

INTERESTING MUSINGS

Calling all kids!

Are you under 13 years old and love to sing? Be in to win an Amazon Echo Plus and Alexa-enabled smart coloured light-bulbs! To enter The Voice of Christmas singing competition, simply call 0800 THE VOICE by Sunday, 13 December and sing a Christmas carol as your audition. Then tune in on Christmas morning (6-9am) to the Crazy Kiwi Christmas Kids Show on Newstalk ZB to see if you've won!

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

Online Session (Evening): Christmas "Self Care Nibbles" with Clare Barnett. Tuesday, 15 December, 7.15-8.45pm. Fee: \$30. ZOOM <https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/christmas-self-care-nibbles/>

Online Session (Retreat Day): Who am I? – Reflecting on our Identity in God with Eamon Butler. Saturday, 30 January, 10.30am-4pm. Fee: \$60, ZOOM

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/virtual-retreat-day-with-eamon-butler-who-am-i/>
For more information and registration: info@studyjoy.nz

December WelCom is being distributed to parishes and schools this week for Sunday, 6 December.

Contents include:
Advent Season 2020 Calendar – you can download this as a poster from our website: www.catholic.org.nz/adw_welcom/welcom-december-issue-389/

Cardinal John's column – Renewed Hope.

This is Christmas:

Not the presents, not the carols, but the humble heart that receives the wondrous gift of Christ.



Catholic Church speaking at faith-based redress hearings of the Royal Commission into Abuse in Care. Apostolic Nuncio to

New Zealand – Archbishop Novatus Rumbwa.
Prison ministry – an invitation to get involved.
Hiko Whakapono: A Journey of Faith – Fielding parish.
Feast of Immaculate Conception, 8 December – Fr James Lyons.
Local and international news and views.

Columban Calendars and Christmas Cards are now for sale.

Calendars are \$12 each and cards are \$2.50 a packet. Please contact the office or Fr Paul.



Anniversaries in December

Johannes Hoogenboom
Claire Weir, Pauline Gordon
Angela Fleming, Kevin Stowe
Bridget Cameron
Charles McCloskey (Mac)
Mick O'Sullivan
Mollie Saxon
Molly Fergusson

Mass Times

Sunday Masses

St Patrick'sSaturday (vigil)5.30pm

St Joseph's.....9.30am

Weekday Masses

Monday.....St Patrick's...9.00am

Thursday.....St Patrick's...9.00am

Saturday.....St Joseph's...9.00am

Next Sunday Readings

1st Reading 2Samuel 7:1-5,8-11,16
2nd Reading Romans 16:25-27
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Fr Paul Kerridge (Parish Priest)

15 St Joseph Street, Waipukurau, Phone- 858-9383, Fax - 858-9349, office number- 8586416, Hours Mon- 7.30-12.00pm, Thursday- 12.15-2.20pm and Friday -7.30-3pm E-mail - cat.chb@xtra.co.nz www.holytrinitychb.com

The Holy Trinity Parish Voice

Hakihea, 2020

Sunday of Advent



Crib Appeal

Tahanan ng Banal na Awa

A Home for the Abandoned, Surrendered and Neglected Children

This year's Crib appeal is for an orphanage in the Philippines which not only looks after abandoned children but also the elderly who have no family to take care of them. There are no government homes and there is no money put aside for the elderly. One of our parishioners Samuel Ba-a has a sister who is a nun with the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Our lady Mother of Mercy.

She is a social worker for the home which is for the homeless and elderly who were abandoned, neglected and surrendered by their family. At present the center is accommodating 16 homeless elderly ages 60-96 years old. The home is also for the Abandoned, Surrendered and Neglected Children. This is a newly established foundation that always seeks the benefits of the homeless children. Under this program they aim to accommodate 20 children aging 2-14 years old. Programs and Services provided for the elderly. They provide the following— Provision of basic needs such as food, clothing's and shelter, Provisions of medical check-up, Spiritual enrichment and values formation, Counseling.

Programs and services provided for the children include

Homecare-children are provided on their basic needs, food, clothing and shelter, Health and Medical Assistance, Educational Assistance, Spiritual enrichment and Values formation and Counseling. Sister Catherine says—*It is in this purpose that we are knocking at your generous hearts to ask for support for the benefits of our beloved elderly and children. That through your kindness and support they may be able to feel love from you. You can also be a part of this project by supporting us in our programs and services that will help our clients in their basic needs.*



NZ Catholic has been named as Publication of the Year at the Australasian Religious Press Association 2020 Awards. The December 13-26 issue of NZ Catholic is out now. Some headlines are: New pastoral plan for Auckland diocese. New vaccines prompt serious questions. Hospital chaplain called a local hero. Marist ordained to priesthood. The next issue of NZ Catholic will be published on December 27.

Happy 70th Birthday to Shirley-Anne Kilkolly on the 14th December. Have an awesome day and many blessings from us.

Joyful service

Today's readings shine out with joy and hope. Israel radiates as a joyful bride coming to her bridegroom adorned for a lavish, oriental wedding. Paul's words to the Thessalonians continue the theme of hope and joy in a community that lives by the life of Christ. And St John, in the gospel, pictures the work of John the Baptist, who came to witness to God's light upon this earth. This is not a joyousness without responsibility. It's a joy that is found when people find and carry out their true mission in life. Isaiah speaks of one anointed and sent to bring good news to the oppressed – words that were adopted by Jesus to describe his own life's purpose – just as they should also be made real in the life of every Christian. Those privileged to share in Jesus' spiritual life must also share in his concerns and desires. Two key ideas can be noted: 1. The spiritual joy that marks the Christian faith, that we are waiting for the coming of the Lord, and our entry into a life of eternal communion with God. The other is the willingness to bear our share of the Christian work-load, to do our bit, in our time, to realise the goals of Jesus in our world. I'd like to hear a homily focussed on one of these, without totally forgetting the other. In these times of economic austerity and budget cuts that are endlessly debated, is no harm to be reminded of the blessings in our lives, our reasons to be joyful. Mention, for example, the love we enjoy with our family and

friends, the pleasure of meeting new people, of awakening some dormant talent by taking a course of adult education; the solidarity we feel in our local community when people willingly help their neighbours in their needs; the consolation to be found in prayer. Many examples can be named, to illustrate God's blessing in our lives: reasons to be joyful. Like the northern Irish writer C.S. Lewis, we too can be "surprised by joy," and re-discover gladness and meaning in life. 2. Our advent-mission to help the needy, if we are to carry on "the project of Jesus" – the commitment he always showed to people on the margins. Practical examples of his "good news for the poor" can be pointed out, according to the life-situation of the worshippers. Our homilist must try to persuade those whose lives are peaceful and prosperous not to be afraid to let the pain of the needy come through to them and touch them. The sort of carefree joy that lets us shut our eyes to the seamier side of life, and "pass by on the other side," is not the authentic joy announced in today's reading. Care for our neglected neighbours may stand in a certain tension with our personal sense of joy, but the two can and should be blended into the lifestyle of anybody who wants to build their life on Jesus. *Associationofcatholicpriests.ie*

House for Rent

3 Bedroom House to rent, close to town and schools, available from 18th December. \$360 per week, references required. Contact Rose 027 232 1963

Parish Christmas party

When - 13th December

Where—Presbytery

Time—4pm

What to Bring—a plate to share



It is Advent and the sights, sounds, and smells of the season are all around us. From the stately beauty of Nativity scenes to the fragrant scent of cinnamon and pine, signs and symbols of the Advent season permeate our homes, churches, and cities. These reminders evoke a sentiment of nostalgia and often joy, but do we pause to consider the deeper meaning of these symbols? The Church, in her wisdom, through these signs and through the sacraments, engages our five senses to convey the truths of the Catholic Faith. Signs and symbols aid us in our understanding of the Faith, lift our minds and hearts to the eternal truths, and serve as reminders which assist us in our worship of God. For example, the use of candles by the Church remind us of Jesus as the Light of the World, born for us at Christmastime. The light and warmth of the candles, along with the smells of incense and the magnificence of religious art, just to name a few, all serve to engage our senses and aid us in giving glory and worship to God and help to educate us in understanding the divine mysteries of our Faith. While we are in this world, in our natural, earthly bodies, God has gifted us with material reminders to teach us about his Kingdom and to bring to awareness the supernatural realities which we cannot now physically see, hear, or sense. The greatest and most extravagant example of this is the miracle of Transubstantiation – the bread and wine becoming the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Even the Christmas tree, probably the most popular image of this Season, has its roots in Christianity. Pope Benedict XVI, speaking in 2008, described the symbolism of the Christmas tree in these words: "With its loftiness, its green [color] and the lights in its branches, the Christmas tree is a symbol of life that points to the mystery of Christmas Eve." Other symbols of Christmas include the Advent wreath, which symbolizes God's eternal love with its circular shape. The green color of its branches denotes hope and life, and the candles demonstrate the dissipation of darkness with the coming of Christ. The Nativity

Christmas Mass Times

Vigil Mass – 8pm @ St Patrick's Waipawa

Christmas Day Mass – 9.30am @ St Joseph's, Waipukurau

Email – cat.chb@xtra.co.nz

Website – holytrinitychb.com

Simbang Gabi (Night Mass)

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Catholic Christmas tradition where mass is celebrated for nine consecutive days. This year, we invite you to join us as we keep the tradition of "Simbang Gabi" from the 16th of December at St Joseph's church at 8pm.

scene represents the story of the birth of Christ and is said to have originated with St. Francis of Assisi, who began the tradition of "living Nativities." Later, the tradition evolved into erecting figures made of clay, wax, and other materials, as we do today. By observing these traditions, our children have grown in faith and love of Jesus and appreciate the mystery of the Incarnation more each year as they grow and mature. My prayer now is that they continue to carry out these practices when they leave home and begin to pursue their own vocations, whether married, single, or religious. Whether your children are still very young, or are growing older as ours are, practicing traditional activities such as the Advent wreath and Jesse tree are excellent ways to teach and experience the joy and anticipation of preparing for the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas. Using these symbols and activities in the home can lead to discussions about the origins and meanings of the traditions, and can help educate the family, along with inspiring and encouraging a more reflective and prayerful Advent and Christmas for both parents and children, no matter the age. *copyright 2020 Christina Mayeux*