

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

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.

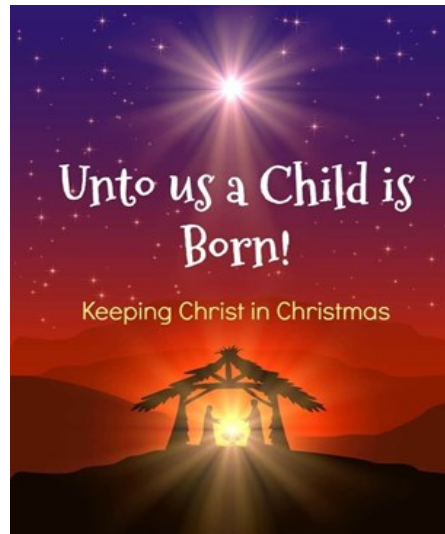
This Sunday night (17th December), John Cowan's guest will be broadcaster, Jamie Mackay. In 1994, Jamie Mackay teamed up with Lee Piper and rugby commentator Grant Nisbett to buy 4ZG in Gore from the Government and set up Hokonui Gold FM radio station. In 2004, 10 years after buying Hokonui Gold, the station was leased to The Radio Network, now NZME. Jamie became an independent contractor and The Farming Show began airing at lunchtime on Radio Sport. The Farming Show was rebranded as the now flagship rural radio show The Country and launched on Newstalk ZB in 2016. Jamie has become a key voice for rural New Zealand. The radio show has provided an avenue to raise money for various charities, including those helping with mental health, having shone a light on the importance of mental well-being, particularly in the rural sector. He remains at the helm of the nationwide rural radio show, 29 years after he took the plunge and bought a radio station. Before purchasing the radio station, he was a farmer. Originally studying accounting at Otago University, before heading to Lincoln University to take on a diploma in agriculture. Now based in Dunedin, Jamie has farming interests in Southland and commercial cleaning interests in Auckland and Tauranga and loves golf.

A special Happy Birthday to Clare Story who celebrated a significant birthday this week. Ra whanau ki a koe!



Prayer for the Holy Land

Jesus, protect the innocent and vulnerable, comfort the suffering, and give courage and wisdom to leaders in the Holy Land. Amen.



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



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Rātini Kupu

17th Hakihea 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

17 December, 2023

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

In a spirit of joyful service

Today's readings are brimful of 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 in today's readings go well together:

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





"This week the part played by John the Baptist in the life of Jesus is continued and presented to us as told in John's Gospel. He immediately introduces us to one of the great themes of his Gospel, light and darkness."

This week the part played by John the Baptist in the life of Jesus is continued and presented to us as told in John's Gospel. He immediately introduces us to one of the great themes of his Gospel, light and darkness, and the eternal struggle between them. John the Baptist is presented as the person who first recognised Jesus as this 'light' and pointed to him. However darkness, represented by a list of questions asked by suspicious Jewish leaders is already present and making itself felt. John the Baptist treats the questions with a certain amount of disdain. His answers are curt to the point of being almost rude, though they probably tell us more about his personality than his sins! We cannot understand the importance of today's Gospel unless we try to understand a little of the tensions and conflicts into which he (and Jesus) were born. To some any trip into the political and social realities of the time is unnecessary and boring. We can welcome Jesus into our hearts and lives without it. This is, of course, true and I fully understand those who find such journeys into history either irrelevant or just plain confusing. If you find yourself in this category, please feel totally free to stop reading now. More than anything else I don't want anyone

New Years Day—Mass 9.00am @ St Joseph's
No week day Masses during the month of January.
Sunday Masses will remain the same

ploughing their way through a reflection on the Gospel and finishing with a sense of utter futility or a conviction that you have wasted your time.

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Christmas Dues Special Collection

Many thanks to parishioners who in the past have contributed to the Christmas Dues/ Offerings Special Collection. The Special Collection planned giving envelopes gifted on Christmas Day are for this collection. The money is sent given to the Clergy Trust Fund to support the priests of the Diocese. There are also specially marked envelopes in the foyer, or alternatively please pay by direct credit (parish bank account number) your name as payee, and 'Dues' as reference. Your support and help is always appreciated! Fr. Brian Walsh (Chairman of the Clergy Trust Fund)



What does the 3rd Sunday in Advent represent?

The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

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 heartbreaking 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.

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.

Please pray for the soul of Bern Atkins, who died suddenly while on holiday up north. RIP. Bern is the son of Peter and Pat Atkins, and nephew of Fr Bern Atkins, who many of you will remember! Bern went though St Joseph's school then CHB College, and with family, was part of this parish family!

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

At Family Life Catholic Gifts, we have many lovely Christmas gifts as we move quickly along in this season of Advent. We have a good variety of Nativities (a number of which are on special) and other Christmas gifts, as well as our usual supply of Rosaries, Statues, Books, etc. Come and visit us at 569 Richardson Road, Mount Roskill, Auckland or online at www.catholicgifts.co.nz. Phone (09) 6290820. All proceeds from sales support our life-saving work defending Life, Faith and Family. Our last day of business for 2023, is December 23rd.

Office Hours

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