



MASS TIMES

These times are subject to change

Day	Time	Church
Sunday	Vigil 5pm Saturday	St Mary Immaculate
	8am 9am 9.30am 10.30am 5pm	St Mary Immaculate St Joseph's # St Thomas More St Mary Immaculate St Thomas More
	The 9am Mass on 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month is in Te Reo Maori	
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
✠

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
6th December 2020



Kia Ora!

The Gospel on the Second Sunday of Advent introduces John the Baptist; the precursor of the Lord Jesus. Listen to the voice crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Why listen, is there anything good come out of the desert? The desert is a place of scarcity, a place of danger, a place of difficulty, a place of hardship. Is there anything good come out of the desert? Yes! The most unforgiving and difficult place on earth has something to teach us that no green and fertile land can offer.

On the 21st until the 23rd of December at 7pm 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 done 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.

What is **Simbang Gabi**?

Simbang Gabi or *Night Mass* is a Filipino Advent tradition that honors the Blessed Virgin Mary. This very rich devotion dates back to the mid 1600's when missionaries from Mexico brought in the practice to the Philippines. **Simbang Gabi** is basically a nine-day novena of masses that begins on the 16th of December and is the peak of Advent season for the church in the Philippines. This joyful tradition extends outside the walls of the church as every street corner, alleys, and houses are decorated with colorful lights and traditional lanterns we call **parol**. Christmas carols and songs of the season are played through the loudspeakers in unison with the church bells that call out people to gather at the church. And shortly after the mass people feast on Christmas delicacy like the **bibingka** (rice cake cooked in Terracota wares on charcoal) and **puto bumbong** (rice and purple yam cake cooked in bamboo pole steamer), or a **salabat** (ginger tea) or hot chocolate that local vendors offer outside the church. Although celebrated now in many different ways this Catholic tradition has survived the test of the modern times and still continues in the Philippines, and wherever there is a Filipino Catholic community around the world. The *Simbang Gabi* remains as a testament of the perseverance of every Filipino Catholic in the faith.

Kindly pray for the soul of Pauleen Southee who was buried from St. Mary Immaculate Church last Wednesday, 2nd December. And let us continue praying for the sick especially those who are terminally ill.

God bless us all! In Jesus and Mary, **Father Arnold, Assistant 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.

DOVE

Theme: Don't forget to remember. All women are very welcome. 8th December, 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. Began Sunday, November 29th, daily videos and reflections that fit into your busy day. Visit the link: [Real Life Catholic/Unshakeable Joy](https://www.reallifecatholic.com/unshakeable-joy) 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

AQUINAS COLLEGE

The last day of the school year for Aquinas College is on 9th December. We wish all the staff and students of the College a well deserved, safe and restful holiday break.



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) on 12/13th 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!



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>

KETE KORERO

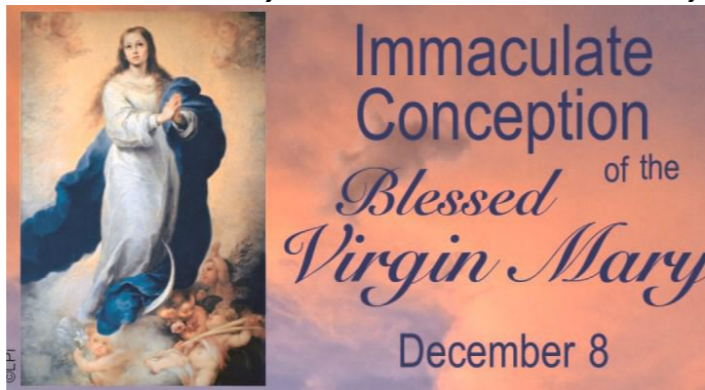
The latest edition of Kete Kōrero is also now available online: <http://ketekorero.cdh.nz/>

ST MARY'S SCHOOL

There will be an end of year graduation Mass for the year 5 and 6 students next Thursday, 5.30pm at St Mary Immaculate Church. We ask the Lord's blessing upon the students who will be graduating from St Mary's.



8am Mass at St Mary Immaculate Church on Tuesday



Wisdom from Pope Francis

"The season of Advent.... Restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God's Word."



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 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)

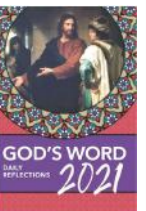
CHRISTMAS DAY

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

MARCH FOR LIFE

Please remember to keep in your prayers all those who have joined the National March for Life in Wellington this weekend.



LOVE THEM BOTH

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>

