

Anniversary's in December

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

Prayer for the Middle East

Lord, Jesus Christ, The Holy Land is once again struck by violence., hatred and death. Lord, look with mercy upon the land that was your earthly home. Receive the deceased into your presence. Comfort those who mourn, are wounded, or forced to flee. Be close to all who are full of fear and despair. You are our peace and the light of the nations, put an end to the spiral of terror and suffering in the Holy Land and the whole Middle East. Let peace and justice flourish at the holy sites. You are our refuge. Let the people be safe in your Love. Have mercy on us and on our time. Amen.

This Sunday night (10th December), John Cowan's guest will be broadcaster, Mikey Havoc. Mikey Havoc first became a DJ on the University of Auckland's 95bFM radio station in the early 1990s. He was on the breakfast show from 1996 to 2002, winning Best New Broadcaster at the 1997 New Zealand Radio Awards and later moved to the afternoon-evening "Drive" show. He once again took over as the breakfast show host in 2006. In 2010 Havoc returned to his Drive slot and in 2012 joined rock station Hauraki on weeknights 7-10 pm. He returned to 95bFM from 2017 to 2019 for a third stint as breakfast show host.

Mikey is the lead singer of the New Zealand rock band Push Push, best known for its 1991 number-one singles 'What My Baby Likes' and 'Trippin'. During the late 1990s he owned and managed The Squid nightclub in inner-city Auckland. In the mid-nineties, Mikey moved into television on New Zealand's with the magazine-style TV show Havoc with his 95bFM co-worker Jeremy Wells and continued on TVNZ with the shows Havoc and Newsboy's Sell-out Tour and Havoc's

Luxury Suites and Conference Facilities. In 2002 Havoc was nominated for Best Presenter for Havoc Luxury Suites and Conference Facility in the TV Guide New Zealand Television Awards. In 2004 he moved to TV3 with Havoc Presents Quality Time and has hosted reprised versions of Top Town and Treasure Island.

This month's edition of Tūmanako includes a series of reflections and resources designed to enrich your Advent experience, including a message from Bishop John. These resources are accessible at <https://mailchi.mp/pndiocese/december> for your communities.

What does the 2nd Sunday of Advent represent?

Today, the Second Sunday of Advent we light the second candle, which is the symbol of FAITH. The candle's name has its origins in the prophet Micah who prophesied Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. It is referred to as the Bethlehem Candle.



Mass Times

Week Day Masses

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

Sunday Masses

Vigil Mass—5.30 @ St Patrick's
Sunday Mass—9.30am @ St Joseph's



Parish Priest • Fr Paul Kerridge
Phone • Office 8586416 Presbytery • 8589383
E-mail • cat.chb@xtra.co.nz
Website • www.holytrinitychb.com
Facebook • The Holy Trinity Parish CHB

Rātini Kupu

10th Hakihea 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent

10 December, 2023

Crib Appeal—this year our Crib Appeal will be supporting Caritas in their work in the Holy Land supporting vulnerable communities where it is crucially needed.

Caritas Jerusalem—Sadly, one year ago, we warned in our last year's message of the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Gaza and the West Bank. We conveyed the tremendous hardship the Palestinian People experience daily. This year, with Gaza now reduced into ruin, increased raids and incursions in the West Bank, and heightened security posturing in East Jerusalem, we are witnessing signs of desperate people. Caritas Jerusalem lost two of its Gaza staff in the current ongoing war on Gaza. All our staff in Gaza are currently internally displaced and many of their houses were destroyed. We are witnessing collapsed civil society organizations begging the international community for an immediate ceasefire. It is heart-breaking to witness the deaths, especially among children, women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Caritas Jerusalem reaffirms its dedication to serving people of all faiths in the Occupied Palestinian Territories on this International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Our commitment to fostering hope, compassion, and peace remains unwavering. We pray for divine guidance, believing that the leaders of this world have the intelligence and integrity to envision unbiased, rational solutions. Together, we should work to end this ongoing distress and create conditions for both countries to prosper in peace and justice. *End of statement. sg 292-11/23 November 27th, 2023*

Gaza's entire population is experiencing severe shortages of electricity, water, fuel, food, and medicine.

Over a million people in Gaza have been displaced.

Over 100,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Over 60 percent of the fatalities were children and women.



Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy—

Christmas Story with Prof Thomas O'Loughlin:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2021/12/23/the-christmas-story/>

YouTube Recordings

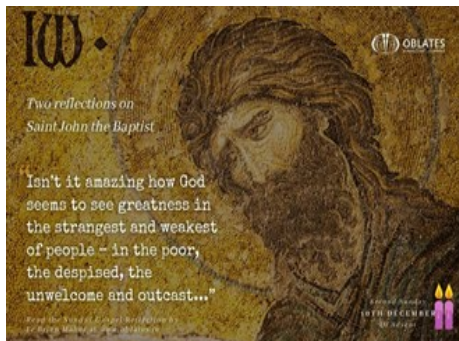
YouTube and Muffin Talk recordings are available online at:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/muffin-talk/>

Our next Zoom sessions will be in February/March on the theme of Miracles.

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

Week two of Advent and our Gospel turns to the man described by Jesus as “the greatest man born of woman” – John the Baptist. His mission was to introduce Jesus to the world. In a way he was Jesus’ first ‘campaign manager’ and boy, oh boy, what an unlikely man to choose for that role! John the Baptist was a strange man. Highly eccentric, he was a solitary figure who lived apart from others, dressing roughly and eating frugally. He was most certainly not the kind of man we would choose to handle public relations for us. ...And yet he was the one chosen by God and given a key role in our salvation. We have a lot to learn about the ways of God, and about ourselves, by looking at the life of John the Baptist. It is good, I think, to reflect on his life and ministry, not as a history lesson and biography of John, but in the context of what his life offers us. If the Gospel is “Good News” then it must impact our lives in some way. I think the life of John the Baptist has a lot to teach us. This week I offer just two simple



Dates to save

Wine and Cheese—10th December 4-6pm. Bring a little something to share

14th December—St Joseph’s school prize giving

22nd December—Office closes reopens on the 16th January, 2024

Minister so the Sick

We are requiring people to go on a roster for the Minister of the Sick –this involves going to Mt Herbert/Woburn home to give Holy Communion to people who can no longer attend Mass. Please contact the office if you are interested.

things we might learn from this ‘greatest of men’. b.maher@oblates.ie

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Vigil – St Joseph’s @ 6pm, Carols @ 5.30pm

Christmas Day – St Patrick’s @ 9.30am, Carols at 9.00am

Simbang Gabi – Starts 16th December @ St Joseph’s at 8pm

Gifting Tree

St Vincent de Paul has asked if the community of The Holy Trinity Parish can give an unwrapped gift or some Christmas food for our most vulnerable in our community. The gifts and food will be donated to Central Connect who have counselor’s and social workers as well as the home the CHB Foodbank. Please leave under the Jesse tree from next week.



John’s challenge to us - The call of John the Baptist is challenging but, ultimately, it is a consoling word, because the Lord to whom John calls on us to turn our hearts is not one who is here to judge us. Rather, he is one who has come to heal and renew us. The voice crying in the wilderness is, ultimately, a voice of consolation. In the opening words of Isaiah in today’s first reading, ‘Console my people, console them. Speak to the heart of Jerusalem.’ At the end of that reading, Isaiah declares, ‘Here is the Lord coming with power.’ The word ‘power’ can have negative connotations for us. It can suggest some kind of overbearing presence or a determination to dominate. Yet the power of the Lord that Isaiah speaks about is of a different kind altogether. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast, and leading to their rest the mother ewes who are soon to give birth. This is a very tender power; it is the power of a faithful and enduring love, a love that gathers and nurtures and gives rest. This is the God whom John the Baptist invites us to rediscover this Advent. It is this God who comes to us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. In the gospel, the Baptist refers to Jesus as ‘more powerful than I am.’ He is the more powerful one, in the sense that the first reading defines power. It is Jesus who gives full expression to God’s tender love that brings healing to the broken, strength to the weak and rest to the weary. It is this adult Jesus, now risen Lord, whose coming towards us and present to us we celebrate at Christmas. The Baptist calls us this Advent to prepare a way in our lives for the coming of this Lord, this Shepherd, in whom, as the Psalm says, mercy and faithfulness have met, justice and peace have embraced. This is the one we are called to meet this Advent, who can give meaning and depth to all our other encounters assoicationofcatholicpriests.ie

This month, we celebrate the sacred birth in an animal shelter. Why such a lowly place? Our views about status miss the message, and we must wrap this birth in splendour – angel

song, an unusual star, three kings coming to bow before the child. The wrapping continues until Jesus is lost under layers of Christmas trees, gifts and bearded Santas. So this Christmas, let us let go of all the decoration and spend some time in wonder at the ordinariness of the Word of God made flesh.

Jesus knew who he was but never used that knowledge for self-aggrandisement. He identified with all things ordinary. Like us, Jesus enjoyed good food and the company of friends. I think that if he had written a gospel, it could be called “The Gospel of Table” so often are meals mentioned. We know very little about Jesus’ childhood. When he was 12, the age of maturity for a Jewish boy, he left his parents to talk to some learned men. The trouble was, he didn’t tell Joseph and Mary, and they were distraught, looking for their lost son. Does that echo with some teenage incident in our lives? Let’s look at other aspects of Jesus’ humanity. Jesus got angry with stupid and selfish people. Jesus wept when he learned that his friend Lazarus had died. Jesus got tired. One time he was so exhausted he slept in the bottom of the boat during a storm. Jesus experienced loneliness. He said, “The Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” I don’t think he was talking about a pillow. Through the Gospels we see growth in Jesus’ experience. He had told his disciples not to go into Samaria or the Pagan territories because his mission was to the lost tribes of Israel. Later, he talked with women in both those areas, leading him to preach to the people. I feel that Jesus achieved full maturity during his ‘agony in the garden.’ There, he accepted what was planned for him and did not try to defend himself. I grew up with the frequent reminder that Jesus died for my sins. I accepted that but also had the question, “Then why was he resurrected?” There had to be something more important than me swearing at my sister. Jesus gives us the answer as part of the experience. What is resurrected is always greater than what has died. So this year, I will leave the tinsel and Christmas cake to be with the Word of God-made Flesh. I want to journey through his humanity and humility, from his humble birth to his presence here and now. Do you feel a part of that? **Joy Cowly—Cathnews.nz**