

Anniversaries in December

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What's in a name?

King Ahaz could be honoured as the patron of skeptics. He simply would not rely on God to help him through the greatest crisis in his life. In the crisis facing his kingdom, he preferred to trust in his soldiers and his military plans. Are we much the same? Do we trust only the range of our own power and resources, and turn to the true God only as an extra insurance, a vague source of possible help in moments of crisis? But such faith is weak and inadequate. A fuller kind of faith would see us relying on God's invisible, helping presence, not just in those moments when human support fails us. Real faith accepts the reality of God in every moment of life. It sees God as a dimension of all our experience, literally, the Emmanu-El, God-with-us. The promise that God is with us was not for Isai-ah's time only, it is for our own. Even now the sign of that continuing presence is a young woman and her child, the Virgin Mary and her son Jesus. For Joseph the unexpected pregnancy of Mary was not a sign to confirm his trust either in her or God, it was a contradictory sign. In the hours of his darkness he found the enlightening Spirit of God, the Spirit who teaches us not to judge by what our eyes see or by what our ears hear (cf. Is 11:3). This gospel shows us that the signs God gives are not always the ones we would choose for ourselves. He gives signs for those who are willing to take on the darkness of doubt in openness and sincerity. What can a name tell us about a particular person? Not much, usually. Names like Helen, Paula, Sharon or Jason are useful for distinguishing various members of a family, but they don't describe the people themselves. With some Biblical names it is different. For instance, Abraham meant "Father of a great people" (Gen. 17:5) and Moses meant "Rescued from the Waters" (Ex. 2:10).

Above all, our blessed Lord has names which are full of meaning. "Jesus" means "God saves," "Christ" means "God's Anointed Messiah" and the name "Emmanuel" in today's Gospel, means "God in our midst." How important is Jesus for our religious belief? Be honest. Ask the question what is the heart of Christianity and what will people say? Something to do with loving your neighbour; keeping the law; going to church on Sunday? Will there be any mention of Jesus Christ, who is at the very centre of our faith. Ghandi once said, "If only you Christians took your Christ to heart.." Jesus shares our lot, our life-experience and our troubles. At Christmas we will concentrate on the simplicity and poverty of Our Lord's birth: how human he was, born of a young woman, not in luxurious comfort, but in the discomfort of a stable. That shows him as one of us, the human side of "Emmanuel." This gospel however mentions the divine origin of Jesus. Although he has a human mother, he has not a human father, but was conceived in Mary by the power of God. This unique way of coming into life, with God as father, and the virgin Mary as mother, underlines who Jesus truly is: both God and man, one of ourselves and yet one with the eternal God. If this seems mysterious to us, it must have been baffling for St Joseph. Close to Mary as he was, and finding her pregnant without any involvement by him, Joseph could only accept in faith what God's messenger told him, that the child was in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit. With great patience and humility, Joseph accepted the part for which God had chosen him, as guardian and foster-father to our Lord and Saviour. This kind of faithful acceptance is asked from each of us, when Christ comes into our lives, as "God-with-us." *associationofcatholicpriests.ie*

Fr Paul Kerridge (Parish Priest)

18th December, 2022

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Hours Tuesday 7.15-1.45pm, Thursday- 12.15-1.45pm and Friday -7.15-1.45pm

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Rātini Kupu

18th Hakihea 2022 4th Sunday of Advent

Crib Appeal

Fr. Anthony was farewelled at St. Peter Chanel church, Hastings on Tuesday morning 6th December. Cardinal John Dew, Bishops' Peter Cullinane and Owen Dolan, Fr Craig Butler along with several priests from throughout the diocese celebrated the Memorial Mass – a perfect tribute to a very devoted and respected priest.. We will continue to pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Anthony as well as his family and friends back in Myanmar, and around the world, who mourn the loss of their priest, brother and uncle. This year we are supporting the family of Fr Anthony in our Crib Appeal which is collected at the Christmas Masses. Please use our bank account 020630 0288045 13 and write Crib Appeal when you donate.



The fourth and final Sunday of Advent in 2022 will be on Sunday, December 18th. Advent is the season in which believers eagerly anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth. Reading, prayer, and reflection are ways we can cultivate a sense of holy anticipation this Advent. The fourth Sunday of Advent we meditate on the peace that Jesus brings our hearts and our world. Scripture is the place we can find the promises of God. Let us meditate on these truths and allow them to comfort our hearts this Advent season! 2 Thessalonians 3:16 says, "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you." This week we focus our hearts on the "Lord of peace" who came down from heaven in the form of a baby. God knows that we are in a constant battle against fear! Fear wants to cripple us, to push us to react rather than carefully respond, and fear steals our joy. God has given us the gift of peace so we can live joy-filled lives! Over this Advent, would you pray that God's unexplainable peace would be evident in your heart and home. This year we all have faced so much chaos and uncertainty. God's peace is something we need to grab tightly onto more than ever. May God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time to joyfully await our King! www.crosswalk.com

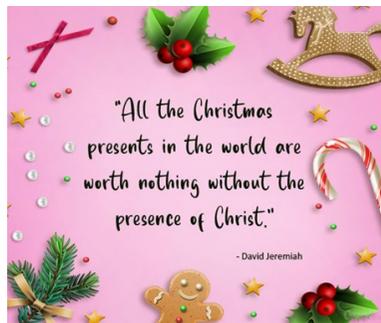


Reconciliation will be offered on the 18 December at 4pm @ St Joseph's. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us to prepare well this Advent, by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation in all humility
Christmas Dues Special Collection

Many thanks to parishioners who in the past have contributed to the Christmas Dues/Offerings collection. The "special" planned giving envelopes gifted on Christmas Day belong to this collection. The money is then given to the Clergy Trust Fund to help support the priests serving in the parishes of the Diocese as well as retired priests. There are also specially marked envelopes in the foyer or alternatively please pay by direct credit 020630 0288045 13 and add your name and Dues as references. Your support and help is always appreciated! *Fr. Brian Walsh (Chairman of the Clergy Trust Fund)*

A major piece of living out the Catholic faith is growing in charity toward others. Many people associate Advent and Christmas as a time of giving and becoming more charitable as a positive goal. It is a goal not just for the season; it is one for every day of our lives. When we teach our children the value of loving others as Catholics and as Christians, it is something to be practiced and valued for an entire lifetime. Christ commands us to love others always: not just during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Here are a few ways to become more charitable through these seasons and beyond. Prayer - We can't always help everyone, but one thing we can all do is pray. Many times, prayer is the best gift we can give others especially in certain situations. It is a way to implore God's help and mercy on those who desperately need to know the love of God and his presence. Making it a practice to pray each day for those who are in need is a beautiful way in making a difference for them. We may not see the fruits of our prayers, but it should not stop us from praying. The Lord commands us to pray always, without ceasing. Prayer is a major way to be charitable and loving to others. Listening and outreach - The spiritual works

of mercy are so needed in our world in making a difference for those who are going through challenging times. These are spiritual acts of kindness we can do for others in a prayerful way to give of ourselves to them especially in their need. Whether is it in counselling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, bearing wrongs patiently, or one of the other acts, taking the time to be there for someone who is suffering is a tremendous way to be charitable and caring. Listening to the stories of those who have been marginalized or cast aside by others is a way to imitate Jesus. Consider learning to become a better listener and to make greater outreach to those who do not have the love and support they deserve as an authentic way to practice charity. Giving to the vulnerable - There are so very many people who are materially poor who could use your help. During the Advent season and during Christmas, a great many people do good things for the poor, the homeless, and for those in need. Consider giving to an organization or directly to a family or individual who could use your helping hand or monetary gift. It has been said that after the Christmas season is over there are a vast number of people who continue to suffer and have needs as most annual giving is done in the months of November and December. Make it a habit to continue to donate and make outreach to the poor beyond December as a family. Regular giving to those in poverty is an extraordinary way to imitate Christ both during Advent and Christmas and especially as a part of daily life. Our Catholic faith teaches us that tending to the needs of the poor is an honor as we live out discipleship in following Jesus each day of our lives. It is what life is all about as we strive to imitate him in all that we do. *Copyright 2022 Anne De-Santis*



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve—5.30pm Carols, 6pm Mass @ St Joseph's
Christmas Day—9.00am Carols, Mass at 9.30am @ St Patrick's



WelCom December/January edition is out this week to parishes and schools for **Sunday, 4 December.**

- Content includes:
- Pope Francis' letter to Ukraine people.
- Cardinal John Dew message: 'A blessed, peaceful and happy Christmas to all'.
- Sacred Heart Cathedral Wellington – work underway as restoration gets closer to completion.

Please pray -Prayers in remembrance of Shirley Anne Kilkolly whose birthday is at this time. May she be At Peace now.

An Invitation to Pray for our Parish—On the first Friday of each month, there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in St Joseph's Church from 10am to 3pm. The intentions are for all the needs of our Holy Trinity Parish family. You are invited to come along during this time and to pray for one hour before the most Blessed Sacrament.

Bethlehem University's Br Peter Bray – Diocese of Palmerston North Schedule Brother Peter Bray FSC, the Kiwi Vice-Chancellor of Bethlehem University, will make a NZ speaking tour on behalf of the bishops across Aotearoa early next year, to talk about the Holy Land, his work with his

students, and the lives of other ordinary Palestinians. Br Peter will give presentations for the Diocese of Palmerston North in Hawkes Bay, Palmerston North and New Plymouth in late January. 24 January 2023: St Mary's Church, Taradale at 7pm, 25 January 2023: Te Rau Aroha - The Diocesan Centre, Palmerston North at 7pm, 26 January 2023: St Joseph's Church, New Plymouth at 7pm, Go here for more information about the videos and Br Peter's speaking tour: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/brpeter-video2/>

The latest issue in your church Sunday Dec. 18 \$4