton Diocese / Christmas Mass Times**



## ST PATRICK'S CHURCH WAIPAWA

150th Jubilee, 23-24/April, 2021. Celebrate & reunite your connections to St. Patrick's Church Waipawa to commemorate the first church dedication and 150 years of history. Exciting events are lined-up for this special occasion which can be viewed through this FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Patricks-Waipawa-Jubilee-150-years-103597641594678>

## FOOD FOR FAITH FOR ADVENT

Father John O'Connor's popular Food for Faith page will have daily reflections for Advent. Go to his site and sign up to get the reflections daily by email during December: [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz)

## Wisdom from Pope Francis

*"Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ's return."*



## POMPALLIER COMMEMORATION AT TOTARA POINT / Sunday 11am, 10th January 2021

Everyone is invited to the 183rd anniversary of the first Mass celebrated at Totara Point. There will be a Holy Mass celebration at Totara Point, North Hokianga on 10th/January, 2021 at 11 am followed by a shared picnic lunch. The Pompallier Hokianga Trust has the mission of preserving and promoting the memory of Bishop Pompallier as the first Bishop of Aotearoa New Zealand and his role in founding the Catholic Church here and in the Pacific. The Trust once again asks you to remember the places of pilgrimage in Northland associated with the early history of the Catholic Church, namely, MOTUTI, where the Bishop's remains have been interred in St Mary's Church, and TŌTARA POINT, where the first official Mass was celebrated on 13 January 1838.



## CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm St Mary Immaculate  
7pm St Mary Immaculate  
10pm St Mary Immaculate  
Midnight St Joseph's, Te Puna (Te Reo)

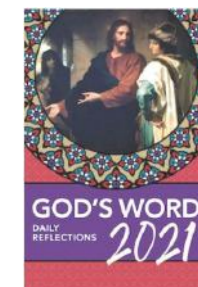
## CHRISTMAS DAY

9am St Mary Immaculate  
9am St Therese, Bethlehem

The Christmas Mass for Matakana will be celebrated on Sunday 27th December, 11.30am

## GOD'S WORD 2021

These daily reflection books have now arrived and are available from the parish office, \$25. A great Christmas present! Designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life. Be nourished by the Word of God. Includes the Bible readings set down for each day, with a reflection. Begins January 2021.



## TITIPOUNAMU STUDY & JOY

Online Session (Evening): Christmas "Self Care Nibbles" with Clare Barnett. 15 December. Fee: \$30. ZOOM. Online Session (Retreat Day): Who am I? Reflecting on our Identity in God with Eamon Butler. Saturday, 30 January, Fee: \$60, ZOOM. For more information and registration: [info@studyjoy.nz](mailto:info@studyjoy.nz)

## LATEST NZ CATHOLIC

Latest edition December 13-26 issue is now available, contact NZ Catholic: [admin@nzcatholic.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzcatholic.org.nz)

Rite II will be held on:

**Tuesday 15th December, 6.30pm** St Mary Immaculate and on  
**Friday 18th December, 6.30pm** at St Joseph's, Te Puna.



**Protect yourself, and others around you, by staying at home if you feel at all unwell.**



<https://www.facebook.com/taurangamoanacatholic>

