



**St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception**  
*in the care of SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO*

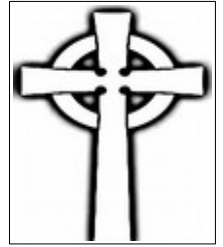
**Avondale Parish Bulletin –13<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

*Vision / Tirohanga*

*Growing in Faith Together / Oranga i roto i te Whakapono*

*Goal / Whainga*

*To Grow in Awareness as One Parish Family / Kokiritia te Oranga Kotahitanga o te Whanau Whakapono*



# Third Sunday Of Advent

**Readings: Isaiah: 61:1-2.10-11; Psalm: 1 ; Thessalonians 5:16-24; John: 1:6-8.19-28**

## Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel should sound very familiar. It is the gospel of John version of the passage used in last week's liturgy, which came from the gospel of Mark. Again it recalls the ministry of John the Baptist but it is given the particular slant of the gospel of John. Aside from the greater focus on the conversational interaction, it presents John as a 'witness'. This is perhaps more typical of the John gospel emphasis on personal encounter with Jesus. Rather than acting as something of a herald, as in last week's account, here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to speak for the light'. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ, his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live.

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Email:	<a href="mailto:adayadiel@gmail.com">adayadiel@gmail.com</a>	Tue – Fri:	11am – 2pm
School Principal:	Mrs. Kathryn Hira	Weekends:	CLOSED
Email:	<a href="mailto:principal@stmarysavondale.school.nz">principal@stmarysavondale.school.nz</a>	Mondays:	CLOSED
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	Pledge Giving Account Number: 02-0100-0120958-04		
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St Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, 2134 Great North Rd, Avondale, Auckland 0600			

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Wednesday, 16 December	Advent Reconciliation, 7 pm after 6:30 pm Rosary (No Evening Mass)
Thursday, 24 December	Christmas Eve - Vigil Mass, 7 pm Christmas Carols - 11:30 pm Holy Mass at Midnight
Friday, 25 December	Christmas – The Nativity of the Lord Mass - 8:30 am & 10:30am (No evening Mass)
Thursday, 31 December	Holy Hour – 11:00 pm Followed by Thanksgiving Holy Mass at midnight
Friday, 1 January	New Year's Day – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass at 9 am and 7:00 pm



**The CWL are disbanding this year** due to need to retire as the seniors restrict their activities. There will be an End of Year Mass: Sunday 13 December 2020 8:30am. Everyone welcome to attend.

**Advent Reconciliation on Wednesday, 16 December at 7 pm.** Please make use of this opportunity to prepare yourself and family for Christmas and to receive the mercy and forgiveness of the Lord as priests will be available for confession.

**The community food kitchen** will be open to anyone and everyone who would like to come for a free meal on Friday evenings from 6pm to 8 pm at the Te Whau Hall, where volunteers will serve food, bring conversation, and share company. For more info contact Cherry at 0212170461.

### ST MARY'S PARISH AVONDALE

#### Average attendance per Sunday

2019	1007 persons
2020	612 persons

Half year	Income\$	Expenses\$
<b>2019</b>	123,541	41,454
<b>2020</b>	52,786	40,568

#### Sacramental Programme 2020

Parents who wish to have their children aged preferably 9 and above for First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion are requested to contact the parish office for an interview. Remember to bring the Baptism Certificate of the child and the registration fee of \$20.

**Teuila Secilia Logovii** died on 1 December 2020. Her Requiem Mass was held in our church on Friday, 11 December. May her soul rest in peace. Our heartfelt sympathies and prayers to the family.

**Admission to St. Mary's Catholic School, Avondale is open.** We encourage parishioners to consider sending their school going children to our Catholic School and to ensure Catholic Education for their wholistic formation.

## Western Deanery Advent Reconciliation

A wonderful opportunity to prepare ourselves as family for Christmas, to encounter Jesus Christ, experience his mercy and receive forgiveness of sins.

Wed 16 December, 7 pm Avondale

Thu 17 December, 7 pm Massey

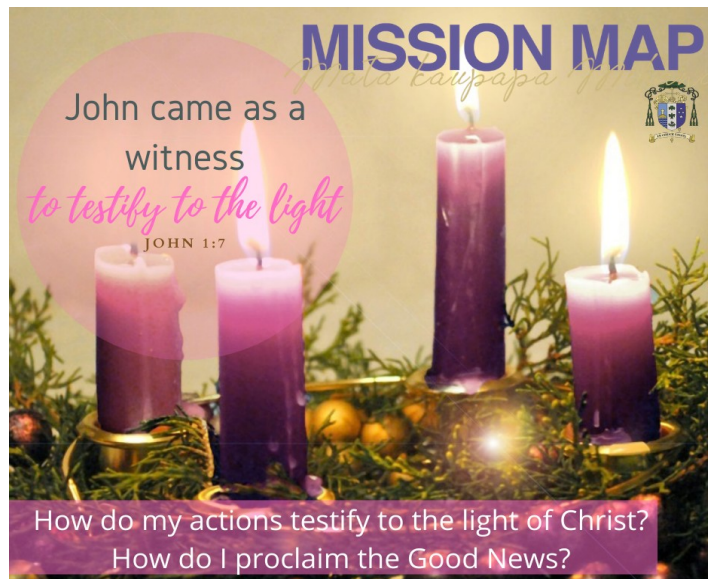
## The December 13-26 issue of NZ Catholic is out now.

NZ Catholic has been named as Publication of the Year at the Australasian Religious Press Association 2020 Awards. Some headlines are: New pastoral plan for Auckland diocese. New vaccines prompt serious questions. Hospital chaplain called a local hero. Marist ordained to priesthood.

## Christmas blessings and gratitude from the Caring Foundation

Your support for families and communities in need during 2020 has helped the foundation support over 60 agencies working with the poor and the vulnerable. Thank you for your compassion and care. Please keep the Foundation in your prayers, and if able please support our Christmas Appeal.

**Heading North this summer?** A reminder and encouragement to visit the places of important Catholic history in our diocese, particular Motuti, where Bishop Pompallier remains are interred in St Mary's Church, and Tōtara Point, where the first official Mass was celebrated on 13 January 1838. All are invited to Mass at Tōtara Point Sunday, 10 January 2021 at 11am to commemorate the first Mass in Aotearoa



## Monte Cecilia Christmas Appeal

This year we need your help and support for our Homeless families. We have 1,410 children in our care, who have been exposed to homelessness, living in cars and no place to call home. We have a tradition of providing a gift for every child so they may experience a little Christmas joy. Can you donate a gift/gifts so we can be sure none of them go without? If you can help, please contact Elaine Lolesio, email [elaine@montececilia.co.nz](mailto:elaine@montececilia.co.nz) or call/text 0277770632.



## St. Mary's Avondale Community Centre **SMACC**



For all those giving for SMACC thank you for your continued support.

If not yet giving, would you consider making a regular payment towards SMACC Fund?

Account Number for SMACC Building Fund:  
02-0108-03339938-04

*'Celebrating Communities'*



## *Dates for your Diary*

<b>Tue, 15 Dec</b>	<b>Executive Committee Meeting, 7pm Presbytery</b>
<b>Wed, 16 Dec</b>	<b>Advent Reconciliation, 7pm Church</b>
<b>Fri, 18 Dec</b>	<b>Community Food Kitchen, 6pm Te Whau Hall</b>
<b>Sat, 19 Dec</b>	<b>Church Cleaning Roster: Samoan Community</b>
<b>Thu, 24 Dec</b>	<b>Christmas Vigil Mass, 7 pm Church</b>
<b>Thu, 24 Dec</b>	<b>Christmas Carols, 11:30pm followed by midnight Mass Church</b>
<b>Fri, 25 Dec</b>	<b>Christmas, Holy Day of Obligation Mass 8:30am &amp; 10:30am Church</b>
<b>Thu, 31 Dec</b>	<b>Holy Hour 11pm, Thanksgiving Mass 12 midnight Church</b>

## **Coming Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Readings: Samuel 7:1-5.8-11.14.16; Psalm: 88 ; Romans 16-25-27; Luke: 1:26-38**

	<b>Saturday, 6</b>	<b>Sunday, 8:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday, 10:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday, 6 pm</b>
<b>Commentator</b>	Ronald D' Silva	Rachel Suesue	Youth	Teena Roy
<b>Ministers of the Word</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Eric Bonamis 2 <sup>nd</sup> Arlene Mathiah	1 <sup>st</sup> Mark Simento 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rachel Simento	Youth	1 <sup>st</sup> Leena Rebello 2 <sup>nd</sup> Raisa Mathias
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Communion</b>	L. Bonamis E. D'Mello	J.James C.Lewis J.Peauvasa	B. Ngurinzira Sr. Agnelle MC Sr. Maria Chiara MC	N. Imperial P. Nair

***We pray for the souls of our loved ones whose anniversaries occur during this time  
20th December – 31st December***

April Purchase, Michael Augustine O'Sullivan, Ivan Wenzl Schiska, Teluo Maemiso Filitonga, Merle Josephine Daley, John Johnson, Andrew Robert Anderson, William George Wright, Francis Arthur Blowers, Margarita Manaois, Luciano Iketau, Eme Malia Losa Fagamoia, Anne Elizabeth Dromgool, Doris Alice Seaman, Malia Lava, Margaret Mitchell, Connell James Robert Upfold, Winifred Mary Wilshere, Annie Whyley, Dorothy Shannahan, Quinn Tamaseu (Baby), Douglas Joseph McLaren, Mary Matilda Frances Page, Kyra Helen Mary Mears, William Joseph Sellars, James William Jellick, Hans Stephen Thomsen, Cecelia Pinto, Margaret Morris, Maud Lundon, Lena Hunia, Matija Grbic, Warwick Wright, Irene Hilda Henry, William George Page, Agnes Catherine Parrish, Regina Theresa Muliaga.

***May the Lord grant them eternal rest. Amen.***

### **MASS SCHEDULE**

**Sunday:** Mass: 8.30am / 10.30am / 6.00pm

**Saturday:** Rosary & Novena: 5.30 pm; Vigil Mass: 6 pm

**Monday – Saturday:** Mass: 9.00am

**Mondays only additional Mass 6:30am**

**Daily Rosary:** Mon – Sat, 8.25am; Sun, 7.45am

**Wednesday:** Rosary & novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 6:30pm, Mass after

**Friday Adoration:** After 9 am Mass to 10:30 am

**1<sup>st</sup> Friday:** Mass: 7 pm

**RECONCILIATION:** Saturday: after 9 am Mass, (other times by appointment)