

Anniversaries in December

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

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.

information, visit voiceforlife.org.nz

Notices

from Titipounamu Study & Joy

—Online Sessions (Evening):

Christmas Traditions – Advent

Wreaths & Christmas Trees with Beate Matthis

Monday, 05 December, 7-8pm. Koha/Donation. ZOOM.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2022/11/20/christmas-traditions/>

Stories, Films & the Bible: The Father (2020) with Fr Kevin Waldie SM.

Monday, 12 December, 7-8.30pm. Koha/Donation. ZOOM.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2022/11/15/stories-films-the-bible-2/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

Pro-Life Facts

—A well-known phrase attributed to Edmund Burke states: “The only thing necessary for evil to triumph in the world is that good men do nothing”. We encourage you over the Christmas period to reflect on whether you are willing and able to defend the cause of life in 2023. Please reach out to Voice for Life or one of the many other pro-life organisations in New Zealand if you can help. For more pro-life information, visit voiceforlife.org.nz.

Bethlehem University's Br Peter Bray new video and NZ speaking tour

Brother Peter Bray FSC, the Kiwi Vice-Chancellor of Bethlehem University, will



The latest issue in your church Sunday Dec. 4

make a NZ speaking tour on behalf of the bishops to all our Catholic Dioceses early next year, to talk about the Holy Land, his work with his students, and the lives of other ordinary Palestinians. In preparation for the tour, he is making three videos; the second has just been issued. It is very powerful. View it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R17kia53-GY>

Go here for more information about the videos and Br Peter's speaking tour: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/brpeter-video2/>

Br Peter's hopes to start his speaking tour about 24 January, likely starting in Hawkes Bay, followed by Palmerston North, Taranaki, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, Hamilton, Auckland and Whangarei, ending about 8 February. The NZCBC will make his firm itinerary available when it is settled.

Mass Times

Tuesday St Joseph's @ 9am
Thursday St Patrick's @ 9am
Saturday St Joseph's @ 9am

Sunday Masses

Saturday St Patrick's @ 5.30
Sunday St Joseph's @ 9.30am

Fr Paul Kerridge (Parish Priest)

4th December, 2022

15 St Joseph Street, Waipukurau, Phone- 858-9383, office number- 8586416,

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

E-mail - cat.chb@xtra.co.nz

www.holytrinitychb.com

Rātini Kupu

4th Whiringa-ā-rangi 2022 2nd Sunday of Advent

Pre-Christmas contrasts

Being half-blinded by the Christmas lights swaying on the back of a bin truck and the rise in traffic infringements set me thinking about the lead-up to Christmas that is now in full swing. From mid-November, aspects of the impending “ding dong merrily on high” cacophony have been evident. The shops and the roads are significantly busier. Every year at this time we shake our heads and complain about the traffic, the shops, and all the commercialisation. But we go along with it, just the same. Does the idea of Advent being a time of preparation for Christmas affect us? Isn't it being blared from the rooftops that we should enjoy be out partying as if our lives depended on it. Yet on the other hand some people are facing a Christmas of misery, homelessness and want. But isn't that the world we live in? By the way, a worthy gesture today would be to contribute generously to the St Vincent de Paul annual Christmas appeal. In many ways Christmas is some sort of paradigm of our lives, trying to quell our constant search for pleasure or transient gratification, a state of permanent unease. We have heard John the Baptist quoting from Isaiah: “A voice cries in the wilderness:/Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.” And in the response to the psalm, we read: “In his days justice and peace shall flourish.” Makes me wonder, have we lost our way, with our preparation for Christmas? It's the ideal topic for a good rant. But does it not seem that what we do by exaggerated Christmas preparation is more or less what we do with all aspects of our lives, an element of talking out of both sides of our mouths at the same time? John the Baptist called for change as he pointed the way towards Christ. Of course, our world is never going to be a paradise, but are we not running riot with double-speak, nowadays? And every organisation, every state, every religious tradition is prone to such behaviour. It requires the prophet, the wise person to stand back and question the culture of the day. Just because we are so caught up in a frenzy of buying and following the fashionable tide does not mean it's what's best for us. Of course, Christmas, our preparations for it, have great aspects also. But it's too easy to lose all sense of what we are actually celebrating and recalling. These are days of waiting, days of wonder. Remember the lines of Patrick Kavanagh: “We have tested and tasted too much, lover -/ Through a chink too wide there comes in no wonder.” Those words might well help us to stop and think for a second as we await our recalling and celebration of the birth of Christ. *associationofcatholicpriests.ie*



St John's College

This week our Y9 students were out on historical trips learning about the origins of the Marists, Sister Susanne Aubert and the Catholic church in Hawkes Bay.

Next week our Year 10 students will be out on camp for three days while our Year 9 students will be on day trips. The last day for students will be Wednesday, 7 December. During the holidays our Y13 leaders will be away on leadership camps

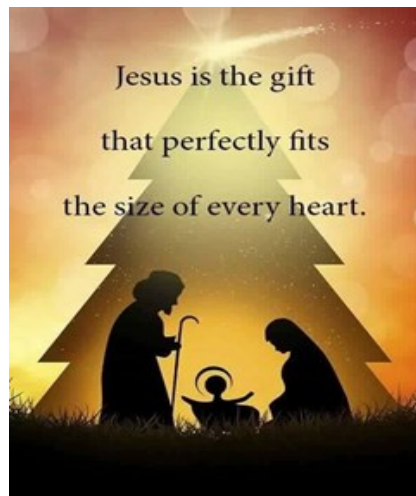
Two blind men followed Jesus out of town shouting one thing: "take pity on us". Only a moment earlier they were probably part of the group laughing at Jesus when he told the crowd that the young girl they were about to bury was not dead but only sleeping. Jesus responded to their ridicule by taking the dead girl by the hand, and she breathed again and got up. No one was laughing now. They were all amazed. Inspired. Filled with wonder. It's no wonder that the two blind men wouldn't let Jesus out of their sight. I like the way that the blind men did not ask for the obvious – that Jesus restore their sight. Perhaps because they had just seen the dead girl resuscitated they were greedy for all they could get and felt that a more open request might invite an even bigger miracle than the simple restoration of their physical sight? Why would they restrict their invitation to something specific when Jesus could do anything and everything for them? Whatever their thinking, it worked. They asked just one thing of Jesus. They asked for his pity, clearly appreciating that Jesus had a better understanding of exactly how to tailor His abundant compassion to their need. And then we get a sense of the power and depth of Jesus' transforming response. After their sight was restored, they could have rushed back home to see (for the first time) the faces of their family and watch The Chase on TV before dinner. Instead they (despite Jesus asking them not to talk about what happened) couldn't help themselves and talked not about what had happened to them but about Jesus, all over the countryside. As I consider this

thought I'm thinking it might be time for me to (at least every now and then) be a little less specific in what I ask for. OK Jesus, here's my open invitation to you. I ask just one thing. Take pity on me. Simply fill me with what whatever miracles I need today.

[Click here to read on the Food for Faith website](#)

2023 Divine Renovation Australasia Conference

On 10-12 February, Divine Renovation will be hosting their 2023 Divine Renovation Australasia Conference in Sydney, Australia. This conference will be a unique and inspiring experience for active parishioners and clergy who want to help lead the parish from maintenance to mission. The conference will feature talks and workshops from speakers including Fr. James Mallon, Fr. Chris Ryan, among many others, on the topics of evangelisation and creating an invitational and missionary church. This is also an opportunity to connect with other parish leaders and hear inspiring stories of parishes that have seen transformation by prioritising mission. Learn more and register today by going to divinerenovation.org/drusa2022



Mark the date—11th December
from 4-6pm in the presbytery for
the Parish Christmas gathering.
Bring a small plate to share.

Food For Faith for Advent. Subscribe at www.foodforfaith.org.nz to receive daily email encouragements in preparation for Christmas. Also sign up for weekly Homily Studio & daily Lectio Divina podcasts at the same link.

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.
- Compassion Soup Kitchen – profile interview with manager.
- Synod on synodality – updates.
- Te Hikoī Whakapono – Journey of Faith visits
- The Catholic Parish of Wellington South.
- 'Mary's Joseph and the strength of silence' – reflection by Fr James Lyons in the lead up to Christmas

Sundays two and three of Advent always focus on John the Baptist. Why?

Because it was John who recognised Jesus for who and what he was, and it was he who announced him to the world. During the Season of Advent we wait for Jesus to be born into the world, his birth on that night, celebrated by hosts of angels singing, "Glory to God in the Highest, and peace on earth to those of good will."



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



The wreath and candles during Advent are an attractive Catholic tradition, originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. The wreath and candles are full of symbolism linked to this season. The wreath is made of greenery signifying continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and everlasting life we find in Christ. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three candles are violet to signify this as a time of prayer, penance and sacrifice. One candle is rose pink representing the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus

