



# Parish Newsletter Pānui i te Pārihi

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 Catholic Parish of New Plymouth

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**10 December 2023 2nd Sunday of Advent**



Congratulations to the 31 Baptised children and 2 children Received into the Church at the Older Children's Baptism celebration held last Sunday afternoon at St Joseph's Church. Father Simon welcomed the children and their families - "You are always welcome here, this is your spiritual home." Celebrations continued afterwards with refreshments and treats. Many thanks to Livie of Teemello cakes, who made and donated a wonderful Baptism cake.

## **OUR NEW PARISH VISION**

**A COMMUNITY CALLED BY GOD FOR MISSIONAL DISCIPLESHIP  
GATHERED AROUND JESUS CHRIST FED WITH THE EUCHARIST  
AND SENT TO TRANSFORM LIVES EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**





GENERAL NOTICES

**PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE:** Monday 11 December 5.30pm to 6.00pm at St Joseph's Church New Plymouth. Join us to pray for peace throughout the Middle East, Gaza and the Holy Land. Pray for peace in our world.



**SPECIAL MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST TO THE SICK:** The fruit mince pies packages are available in the church foyers to all those who take Communion to the sick and housebound. Available today and Sunday 17 December.

**WEEKDAY MASSES AT THE SCHOOLS:** Masses celebrated at Sacred Heart Girls College and Frances Douglas Memorial College and St Pius X school have finished for the year. 9.10am Thursday Mass has returned to Our Lady Help of Christians, Fitzroy. Our Christmas holiday time table begins 26 December with Mass celebrated at St Joseph's only - 8.30am Monday to Saturday.

**CHILDREN INVITED TO DRESS UP AT CHRISTMAS MASSES:** Will you be at 9.00am Mass Mass on Christmas Day, or Mass at Bell Block or Our Lady Help of Christians. If so we invite children to dress as an angel, or a shepherd or a king, or even Mary or Joseph. Elaborate costumes aren't needed – a white dress and a tinsel head dress could make an angel. The Priests need to have shepherds and angels and kings to help them with the homilies. Can you help? If you have any queries, please just call us in the Parish Office 06 757 3682 or email us office@catholicparishnp.nz

**CLARETIAN 2024 BIBLE DIARIES FOR SALE:** The Bible diary consists of daily prayers, readings, short reflections, Saints of the day and short quotes for the year. Prices range from \$20.00 to \$29.00. Please make an order now with the link below:  
<https://www.cognitofirms.com/AlexBailey1/AotearoaNewZealandBibleDiaries2022>  
For those that do not use electronic devices, please contact Fr Prakash directly on 022 585 2875.



*Pictured above: Last week, we took our Little Angels group outdoors! We played and sang at East End Beach – it was a lovely morning with everyone!*

**LITTLE ANGELS:** This Monday - 11 December is the last Little Angels for the year! But any little people and their caregivers who would still like to meet on a Monday morning from 9.00am to 10.30am over January can do! These more casual get togethers will be at East End beach near Paris Plage Café! We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a lovely relaxing holiday. From all of us at Little Angels.



**KINGDOM KIDZ:** Kingdom Kidz Children's Liturgy at OLHC is taking a Christmas break for two weeks so there will be no Children's Liturgy on Sunday 24 December or 31 December. Special thanks to the amazing team that do the Children's Liturgy each week: Abi Gough, Cat Allen, Jacqueline Welham, Kate Buchboeck and Natasha Hinga. We also welcome Cath McVey to our team next year.



**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD:** The Parish Christmas card is available in Mass centre foyers. Please take a copy. It contains all the Mass times for December and January, including the Christmas Mass times. Read too, the Christmas message from our priests. Please do take a copy to pass on to relatives, friends and neighbors who may be interested.

**THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CHRISTMAS NATIVITY SCENE AT GRECCIO IN 1223**  
St. Francis wanted to celebrate Christmas in a new way, by recreating the stable of Bethlehem. It took place on Christmas Eve at Greccio, Italy, in 1223, in the small cave of a hermitage on the hillside opposite the mountain village of Greccio in the Rieti Valley. Full article included in the Parish newsletter online - Parish website and app.

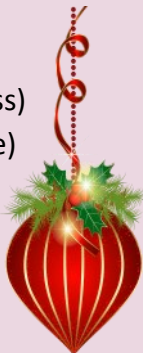
RITE I RECONCILIATION

ST JOSEPH'S	OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS	ST PATRICK'S OKATO
Sat 9 Dec - 11.30am to 12.00 noon	Sat 9 Dec - 4.45pm to 5.15pm	Sat 9 Dec - 5.15pm to 5.45pm
Fri 15 Dec - 11.30 to 12.00 noon	Sat 16 Dec - 4.45pm to 5.15pm	Sat 16 Dec - 5.15pm to 5.45pm
Sat 16 Dec - 11.30am to 12.00 noon	Tues 19 Dec - 9.45am after Mass	Sat 23 Dec - 5.15pm to 5.45pm
Tues 19 Dec - 11.30am to 12.00 noon	Wed 20 Dec - 9.45am after Mass	
Fri 22 Dec - 11.30am to 12.00 noon	Thurs 21 Dec - 9.45am after Mass	
Sat 23 Dec - 11.30am to 12.00 noon	Sat 23 Dec - 4.45pm to 5.15pm	



**SIMBANG GABI NEW PLYMOUTH:** Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition, being a series of nine Masses on the days leading up to Christmas. We are celebrating Simbang Gabi in this parish with Mass at St Joseph's church each evening at 6.00pm (except Mon 18 Dec - 7.30pm) beginning December 15 until Saturday 23 December (Mass Sunday 17 December will be at the usual time of 5.30pm). Everyone is welcome.

Fri 15 Dec	6.00pm
Sat 16 Dec	6.00pm
Sun 17 Dec	5.30pm (Sunday Mass)
Mon 18 Dec	7.30pm (time change)
Tues 19 Dec	6.00pm
Wed 20 Dec	6.00pm
Thurs 21 Dec	6.00pm
Fri 22 Dec	6.00pm
Sat 23 Dec	6.00pm



**Please note time change:**  
Mon 18 Dec, Mass at 7.30pm.

**BAKE SALE TODAY:** Today – Sunday 10 December and next Sunday, the Youth Group will be selling some yummy treats after the 9.00am and 10.30am Masses. Funds raised will help support the Youth Group going to Lifeteen Summer Camp in January 2024.

## Christmas Concert WITH MORNING TEA!

The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth invites you to a Christmas Concert with Morning Tea and Christmas Crafting for children. This event is organised by Illumin8 Youth Group and is joined by SHINE Youth Group.

WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER  
10AM  
ST JOSEPH'S HALL

We would love to see  
you there :)



Every December 8th, we celebrate Mary's Immaculate Conception, i.e. the fact that the mother of our Lord Jesus was conceived in her mother's womb free from the stain of original sin, so that she would be full of grace and, 14 or 15 years later, God, who is totally pure and holy, could become a child in her womb.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Because of God's decision to create a daughter who did not carry the guilt of Eve, Mary was born sinless and became the mother of our Saviour, the Son of God. Because of her own daily decisions, she remained sinless.

Let us honour Mary this Friday as not only the mother of Jesus but also our special Mother who we can turn to in times of trouble and times of joy.

# YOUTH CORNER

**VENUE**  
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL

**SUNDAY, 10 DEC**  
LAST **SHINE** FOR 2023

**SUNDAY, 10 DEC**  
**NO YOUTH GROUP**

**Youth Group on Sunday, 17 Dec**

**ALPHA YOUTH**  
EPISODE 12 & 13  
**FINAL**  
1 HEALING DOES GOD HEAL TODAY?  
1 CHURCH WHAT ABOUT THE CHURCH?  
**SUNDAY | 17.12.23**  
6:30pm - 8:30pm | St. Joseph's Church Hall

**MIDNIGHT CHRISTMAS MASS**  
LED BY YOUNG PEOPLE  
**SUNDAY 24 DEC 2023**  
**CAROLS START AT 11:30PM**  
**MASS STARTS AT 12:00AM**

**BAKE SALE**

**GRAB SOME YUMMY TREATS AND HELP SUPPORT THE YOUTH GROUP GOING TO LIFETEEN SUMMER CAMP IN JANUARY 2024.**  
**NEXT → SUNDAY, 17 DEC 2023**  
- St. Joseph's after 9am Mass  
- Our Lady after 10:30am Mass

**CASH ONLY**

**SEE YOUTH NOTICE BOARD FOR MORE DETAILS!**



**We pray for our deceased family and friends:** Theodures Hoogeboom, Kath and Mick Dudley, Wally Dudley, Mike Dudley, Terry Dudley, Margaret Muir, Doreen Bright, Michael Barrett, Gerard Muir, Taco Hilvard Sybrandy, Edward Ester, Joseph Desker, Beatrice Desker, Peter Desker, Harry Goodin, Harry Peter Martin and deceased members of the Flynn and Martin families.



# WEEKLY MASSES: 11 to 17 December 2023

Third Sunday of the month

	MON 11 Dec	TUES 12 Dec	WED 13 Dec	THURS 14 Dec	FRI 15 Dec	SAT 16 Dec	SUNDAY 17 Dec
St Joseph's Church	8.00am	8.00am 12.05pm	8.00am	8.00am	8.00am 12.05pm 6.00pm Simbang Gabi	8.30am 6.00pm Simbang Gabi	9.00am 5.30pm Simbang Gabi
Our Lady Help of Christians		9.10am	9.10am	9.10am		5.30pm	10.30am
Bell Block Catholic Centre							10.30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion
St Patrick's Okato						6.00pm	

**ST MARTIN'S PUNGAREHU:** As St Martin's is closed because of ceiling issues, there will be Saturday Vigil Mass at St Patrick's Okato each week at 6.00pm.

**MASS TIMES:** Due to unforeseen circumstances Mass times can be changed after the printing of the Newsletter, therefore please refer to the APP or website [www.catholicparishnp.nz](http://www.catholicparishnp.nz) for updated information.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Please see the Reconciliation timetable on page 2.

**KINGDOM KIDZ:** Kingdom Kidz Children's Liturgy at OLHC is taking a Christmas break for two weeks so there will be no Children's Liturgy on Sunday 24 December or 31 December.



## WEEKLY:

### WEDNESDAY ADORATION:

Our Lady Help of Christians Wednesday after 9.10am Mass  
St Joseph's Church Wednesday 5.00pm - last one for the year.

**MORNING PRAYER:** Before 8.00am Mass Monday, Tuesday and Friday at 7.40am and Sat at 8.10am. Go to the back door of Parish Office building. We are in the Mary McKillop Room.

## SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

**17 December - 3rd Sunday of Advent**

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 61. 1-2a, 10-11

**PSALM** Luke 1

**SECOND READING:** 1 Thess. 5.16-24

**GOSPEL** John 1.6-8, 19-28

## MINISTRY TEAM:

**Priests:** Simon Story, Vui Hoang & Tom Lawn  
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[tom@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:tom@catholicparishnp.nz)

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**Music Coordinator** Amelia  
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**Young Families Minister** Karen  
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**Youth Minister** Susilo  
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**Parish Leadership Team**  
[ParishLeadershipTeam@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:ParishLeadershipTeam@catholicparishnp.nz)

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CHRISTMAS NATIVITY SCENE AT GRECCIO, IN 1223

St. Francis wanted to celebrate Christmas in a new way, by recreating the stable of Bethlehem. It took place on Christmas Eve at Greccio, in the Year of Our Lord, 1223, in the small cave of a hermitage on the hillside opposite the mountain village of Greccio in the Rieti Valley, (Murray Bodo, Francis and Jesus, 2012).

It started simply. He would have a real ox and ass there, and the Mass would be celebrated outside the cave, with a bare rock for an altar. Francis, who was a Deacon, would read the Gospel, and preach.

In the heart of night, the townspeople crossed from Greccio to the hermitage, carrying lighted candles and singing Christmas songs.

They were amazed at the scene before them - the live Christmas crib, that made them see the poverty and humility of God. (Murray Bodo, 2012).

Now, 800 years on from that first Christmas crib scene in history being set up, the tradition is passed on in homes and communities across the world, bringing with it a message of hope and peace which never fades away.

Te rangimarie me te pai katoa (Peace and all good.)

**St Juliana Fraternity Secular Franciscans Palmerston North**



*Cave where Saint Francis of Assisi staged the first-ever nativity scene on Christmas Eve in 1223.*