

<b>Dates for your Diary: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022</b>	
<b>Mon, 19 Dec</b>	Tongan Sunday School practice, 7.00pm – 8.00pm, Fr McGrath Room
<b>Tue, 20 Dec</b>	Samoan Community Choir, 6.00pm – 8.00pm, Fr McGrath Room
<b>Wed, 21 Dec</b>	Tongan Sunday School practice, 7.00pm – 8.00pm, Fr McGrath Room
<b>Thu, 22 Dec</b>	Tongan Community Choir, 7.00pm – 9.00pm, Fr McGrath Room
<b>Fri, 23 Dec</b>	Tongan Sunday School practice, 7.00pm – 8.00pm, Fr McGrath Room
<b>Sat, 24 Dec</b>	Legion of Mary meeting, 10.00am – 11.30am, Whare Iiti
<b>Sat, 24 Dec</b>	Church Cleaning: Hoglund Family, A Lafaee, L Rebello, N D'Souza, 9.30am – 12.30pm
<b>Sat, 24 Dec</b>	Church Flowers: Telesia & May, 9.30am – 12.30pm
<b>Sat, 24 Dec</b>	Samoan Community Choir, 3.00pm – 5.00pm, Fr McGrath Room
<b>Sat, 24 Dec</b>	Tongan Community Choir, 5.00pm – 7.00pm, Fr McGrath Room
<b>Sun, 25 Dec</b>	The Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ – Merry Christmas everyone!

### KIDS CORNER

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/4th-WEEK-of-ADVENT.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 (Resumes Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2023)

**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*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022

*Readings: Isaiah 7: 10-14 | Ps 24 | Romans 1: 1-7 | Matthew 1: 18-25*

### Gospel Reflection

*“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1: 20-21*

As we begin the Fourth Week of Advent, we focus ever more directly upon the miracle that took place over 2,000 years ago. The passage quoted above presents us with the words of the angel of the Lord who spoke to Joseph in a dream. This was one of four dreams that Joseph had in which an angel spoke to him concerning the Christ Child.

Saint Joseph is described in Matthew's Gospel as “a righteous man” who was unwilling to expose his betrothed wife, Mary, to shame. We know the story well. Mary became pregnant after being betrothed to Joseph but before they lived together, and Joseph didn't understand how this happened. Mary's virtue and goodness would have appeared to contradict the possibility of her becoming pregnant when she did. Joseph was planning on doing what he thought was the honourable thing He decided to divorce her quietly so that she should not endure public shame.

But God's plan was so much greater than what Joseph would initially comprehend. The Incarnation of the Son of God within the womb of his betrothed required supernatural understanding. And that's what Joseph was given. Though he had a dream in which an angel spoke to him, a dream was not enough. The dream also needed to be accompanied by the gift of supernatural knowledge. Joseph listened in the dream and believed by the interior revelation of faith that this incredible reality was true. This Child was indeed conceived by the Holy Spirit within the virginal womb of his betrothed, and Joseph accepted his God-given responsibility.

Joseph's witness is one to ponder and be inspired by. First, it's essential that we ponder the story as it happened and be inspired by God's singularly unique plan by which He took on our human nature. But Joseph also provides us with inspiration for our own callings in life. Joseph inspires us to face any and every mystery in life that we encounter with the utmost trust in God. God's wisdom and ways are always far beyond ours. Very often in life, God will call us to walk an unknown and mysterious path. Life does not always make perfect sense from a purely rational perspective. Very often, we must allow our human reason to be informed and led by God's supernatural plan. For each of us, this mysterious path will be different. But if we are to walk by the same faith that Saint Joseph had, then we must always be willing to accept the most sublime mysteries in life and allow God's revealing Word to clarify them.

Reflect, today, upon any way that you feel challenged by life's circumstances. What tempts you to doubt, to be confused, or to feel uncertain? What is it that requires supernatural knowledge on your part to embrace? If God the Father chose to bring forth His divine Son in such a mysterious way, then we should not be surprised when God calls us to embrace similar mysteries in life. Walk by faith. Be inspired by Saint Joseph. Say “Yes” to that which God is asking of you. As you do, you will find that you will begin to walk down most glorious road you can walk.

Excerpt from <https://mycatholic.life> – Sunday Gospel Reflection – Embracing the Mysteries of Life: 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

**Thank You**  
To Our Volunteers  
**Church Cleaning Roster**

**Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022**  
Hoglund Family, Agnes L, Leena R & Nelson D

**Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2022**  
Legion of Mary

**Sat 7 Jan 2023**  
Lataki Youth Group

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**Flower Arrangement Roster**

**Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022**  
Telesia & May

**Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2022**  
Tongan Community

**Sat 7 Jan 2023**  
Friendly Flower Group

**NZCatholic**  
The national Catholic newspaper Dec. 18, 2022 - Jan. 28, 2023 - No. 852

**\$4**

**'Joy to the world'**

**YOUTH GROUP**

**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.*

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|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Parish Priest:</b>    | Pa Peter Tipene                                                                              | <b>Parish Office:</b>             |
| <b>Email:</b>            | <a href="mailto:ppriest@avondalecatholic.org.nz">ppriest@avondalecatholic.org.nz</a>         | <b>Phone:</b> (09) 828 9309       |
| <b>Parish Secretary:</b> | Gwendoline Jessop                                                                            | <b>Tue – Fri:</b> 9.15am – 3.30pm |
| <b>Email:</b>            | <a href="mailto:office@avondalecatholic.org.nz">office@avondalecatholic.org.nz</a>           | <b>Monday:</b> Closed             |
| <b>Website:</b>          | <a href="http://www.avondalecatholic.org.nz">www.avondalecatholic.org.nz</a>                 | <b>School Office:</b>             |
| <b>Facebook:</b>         | <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stmarysavondale">www.facebook.com/stmarysavondale</a>       | <b>Phone:</b> (09) 828 5599       |
| <b>School Principal:</b> | Kathryn Hira                                                                                 |                                   |
| <b>Email:</b>            | <a href="mailto:principal@stmarysavondale.school.nz">principal@stmarysavondale.school.nz</a> |                                   |

**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 20<sup>th</sup> December: 6.30pm at St. Dominic's Parish, Blockhouse Bay – Please note that Avondale is combining with Blockhouse Bay for Reconciliation on the 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. Avondale parishioners are especially invited to this combined celebration at Blockhouse Bay Parish.

**Parish Office hours Christmas/New Year break:** The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and will reopen on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023. There will be no Parish newsletter during this time. Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and prosperous 2023!

**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](http://www.caringfoundation.org.nz). Please take home a copy of Bishop Steve's Christmas message and the Foundation's appeal postcard available in the Church foyer.

**Pledge Giving Envelopes from 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022 to 14<sup>th</sup> 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 as they have been in the Church foyer for a month now. Thank you so much.

**NZ CATHOLIC:** The latest issue of the NZ Catholic is for sale in the Church foyer. Price \$4.00. Some headlines for this issue: De La Salle Brothers' Christmas in Bethlehem. Two new monsignors in Hamilton. SVDP gift an experience in Dunedin. Papal and NZ Church year in review.

**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.

**Registrations are open for Ngā Tapuwāe – Sacred Footsteps 2023.** Our Northland pilgrimage will be from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> 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-tapuwae-pilgrimage/> or contact: Stephen Fraser 09 3603052 or [stephenf@cda.org.nz](mailto:stephenf@cda.org.nz)



**Divine Renovation:** Do you want to see your parish come alive, but you're unsure where to begin? Are you already in the renewal journey, but are looking to get connected with a community of parish leaders for inspiration, encouragement and fellowship? Wherever you are in the parish renewal journey, the 2023 Divine Renovation Australasia Conference will be a unique and inspiring experience for anyone who wishes to move their parish from maintenance to mission. 10-12 February 2023 | Sydney, Australia. Register today at [www.divinerenovation.org/draus2023](http://www.divinerenovation.org/draus2023)

**Holy Cross Seminary, Auckland, is seeking a part-time chef for 25 hours per week over 5 days (Sundays being one of those days).** Duties will include responsibility for the weekly grocery shop, as well as x1 evening meal preparation for the Seminararians and Seminary Priests. Holy Cross Seminary follows a university term schedule, and the successful applicant will be required term time only (x32 weeks per year). If you have the necessary qualifications/experience and are interested in this role, please send your CV with Cover Letter to [office@holycross.org.nz](mailto:office@holycross.org.nz) by Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

**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:**

- 14 December: **Autu Nikolau Agavale Isaia** (75), **Anastasia Isaia** (37)
- 17 December: **Lucy Funaki, Atonio Funaki**
- 19 December: **Keanu Funaki**
- 23 December: **Malia Jane Endemann** (85)
- 24 December: **Penisimani Funaki**
- 25 December: **Vika Tahifote**

**RECENT DEATHS**

**Please pray for these recently deceased and keep their families in your prayers:**

- Judy George** – died 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022
- Leonard Lee** – died 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022
- Visko Hrepich** – died 13<sup>th</sup> 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

*Sat 24<sup>th</sup> & Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022 Readings: Isaiah 9: 1-7 / Ps 96 / Titus 2: 11-14 / Luke 2: 1-14*

*Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 22 & Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2023 Readings: Numbers 6: 22-27 / Ps 67 / Galatians 4: 4-7 / Luke 2: 16-21*

|                        | Sat 24 Dec 2022<br>6.00pm Vigil Mass                             | Sat 24 Dec 2022<br>Midnight Mass                                     | Sun 25 Dec 2022<br>9.00am Mass                                  | Sat 31 Dec 2022<br>6.00pm Vigil Mass                                 | Sun 1 Jan 2023<br>9.00am Mass                                        |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Commentator</b>     | Ruth Xavier                                                      | David Faalau-Solia                                                   | Joseph Katoa                                                    | Vika Lemeki                                                          | To be confirmed                                                      |
| <b>Word</b>            | 1 <sup>st</sup> : Sifo Gisa<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> : Patricia Leavai | 1 <sup>st</sup> : Soanetai Tu'ima<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> : Amanda Bucumi | 1 <sup>st</sup> : Susan Healy<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> : Fotu Høglund | 1 <sup>st</sup> : Pat'oneil Afioaga<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> : Tania Starr | 1 <sup>st</sup> : Joe James<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> : Ivory-Joan Peauvasa |
| <b>Holy Communion</b>  | Autu Isaia<br>Colleen Lewis<br>Faasavalu Leavai                  | Richard Miranda<br>Jarrod Peauvasa<br>Mariquinha Colaco              | Agnes Gruijters<br>Sr. Amalia MC<br>Sr. Xenia MC                | Maselina Suisala<br>Fololina A'Costa<br>Edmar Oliveira               | Paula Betham<br>Jacinta James<br>Wilfrid Rodrigues                   |
| <b>Choir/Musicians</b> | Samoan Community<br>(Christmas Carols<br>from 5.30pm)            | Tongan Community<br>(Christmas Carols<br>from 11.30pm)               | Filipino Community                                              | Tu'ima Family                                                        | Tongan Community                                                     |