

Dates for your Diary: Monday 12th – Sunday 18th Dec 2022	
Mon, 12 Dec	Tongan Sunday School practice, 7.00pm – 8.00pm, Fr McGrath Room
Tue, 13 Dec	Samoan Community Choir, 6.00pm – 8.00pm, Fr McGrath Room
Wed, 14 Dec	Parish Youth Choir, 6.00pm – 8.00pm, Church
Wed, 14 Dec	Tongan Sunday School practice, 7.00pm – 8.00pm, Fr McGrath Room
Thu, 15 Dec	Tongan Community Choir, 7.00pm – 9.00pm, Fr McGrath Room
Fri, 16 Dec	Tongan Sunday School practice, 7.00pm – 8.00pm, Fr McGrath Room
Fri, 16 Dec	Mass – Tongan Community, 7.00pm, Church
Sat, 17 Dec	Legion of Mary meeting, 10.00am – 11.30am, Whare Iki
Sat, 17 Dec	Church Cleaning: African Community, 9.30am – 12.30pm
Sat, 17 Dec	No Church flowers due to Advent Season
Sat, 17 Dec	Samoan Community Choir, 3.00pm – 5.00pm, Fr McGrath Room
Sat, 17 Dec	Tongan Community Choir, 5.00pm – 7.00pm, Fr McGrath Room
Sun, 18 Dec	Parish Youth Group session, 12.00pm – 3.00pm, Fr McGrath Room

KIDS CORNER

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/4th-WEEK-of-AD-VENT.pdf>

MASS SCHEDULE 2022

Sunday:

8.30am / 10.30am / 6.00pm

Monday:

No 9.00am Mass and no Liturgy of the Word

Tuesday – Saturday:

Mass: 9.00am

Daily Rosary:

Tue – Sat, 8.20am | Sun, 7.45am

Friday Adoration (after 9.00am Mass):

9.30am – 10.30am

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday after 9am Mass
(other times by appointment)



St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

2134 Great North Rd, Avondale, Auckland 0600

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 – 11th December 2022

Readings: Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10 | Ps 146 | James 5: 7-10 | Matthew 11: 2-11

Gospel Reflection

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” Matthew 11: 2-3

Why did Saint John the Baptist send his disciples to Jesus to ask this question? Recall that John had previously stated about Jesus, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world” (John 1: 29). So if John knew that Jesus was the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,” then why would he send his disciples to ask Jesus if He is the one who is to come?

The Church Fathers explore many reasons, but most arrive at the conclusion that John did this not because he didn't know who Jesus was, but for the sake of his disciples, so that they would come to follow our Lord once John was killed by Herod. So this was a way of trying to point his disciples to Jesus and to encourage them to embrace this new change in their life of faith.

Jesus understood the reason John sent his disciples to Him. As a result, Jesus gave these disciples what they needed as so to come to believe themselves. He points them to the works that He has done as the Christ so that they would be able to interpret these works on their own and, thus, come to the newness of faith. Jesus points out that the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. Who could argue with such miraculous signs from Heaven? But Jesus goes even further and states something very subtle. He says, “And blessed is the one who takes no offence at me.” This line appears to be one way that Jesus gently reproached these disciples for what appears to be their own personal struggle with this change of spiritual leaders. Jesus identified a certain “offence” that they were dealing with. They were “offended” by the fact that Jesus was indeed increasing while John was decreasing.

In many ways, this is a common experience any time there is a change in our spiritual lives. When something is new, we often struggle with various aspects of the change and newness. But the Christian life is all about change, transformation and newness of life. And this is good. We must seek to change, be transformed, build better and new relationships, learn new ways of loving and reaching out, and become very comfortable with any and every new experience that our Lord places in our lives.

Reflect, today, upon any way that you have struggled with changes in your spiritual life. Often-times, those things we struggle with are actually glorious opportunities to live our Christian faith and charity on a new level. Seek out the changes God is calling you to embrace in your life and know that even if they are difficult, they are the surest pathway to a life of greater holiness for you.

Dear Lord, I know You call me to embrace the newness of life and the changes that I must endure so as to follow You more faithfully., Help me to be open to all that You call me to so that I will continually become a new creation in Your grace. Jesus, I trust in You.

Excerpt from <https://mycatholic.life> – Sunday Gospel Reflection – Change and Newness in Christ: 11th December 2022
Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)



To Our Volunteers

Church Cleaning Roster

Sat 17th Dec 2022

African Community (Gertrude)

Sat 24th Dec 2022

Hoglund Family, Agnes L,
Leena R & Nelson D

Sat 31st Dec 2022

Legion of Mary

Flower Arrangement Roster

Sat 17th Dec 2022

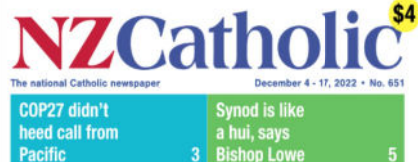
~ No Flowers due to Advent ~

Sat 24th Dec 2022

Telesia & May

Sat 31st Dec 2022

Tongan Community



'Put out into the deep'



Bishop wants 'thriving parishes of faith' - p4

Six times judged Australasia's leading Catholic newspaper



St. Mary's Parish Youth are calling out to all our young people! Come and join us!

If you're interested or would like to know more, please call/text our Parish Youth Leader – Lemo 021 08904317 or email the Parish Office.

Parish Priest: Pa Peter Tipene
Email: ppriest@avondalecatholic.org.nz
Parish Secretary: Gwendoline Jessop
Email: office@avondalecatholic.org.nz
Website: www.avondalecatholic.org.nz
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmarysavondale
School Principal: Kathryn Hira
Email: principal@stmarysavondale.school.nz

Parish Office:
Phone: (09) 828 9309
Tue – Fri: 9.15am – 3.30pm
Monday: Closed
School Office:
Phone: (09) 828 5599

Pledge Giving Account Number: 02-0100-0120958-04

Mass Offering Account Number: 02-0100-0120958-05

SMACC Building Fund: 02-0108-0339938-04

~ News and Updates from the Parish and Diocese ~



ADVENT RECONCILIATION: Tuesday 13th December: 7.30pm at Holy Cross Parish, Henderson. Tuesday 20th December: 6.30pm at St. Dominic's Parish, Blockhouse Bay – Please note that Avondale is combining with Blockhouse Bay for Reconciliation on the 20th Dec. Avondale parishioners are especially invited to this combined celebration at Blockhouse Bay Parish.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE: Christmas Eve – Saturday 24th December: Vigil Mass at 6.00pm with Christmas Carols from 5.30pm. Midnight Mass with Carols from 11.30pm. Christmas Day – Sunday 25th December: One Mass only at 9.00am. No 8.30am, 10.30am or 6.00pm Masses. Monday 26th December: No Mass or Liturgy of the Word. Tuesday 27th December to Friday 30th December: Masses at 9.00am. New Year's Eve – Saturday 31st December: Mass at 9.00am. Vigil Mass at 6.00pm. New Year's Day – Sunday 1st January 2023: One Mass only at 9.00am. No 8.30am, 10.30am or 6.00pm Masses. Monday 2nd January 2023: No Mass or Liturgy of the Word. Tuesday 3rd January to Saturday 7th January: Masses at 9.00am. Sunday 8th January - Masses as usual: 8.30am / 10.30am / 6.00pm.



Monday 12th December 2022 at 10.00am: Mass of Thanksgiving for St. Mary's School. All are welcome to attend. School Prizegiving to follow at 11.30am in the Church.

CARING FOUNDATION – Christmas Appeal: Give a more impactful gift this Christmas with a donation to the Caring Foundation. Give a gift of joy to our most vulnerable www.caringfoundation.org.nz

Pledge Giving Envelopes from 20th Nov 2022 to 14th May 2023 are still available from the Church foyer for parishioners who are currently enrolled in our Parish Pledge Giving. Please make sure that you collect your set.

WYD23 Fundraiser: Private Screening of Avatar 2 (Rated M), 18th December 2022 at 2.00pm, Queen St Event Cinemas. \$20/per ticket includes entry, ice-cream, popcorn, drink and sweets. Email: mdmwydmovie@gmail.com or phone Paula 021 827225.

DIVINE MERCY CALENDARS 2023: We have a very limited number of Divine Mercy Calendars 2023 available for purchase after Mass. \$10.00/per Wall Calendar and \$5.00/per Pocket Calendar. You can pay by cash or via the 'Tap & Go' device in the Church foyer. Tap once for \$5.00, twice for \$10.00.

COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS 2023: These are available for purchase after Mass. Price is \$12.

The Diocesan Pastoral Council met on Saturday 26th November. Their newsletter is available for everyone to read on the Diocesan website: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/November2022.pdf>

Registrations are now open for Ngā Tapuwāe – Sacred Footsteps 2023. Our Northland pilgrimage will be from 6th to 8th January 2023. All are welcome to hiko with us to learn more of our Catholic heritage. We will explore, experience, and live the sacred places of Kupe, Bishop Pompallier, and the early missionaries. The pilgrimage will conclude with Mass at the place where the first Mass in NZ occurred. Register <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/nga-tapuwa-e-pilgrimage/> or contact: Stephen Fraser 09 3603052 or stephenf@cda.org.nz

Scholarship for Study at Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College: Bishop Stephen Lowe, the Catholic Bishop of Auckland is pleased to call for applications for the Ruth Miller Scholarship for study at Te Kupenga Catholic Theological Centre. This scholarship will be available for a selected number of people who intend to do one or more Theology papers at Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College towards a Bachelor of Theology degree in 2023. For further information about this scholarship and to receive an application form, please contact Catherine Ryan, Vicar for Education, Email: catheriner@cda.org.nz. The closing date for applications is **MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2022**.

Marriage & Family Life would like to invite you to consider becoming Marriage Educators. If you have 2 hours a fortnight and are passionate about helping engaged couples prepare for marriage and have been married for 5 years or more, please contact Gerry on 021 02247442

~ Special Acknowledgments ~

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday Blessings to the following parishioners:

Sammy Tham - 9th December (58)

RECENT DEATHS

Please pray for those in our parish community who have lost their loved ones recently:

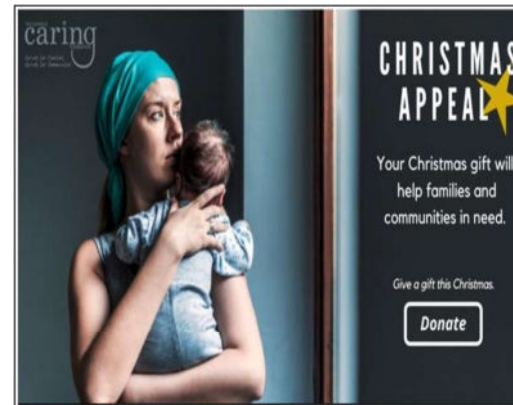
Maria Belcher – passed away 30th November 2022

Martha Barnes – passed away 1st December 2022

Sr. M Rossello Pepper rsm – passed away 3rd December 2022

Patrick Luby – passed away 3rd December 2022. Patrick was the brother of long-time parishioner Anne Larson (nee Luby).

Judy George – passed away 8th December 2022.



Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule

ST. MARY'S PARISH, AVONDALE

Saturday 24 December: CHRISTMAS EVE
Vigil Mass at 6.00pm with Christmas Carols from 5.30pm
Midnight Mass with Christmas Carols from 11.30pm

Sunday 25 December: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY)
One Mass only at 9.00am
(No 8.30am, 10.30am or 6.00pm Masses)

Monday 26 December:
No Mass or Liturgy of the Word

Tuesday 27th - Friday 30th December:
Masses at 9.00am

Saturday 31st December: NEW YEAR'S EVE
Mass at 9.00am
Vigil Mass at 6.00pm

Sunday 1st January 2023: MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (NEW YEAR'S DAY)
One Mass only at 9.00am
(No 8.30am, 10.30am or 6.00pm Masses)

Monday 2nd January:
No Mass or Liturgy of the Word

Tuesday 3rd - Saturday 7th January:
Masses at 9.00am

Sunday 8th January: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Masses as usual: 8.30am / 10.30am / 6.00pm



Fourth Sunday of Advent – Sunday 18th December 2022 –
Readings: Isaiah 7:10-14 ~ Ps 24 ~ Romans 1:1-7 ~ Matthew 1:18-25

	Sunday, 8:30am	Sunday, 10:30am	Sunday, 6pm
Commentator	Malia Funaki	Parish Youth Mass	Don Perera
Word	1 st : Mafi Funaki-Tahifote 2 nd : Maninoa Funaki	Parish Youth Mass	1 st : Teena Roy 2 nd : Leena Rebello
Holy Communion	Maselina Suisala Paula Betham Tevita Funaki	Fololina A'Costa Bastiana Joseph Mary Ausage Lata * * Change from roster	Mariquinha Colaco
Choir/Musicians	Congregation / Choir	Parish Youth Choir	Congregation / Choir (Colaco Family)