

INTERESTING MUSINGS

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: wn.catholic.org.nz/adw_welcom/welcom-december-issue-389/

Cardinal John's column – Renewed Hope. Catholic Church speaking at faith-based redress hearings of the Royal Commission into Abuse in Care.

Apostolic Nuncio to New Zealand – Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa.

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.

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.

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

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

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

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 Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14
2nd Reading Colossians 3:12-21
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

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

20th Hakihea, 2020

4th Sunday of Advent



That special person

If you were to ask a married couple how they came to fall in love, or asked two good friends how they came to be friends, they may have difficulty answering and might say something like, "It just happened." In one sense that may be true. In another sense it didn't just happen. If two people are in a significant relationship with each other, be it marriage or friendship, it is because they have chosen each other. Why does someone choose one person rather than another as a spouse or friend? Why does someone choose to share his or her life with someone else? This is the mystery of human freedom, human preference. The more significant relationships cannot be forced. Love is freely bestowed by one person on another; the other freely receives what is bestowed and freely reciprocates, and a new relationship is born. There is a depth about all that. If there is mystery in the relationship of one human being with another, even more so in the relationship between God and us. Why did God choose Mary to be the mother of his Son? Why this particular woman in this small village at this particular time of human history? It was the mysterious freedom and preference of God. Yet, there is a difference between God's choice of Mary and the choice any one of us might make of another. When any one of us chooses another to love or to befriend, there is always, of necessity, an exclusive element to that choice. We choose this person rather than any number of others. Although we choose several people in the course of our lives in each case our choice of one excludes others.

God's choice of Mary was not exclusive in that sense. In choosing Mary, he was choosing all of us. He chose Mary for all our sakes. God chose her to carry God's Son on behalf of us all, because her future child was God's gift to us all. That is why how Mary responded to God's choice of her was not just a matter that concerned herself. It concerned us all. We all had a vested interest in how she responded. Her response would also be our response. In a sense we looked to her to make an appropriate response on behalf of us all to God's choice of us. The good news is that Mary did not let us down. Although initially disturbed and perplexed by the message, she eventually surrendered fully to that mysterious choice of God. Having been graced in this mysterious way, she responded wholeheartedly, "Let it be to me according to your word." God freely chose her, and she in turn chose to place her freedom at God's service. God's choice of Mary, and her choice of God in response had the most wonderful consequences for all of us. She went on to sing, "the Almighty has done great things for me." And because of her response to God's choice, we can all sing, "the Almighty has done great things for us." We have all been graced through Mary's response to God's choice of her. *Association-ofcatholicpriests.ie*



Mass Request

Mass has been requested for **John and Lorraine Seed** whose anniversaries occur on the 22nd December. May they rest in peace. **Laura Roland contemplates how is just as much about us journeying to Jesus as it is Jesus journeying to us.**

I didn't grow up celebrating Advent in a traditional way. We had a little Advent calendar that you bought at the corner drugstore. I looked forward to opening each of those little doors each morning, seeing a picture of something Christmas-y. While I'm sure the Holy Family was in there somewhere, I never really thought about this as waiting for Jesus; it was always about counting down the days until to Santa. Fast forward 27 years later when I had my own children. I had no time for Advent. We were a Christmas celebrating family only. We decorated the house -for Christmas. We had stockings - for Santa to fill. We made sure that the children knew who Santa was. But Advent was something only really holy Catholics did. How could I take part in something so holy when life had me buried in the secular rush, hustle and have-tos? I didn't have the time or energy to understand that Jesus was coming, and it was time to prepare my heart for Him. I only had enough energy to prepare for what the world told me was important: Santa. It wasn't until I began teaching in a Catholic school that I learned what Advent was - and how to celebrate it "properly." I went into overdrive trying to make up for lost Advents.

Finding four candles, the requisite three purple and one pink, became my life's work. Advent wreaths were purchased well in advance. I loved lighting the candles, praying those beautiful prayers with the children every night before dinner. All of it felt incredibly special. I felt special. I felt like I was finally doing Catholic Advent correctly. But was I really? In hindsight, I don't remember feeling particularly excited about Jesus's

coming; but I did feel a tremendous amount of pride with how my table looked and the fact that I now knew not to sing Christmas carols until Christmas. Still caught up in the outward signs, I neglected the cultivation of the inner peace I so desperately craved but couldn't name. Yes, craved. Longed-for. Ached for at times. Jesus. Fast forward to today. I am an empty nester with a lot of life under my belt. These days, with the help of lovely friends, good and holy priests, and a whole lot of quiet time with Scripture, I think I am finally living Advent right. Do I have candles and a wreath? Sure. But I've learned if I don't light them every night or say the right prayer, it's okay. Jesus is still coming. I've come to understand that Advent is meant to be lived. It is just as much about me journeying to Jesus as it is Jesus journeying to us. It's about a good and holy wait for that little baby to come to save me, you, the world. What I do in that wait to bring me closer to Jesus, to prepare me to receive Him, is the important part. That's the living part. Do the wreaths and the candles, the songs and the prayers help? For some of us, yes. For others, who are craving, longing for, aching for Jesus, but don't know where to begin, even with all the outward pieces in place, Advent can feel empty. Think of Advent as a good and holy wait. Then pick one thing - and I do mean just one thing - you can do each day to help you journey to Jesus. *Copyright 2020*

Laura Roland



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.

Reconciliation

This Sacrament will be available on Sunday 20th December at 4pm. Fr Paul is always available for Reconciliation by appointment.

This Sunday night (20th December),

John Cowan's guest will be Auckland City Missioner Chris Farrelly.

Auckland City Missioner Chris Farrelly, took up his position as CEO in June 2016. Prior to joining the City Mission, he had been CEO of Manaia Health PHO, which focused beyond providing clinical services to address causes of poor health such as poverty, substandard housing and unemployment.

Chris has a long history in health management and spent 10 years working in a South Korean slum where he led health and social development programmes. He has a number of academic and professional qualifications including a Master of Theology and a Graduate Diploma in Dispute Resolution. Chris is a passionate advocate on behalf of those who are vulnerable or may be marginalised- a key function of the Auckland City Mission.

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.