



MASS TIMES

These times are subject to change

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 Consedine (027 829 9467)
Parish Finance Chairman: Ashley Hayes (578 5190)
Deadline for newsletter: Thursday midday
Deadline for ANCHOR Magazine: Second Tuesday in November (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

Day	Time	Church
Sunday	Vigil 5pm Saturday 8am 9am 9.30am 10.30am 5pm	St Mary Immaculate St Mary Immaculate St Joseph's # St Thomas More St Mary Immaculate St Thomas More
	<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 10am NO MASS	St Therese, Bethlehem Aquinas College *
Thursday	8am 9am NO MASS	St Mary Immaculate St Mary's School Chapel *
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 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
✠

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
29th NOVEMBER 2020



Welcome to the season of Advent, the Church's four-week preparation for Christmas.

Christ's coming into the world changed everything. His coming is the fulfilment of God's promise to restore God's people and establish God's reign on earth. Advent for God's people today is still a time for watchfulness, staying awake, preparation, looking out for those opportunities to welcome Christ into our hearts and lives so we all can share in God's reign of joy and peace.

Aiming our spiritual binoculars toward the past, we join with men and women from the Old Testament who waited from the Saviour with eager longing. Looking to the future, we prepare our hearts to welcome the Saviour again – not just at Christmas, but when he returns in glory. Christ has come; Christ will come again – this is the true spirit of Advent.

This past month of November has been a busy one for our parish. Parish sacramental programmes have dominated the life of our faith community. 88 young received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the beginning of the month and last weekend 84 young people made their first Holy Communion. During this past month we have prayed for our faithful departed who have faithfully returned to God beginning with the Commemoration Mass for the Holy Souls and at every subsequent Mass during the month of November – with Mass offerings and lighting of candles. Yesterday I blessed the graves at both Pyes Pa and 18th Avenue cemeteries. The parish plans to offer a memorial Mass for all those who have passed away over this challenging year with a Mass on March 27th. This is approximately the time we entered 'lock-down' for the first time in New Zealand. This Mass will also be a Mass of remembrance of all those who have died as a result of the global pandemic.

This weekend we welcome with great joy the following children into God's family the Church through the gift of baptism. Albie and Isobel Addidle.

As Aquinas College and St Mary's School have come to the end of their respective school year there will be no more Masses on Wednesday at the Aquinas College Chapel and Thursday's at St Mary's School Chapel until February next year.

Book into your diary the wonderful Messiah concert that takes place at St Mary Immaculate on Saturday December the 5th 7.30pm, tickets available from Ticketek.

May season of Advent bless you abundantly. Arohanui.

Father Philip
Parish Priest



HAMILTON DIOCESE - There is now a direct link where parishioners can see the full content of the Diocesan snippets online at: 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 13th DECEMBER

AS Christmas is fast approaching please remember our annual gifting Sunday which will be on 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, facecloths. A special box will be at the church. Your generosity may bring hope and a smile to someone who is finding this Christmas difficult. Many thanks and blessings. Any enquiries ring Mary 548 2730.

ROSARY FOR LIFE AND FAITH

The Coast to Coast Rosary for Life and Faith will be held **3pm Saturday 5th December, St Joseph's, Te Puna**. Come and join us in praying the Rosary and Pro-Life prayers in support of the March for Life taking place in Wellington on that day. All are welcome to attend.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 10.30AM MASSES

We need your help! Additional volunteers needed to assist with the powerpoint roster at the 10.30am Sunday masses. Full training will be provided, please contact the Parish office if you are able to help. This would be a perfect opportunity for our young Catholics to be involved in the Mass ministries in an area they are very familiar and comfortable with.



DOVE

Theme: Don't forget to remember. Bless the Lord, O my soul; all that is within me, Bless his holy name. All women are very welcome. Come and have some time out with the Lord, before Christmas. 8th December, 6.45 for 7pm start, Aquinas school chapel, Pyes Pa Rd, Tauranga. Contact Sue 027 275 1383.



2021 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS

Available from the Parish office, \$12 each. The calendars will also be available for sale at the weekend Masses for the following few weekends.

UNSHAKEABLE JOY

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. Begins Sunday, November 29th, daily videos and reflections that fit into your busy day. Visit the link: RealLifeCatholic.com/UnshakeableJoy and spread the word. Or scan QR code to register.



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

STUDYING THEOLOGY / UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

Theology Programme at the University of Otago new enrolments for 2021 are due by December 10th. For details of papers go to: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/papers/>

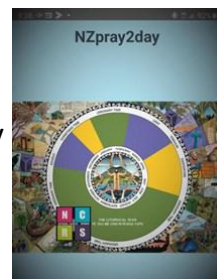
JOSHUA, INSPIRING MEN OF FAITH

Thursday 10th December at 7.30pm. Featuring Charbel Raish's conversion testimony "How Islam led me back to Christ". This online series is courtesy of Parousia Catholic Media, Australia. Register online: <http://www.tochrist.rsvpify.com>

NZpray2day

An App for Apple devices

The Church's [National Centre for Religious Studies](http://www.nccr.org.nz) (NCRS) – part of [Te Kupenga-Catholic Leadership Institute](http://www.tekupenga.org.nz) – is delighted to announce the launch of the NZpray2day app for Apple devices. NCRS Director Colin MacLeod says NZpray2day supports young and old – particularly in Catholic schools and parishes – to enter simply into the richness of the ancient Christian cycle of seasons, saints and readings.



Prayer App

Wisdom from Pope Francis

"Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made Man."



BISHOP APPEAL 2020: Thank you message from Bishop Steve

/ Thank you for your generous response to my 2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Throughout the centuries the missionary work of the Church has been enabled by the generosity of people like you. I thank God that he has placed in your heart the desire to **keep hope alive** through the pastoral mission of Jesus in our Diocese. May your donation be the seed of something great in the lives of people that will be touched by our various pastoral programmes and may it bring blessings to you and your family. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your family and all the benefactors of the Diocese in the year ahead. Yours sincerely in Christ the Good Shepherd.

✠ Steve Lowe / BISHOP OF HAMILTON

(Donations to the Appeal can still be received on the Diocesan website at bishopappeal.cdh.nz)



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

MASS FOR LIFE

You're invited to pray for babies, mums, dads and families at a Mass for Life on Friday 4th December, 7pm at St Mary of the Angels, 17 Boulcott Street, Wellington. Bishop Michael Gielen will be the principal celebrant. Eucharistic Adoration will follow for one hour after Mass to pray in readiness for the National March for Life. For more information please visit fli.org.nz/prolife_events or phone Clare 021 231 7954.

(Between the end of March and the start of August, during the lockdown, just over 4900 women underwent an abortion within 21 weeks of pregnancy / a rise of 9% compared to data recorded in the same window over the previously three years.)



SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER 2020

2pm | Wellington

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>

