

Dates for your Diary: Monday 11th – Sunday 17th December 2023

Wed, 13 Dec	Parish Youth Choir, 6pm – 8pm, Church
Thu, 14 Dec	Tongan Community Choir, 7pm – 9pm, Fr McGrath Room
Thu, 14 Dec	Samoa Community Choir, 6pm – 8pm, Meeting Room 1 (classroom)
Fri, 15 Dec	Tongan Community Mass, 7.00pm, Church
Sat, 16 Dec	Legion of Mary meeting, 9.45am – 11.30am, Whare Iti
Sat, 16 Dec	** Church Cleaning 9.30am – 12.00pm: Samoan Sunday School **
Sat, 16 Dec	Samoa Community Choir, 3pm – 5pm, Meeting Room 1 (classroom)
Sat, 16 Dec	Divine Mercy Prayer Group, 3pm – 5pm, Te Whau Iti
Sat, 16 Dec	Tongan Community Choir, 5pm – 7pm, Fr McGrath Room
Sun, 17 Dec	Parish Youth Group session, 12pm – 3pm, Fr McGrath Room



3-24 December: "Come Lord Jesus."

During Advent, we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth through prayer and reflection.

MASS SCHEDULE 2023

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*

~ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 10th DECEMBER 2023 ~

Readings: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11 | Ps 85 | 2Peter 3: 8-14 | Mark 1: 1-8

Gospel Reflection

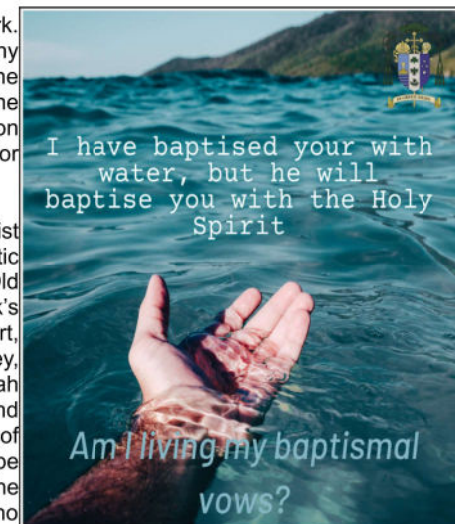
Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that He would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptised. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptising, and they each emphasise the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptised with water, but that the one who is to come will baptise with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.



Wake and Pray

Wednesday mornings
in Advent

6th, 13th, 20th December
at 6.15am

Meditation on Zoom

Register with Dianna Fouhy
dianna@cda.org.nz

NZCatholic
The national Catholic newspaper
December 3 - 10, 2023 • No. 673

Three NZ representatives
reflect on Vatican synod
experience 3
Young people debate
the topic of married
Catholic priests 10

Angels in Sanctuary



Sanctuary changes in
Dunedin cathedral - pg 5

Six times judged Australasia's leading Catholic newspaper

Thank You
To Our Volunteers

Church Cleaning Roster

Sat 16 Dec 2023

Samoa Sunday School

Sat 23 Dec 2023

Parish Youth Group

Flower Arrangement Roster

A friendly reminder:

No flower arrangements during
the Season of Advent.

The new Flower Arrangement
Roster will be from
January 2024.

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: 02-0108-0706996-000

Mass Offering Account Number: 02-0108-0706996-001

SMACC Building Fund Account Number: 02-0108-0706996-004

~ News and Updates from the Parish and Diocese ~

Christmas & New Year Timetable

As Christmas Day falls on a Monday, please note the following:

Saturday 23rd December 2023

Mass at 9.00am only

Sunday 24th December 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Advent | Christmas Eve

Masses at 8.30am & 10.30am only | No Mass at 6.00pm

Christmas Carols from 11.30pm

Christmas Eve Mass at 12.00am midnight

Monday 25th December 2023 – The Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ | Christmas Day

Mass at 9.00am only

Tuesday 26th to Saturday 30th December 2023

Mass daily at 9.00am

Sunday 31st December 2023 | Feast of the Holy Family

Masses at 8.30am & 10.30am only | No 6.00pm Mass

Monday 1st January 2024 | Feast of Mary, the Mother of God: Mass at 9.00am only

Tuesday 2nd to Saturday 6th January 2024: Mass daily at 9.00am

Sunday 7th January 2024: Masses at 8.30am, 10.30am & 6.00pm

Monday 8th January 2024: No Mass or Liturgy of the Word

Tuesday 9th January 2024: Usual Mass Schedule resumes



MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH SCHOOL – ST. MARY'S: If you have a child turning 5 next year, please email or phone the School Office to get an enrolment pack (Email: stmarysoffice@stmarysavondale.school.nz | Phone: 09 828 5599). It helps with our planning if we have enrolments completed well in advance. Limited spaces are also available at other year levels.

The **Parish Secretary will be away from Tuesday 10th to Thursday 14th December 2023**. During this time the Parish Office will be closed. Pa Peter will be back next Wednesday. The Parish Office will reopen on Friday 15th December. Our heartfelt thanks and prayerful gratitude to Fr. Tony O'Connor for looking after our parish over these last couple of weeks. We have enjoyed having you with us.

Prepare the Way of the Lord: Advent is a special time to reflect, to ponder the Word, and to 'Be still' and silent in the presence of God. Please join a community on Zoom this Advent from the holiness of your home – **Saturday evenings** to ponder the Advent Sunday Gospels; **Wednesday mornings** in silent Meditation; **Wednesday evenings** to reflect on Pope Francis' message for us that 'it is confidence that must lead to love'. We ask Mary, our Mother, to open our hearts to the presence of her Son this Advent. God bless. Register with diannaf@cda.org.nz

G.I.F.T. Christmas Mass TODAY at 4pm in Good Shepherd Church, Balmoral followed by a light meal. All disabled people and their whānau and support workers most WELCOME!

Enrolment for the Bachelor of Divinity and Graduate Diploma in Theology is still on-going until the end of January 2024. The Certificate and Diploma in Christian Studies are also accepting enrolment for 2024. Semester starts on 19 February 2024. For courses offered on campus, online and each diocese, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/timetables. To enrol, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/apply

~ Special Announcements ~

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to those with Birthdays at this time:

Jane Endermann (86) | Lucy Funaki | Atonio Funaki

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following couples who celebrate their special milestone:

Amata (Sefo) & Suzanne Avito - 23rd Anniversary



Gospel for kidz

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Celebrating-ADVENT-Week-two-PEACE.pdf>

Celebrating ADVENT Week two PEACE

Exploring our Faith with Children

Celebrating Human Rights Day 10th December

Nobel Peace Prize day 10th December

Celebrating our November Saints



Give a more impactful gift this Christmas.

Your gift gives:

- Food for families
- Budgeting advice
- Violence free safe houses
- Wrap around support for parents, babies, at-risk children, youth, elderly and migrants

To donate, visit [visit www.caringfoundation.org.nz](http://www.caringfoundation.org.nz)
Or online: BNZ 02-0100-0242648-90
(Use your supporter number as reference or surname and initials) or call our team (09) 360 3045



Approved Diocesan Marriage Preparation Course

Are you getting married?

Please book your Diocesan Marriage Preparation course here:
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/our-courses/>

Please book 1 year (if getting married in NZ) or 18 months (if getting married overseas) in advance of your wedding date. The 3-part course takes about 30 hours to complete. This is usually spread over 3 months. For more information email: marriageandfamily@cda.org.nz or call Gerry on 021 02247442.

~ THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B) - 17th December 2023 ~

Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11 | Magnificat p.177 | 1Thessalonians 5: 16-24 | John 1: 6-8, 19-28

	Sunday, 8.30am	Sunday, 10.30am	Sunday, 6.00pm
Commentator	MDM Youth Group	Parish Youth Mass	Leena Rebello
Word	MDM Youth Group	Parish Youth Mass	1 st : Don Perera 2 nd : Loretta Silver
Holy Communion	Jarrold Peauvasa Maselina Suisala Otesa Ale Paula Betham Tevita Funaki	Sr Amalia MC Sr Josie MC Sr Damielene MC Sr Lucy Agnes MC Fololina A'Costa	Edmar Oliveira
Choir/Musicians	MDM Youth Choir	Parish Youth Choir	Congregation / Choir (Colaco Family)

Note: If you are unable to read/serve on the date that you are rostered, please contact the Parish Office via email: office@avondalecatholic.org.nz