

PARISH of ST MICHAEL

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Pastor's Column : 2nd Sunday of Advent

Those familiar with Maori culture will appreciate their triangulated world view of Atua (God), whenua (land) and tangata (people). The Semitic mind-set would be hospitable to this way of seeing. It has been said that the land of Israel or Palestine, depending on which side of the argument you debate, is a fifth Gospel. The very name, Jerusalem, awakens the sleeping pilgrim that lies in every truly Catholic heart, a name which invites journey and encounter. It is a privilege to visit this land and then the truth of its evangelical identity manifests itself. In spite of tell-like layers of history, one can still discern the foot prints of the Master who paced that land 2000 years ago. In ancient times you identified a time period by significant people who then lived. Luke writes of Tiberius, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, Lysanias, Annas and Caiaphas etc. It would be difficult to list a gallery of more infamous rogues and degenerate miscreants, and they were the political landscape into which John the Baptist burst. You may like to read Suetonius and Philo and Josephus to background the biography of some of these. Like water gushing in a desert wilderness, the largely physical landscape of Jesus time, so John announced a new kingdom, and a new king, who like medieval sappers, would eventually replace the impregnable structures of the Great Roman empire. Just as St Matthew imagined Jesus as the new Moses, so Luke imagined Jesus as the new Elijah. Luke is writing history, not mythology. He uses classic historical speak to anchor his story. Jesus' Elijah-like miracles are not fairytales, but facts. Luke, by quoting Isaiah, is wanting us to keep referencing the Old Testament. Luke wants us to see Jesus life story as the new Exodus. Just as God carved a path through the wilderness, leading the Jews to the promised land, so He will carve a new path leading us to the promised land of eternal life. It is not only about the Jews liberation from slavery in Egypt and their wanderings in the wilderness, but also the promise of entering a land flowing with milk and honey. It is about the in-gathering of all the tribes of Israel and the celebration of the new Jerusalem and the new temple. This is what is prophesied by the prophet Baruch. Just as sin was responsible for the exiling of the different tribes by the Assyrians and others, so it is repentance of sin, announced by John, that will signal the ingathering of tribes again. John's popularity was because he was signalling to the people that their time was this time. Jesus aligns himself with this narrative by choosing 12 apostles, symbolic of the twelve tribes of Israel. Jesus coming announces the end times, not only for his time, but also for our time. Every year, John the Baptist appears in the readings for the 2nd Sunday of Advent. We can participate in responding to his message by using this time, as a time of reconciliation, by participating in the Sacrament of Confession.

Father Tony Dunn

St Michael's Mission Statement

We the parishioners of St Michael's as a Eucharistic family seek to live and share our faith in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

8th December 2018

Parish of St Michael, Remuera

6 Beatrice Road, Remuera, 1050

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office@remueracatholic.org.nz

www.remueracatholic.org.nz

Parish Priest: Father Tony Dunn

frtonydunn@gmail.com (021 954 292)

In residence: Father Stephen Berecz

sberecz@gmail.com

Office Manager: Fiona Twomey

Baptism Preparation:

Pauline loelu

Religious Education:

Sr Francis Kelly (adults)

Emma Houghton (children)

Caring Co-ordinator:

Kathryn Schollum

Music Rosters: Tony Vela

Sunday Masses:

Sunday Eucharist:

8:00am, 10:00am, 8:30pm

Saturday Evening 5:00pm

Weekday Masses:

Monday Cluny Convent 7:15am

NOT DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

(St Michael's) Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday, Saturday 8:00am

Wednesday 9:15am

Friday 12:05pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

After Mon, Tues, Thurs, 8am Mass

& 11am Friday

Anointing of the Sick:

First Friday of each month 11am

Exposition to follow

Reconciliation:

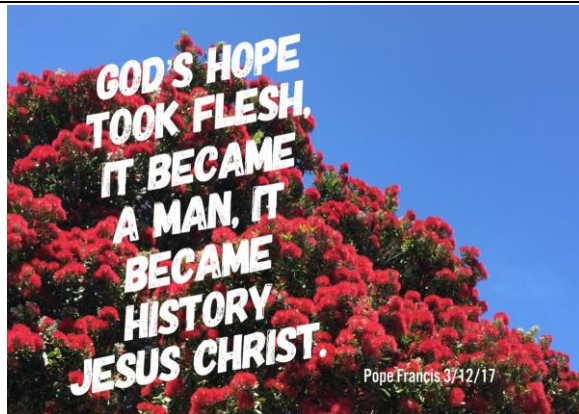
Friday 11:25am & Saturday 8:30am

or by appointment

READINGS THIS SUNDAY

1. Baruch 5:1-9

2. Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11



Explore your Faith The New Zealand Bishops' Conference provides many opportunities for people to learn more about their faith. Two important aspects of this outreach are Good Shepherd College and The Catholic Institute of Aotearoa New Zealand (TCI). Both offer a variety of courses and qualifications.

Good Shepherd College-Te Heparo Pai is where the diocesan seminarians go for their theological formation it is an NZQA-registered tertiary provider offering papers towards level 7 awards; the Bachelor of Theology degree and the Graduate Diploma in Theology.

Details of what is offered in Semester One of 2019 can be found at <http://www.gsc.ac.nz/course-papers/2777-1/>

TCI The Catholic Institute of Aotearoa New Zealand offers courses in Religious Education, Pastoral Ministry, Scripture, Theology and Leadership. Courses are available online or in face-to-face classes. To find out more go to www.tci.ac.nz or email office@tci.ac.nz.

Parish to Parish Bed & Breakfast - since the first book was printed 15 years ago, many hosts have suffered health problems or downsized their homes. We urgently require more hosts in places all over the country. I would encourage anyone with a spare bedroom or two in their home to join us. The accommodation does not have to be 5-star - just clean, comfortable and welcoming, as well as being able to provide a light breakfast. The aim is to provide Catholic hospitality and make new friends. The hosts charge a fee of \$35 for one person, or \$30 per person for 2 or more per night. For further information contact Marie Anderson on +64-3-359 5541 or email marie.ian@xtra.co.nz.



2019 Columban Art Calendars available for sale in the Church Foyer. \$12 each. Please "post" the money in an envelope through the drop box at the front door of the Parish House or put in the Paper Box in the foyer.

Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand AGM will be held at 2F 22 Emily Place, Auckland Central, 5.30pm, Wednesday 12 December 2018. All welcome.

Proclaim the Word – A one-day Seminar for Readers and Cantors

Five speakers will present material on various aspects of the Ministry of the Word. This is an excellent opportunity for readers, cantors and all involved with the preparation of liturgy, to deepen their knowledge and skills. We are very hopeful that parishes will encourage their readers and cantors to attend this seminar, perhaps organizing shared transport. The seminar will be held at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Church St, Onehunga, 16th February from 10am – 3pm. Bring your own Lunch. To register, email tinac@cda.org.nz

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Celedonio Balderas, Joan Kirkby

Please pray for those who are in need of our prayers, especially:

Peter Redican, Ruth Searchfield, Tony Vela, Leigh Coates, Elaine and Dennis Lunken

3rd Sunday of Advent: 15th & 16th December 2018 : Roster

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

Saturday Vigil 5.00pm A. Martin, C Mendoza, T. Parsons, P. Pinto, J. Salivio
Sunday 8.00am F. Hay-McKenzie, J. Hazel-Esguerra, D. Hern, A. Hettiaratchi, C.Hettiaratchi
Sunday 10.00am P. van Ryn, D. Albert, S. Johnson, E. Atienza, A. Clegg, T. Cordtz,
M. D'Souza, J. Eggermont



PROCLAIMERS OF THE WORD:

Saturday 5.00pm Francis Morais, Cynthia Agustin (PoF)
Sunday 8.00am Frances Hay-MacKenzie, Clare Wade (PoF)
Sunday 10.00am Margaret van Meewen, Emma Houghton (PoF)

Readings 15/16 December

1. Zephaniah 3:14-18
2. Philippians 4:4-7

COLLECTORS:

Saturday 5.00pm Ant Martin
Sunday 8.00am Tom Maloney, Ernie Cavanagh
Sunday 10.00am Maria Flordeliza, Alex Houghton

COUNTERS:

Parish Office

LAPTOP OPERATORS:

Saturday 5.00pm Marie Olvido
Sunday 8.00am Anne Cotton
Sunday 10.00am Jennifer Frost

ALTAR SERVERS:

Saturday 5.00pm: Destiny Jayamanne, Hans Jayamanne, Sophia Canale
Sunday 10.00am: Denzel Devaraj, Alyssa D'Souza, Aaron D'Souza, Micayla-Jane Elika

SANCTUARY CARE: Maryanne Mahoney, Ellen Harris

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: School Year has finished

MUSICIANS/CANTORS:

Saturday 5.00pm Alice O'Neill, Louise Porter
Sunday 8.00am Neil Moraes
Sunday 10.00am Edmond Wong, Steve Hughes

NOTICES

Invite to you all – SATURDAY 8th DECEMBER at 3pm

A Pro-Life rosary will be held at St Michael's Remuera - joining with concerned people throughout NZ- In response to a climate of liberalism to our abortion laws and ending people's lives. Bill now before parliament. Please - Come and join us in this prayerful petition **Saturday 8th December at 3pm.** See you there.

Advent Scripture Reflections in preparation for Christmas

Dr Kevin Waldie SM will deliver a lecture on the Infancy narratives in St Luke's Gospel.

When: Monday 10th December 2018 7-9pm

Where: St Michael's Crypt. Supper to follow

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is in front of the Statue of the Sacred Heart. You are invited to take a card and buy or make a Christmas Gift and deliver it back to the parish office or pop it under the tree. THE CLOSING DATE FOR GIFTS is **Sunday 16th December**, so that the deliveries can be made before Christmas, but any time before would be helpful.



Rite II Reconciliation

Monday 17th December 7.30pm All Welcome.

St Michael's Rosary Group meets weekly on Tuesday at 7:30-8:30pm in the Parish House.

Contact Anne Cotton on 520 5335 or 021 644 692 or acotton@maxnet.co.nz

Legion of Mary meets weekly on Sundays from 9-10am in the Parish House. All welcome to attend.

Contact Carole Kenealy on 524 8422 or 021 152 1724 or carole.kenealy@gmail.com

Christmas Mass Times at St Michael's Parish

Monday 24 December- CHRISTMAS EVE

- 8am
- Vigil Family Mass 5.00pm
- Midnight Mass (Carols 11.00pm followed by the mass)

Tuesday 25 December- CHRISTMAS DAY

- 8am, 10am and 8.30pm

** Please volunteer for ministries for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Mass. Sign-up sheet in Church Porch,**



Masses for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary at the Cathedral

Saturday, 8th December at 8.30am and a Choral Mass at 7.30pm with the Cathedral Vocal Ensemble directed by James Tibbles. Validated parking available for both Masses. See Noticeboard in Foyer

St Pius X Parish, Glen Innes Summer Food Fair

It's that time of the year again, and we invite you to come along to our Summer Food Fair **Saturday 8th December**, St Pius X Parish grounds. Featuring a variety of cultural foods, entertainment, prizes to be won and much more. Bring your families and friends and we look forward to seeing you there. For more information or if you wish to make a donation please contact office@gleninnescatholic.org.nz or see the poster on the noticeboard for details.

The National March for Life on the 8th December has been endorsed by the NZ Catholic Bishop's Conference: Parishes, groups, families and all people of goodwill are invited to March for Life Saturday 8th December. Gather at 2pm in Civic Square (101 Wakefield St) ready to walk to Parliament grounds. The spirit of the march is one of celebrating the gift of life and helping the vulnerable. Our message to our community is, you are not alone, there is support, there is healing, there is hope! marchforlife.nz or phone Michael on 021 825 955.

St Francis Retreat Centre Time Out Day for prayer and reflection

Date: Wednesday 12th December 2018

Time: 9.30am – 2.30pm (Light lunch provided)

Venue: 50 Hillsborough Rd Mt Roskill

Gold coin donation for the day Booking essential : ph. 09 625 6651 or email : admin@stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz

Reflection Day 'Taize' – Friday 14th December 2018 - 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

A meditative, candlelit service which will include singing of chants, listening to the Word of God, intercessory prayer and ample time for a quiet prayer in an atmosphere of silence and peace.

Facilitator: Jill McLoughlin rsj

Date: Friday 14th December 2018 - 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Venue: Mary MacKillop Centre - 56 Selwyn Avenue Mission Bay Auckland

Light supper served at conclusion. Registrations to Auckland.MMKCentre@sosj.org.au

Mercy Spirituality Centre 104 The Drive, Epsom. Ph. 638 6238 www.mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz

- **RETREAT: Who are You O God and Who am I?** with CHRISTINA CATHRO mndm. Tues, Wed, Thurs 11, 12 & 13 Dec, 10am-1pm. \$65 per 3-day Retreat. We fall into a particular way of seeing and know God that we are given a lifetime to unveil. This is a silent morning retreat with input from Christina, time to oneself and sharing in a group.
- **RETREAT DAY: Rediscovering Wholeness of Life in Christ: How gratitude opens the way** with SARAH COOPER. Sat 16 Feb, 9.30am-3.30pm. \$65 incl. lunch.
- **MUSIC WORKSHOP:** Psalms and Gratitude with Fr CHRIS SKINNER sm. Sat 23 Feb, 10am-1pm. \$30 incl. Morning tea. St Columba Centre.

See website for details. Bookings essential, email: info@mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz to register.

Family Advent The Faith Formation team of the Auckland Diocese hosts a number of resources around Advent <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/re/family-faith/learn-together/advent/> for those families who wish to prepare for the Christmas season and are looking for ideas.

Hear the Cry of the Poor and of the Earth. A day of retreat and reflection on hearing the 'cry of the poor and of the earth' through the lives of St. Mary MacKillop who urged us to 'seek the poorest' and ecologist Julian Tenison Woods. Led by Lyndall Brown rsj and Jill McLoughlin rsj 9am-4pm **Saturday 23 February 2019** Mary MacKillop Centre 30 Holgate Rd Kohimarama. Cost: \$15 including lunch. Numbers limited. Please register with Peter Garrick peterg@cda.org.nz ph 022 1300 730 to secure your place.