

Dates for your Diary: Monday 25th Dec 2023 – Sunday 7th Jan 2024

Thu, 28 Dec	Tongan Community Choir, 7pm – 9pm, Fr McGrath Room
Thu, 28 Dec	Samoa Community Choir, 6pm – 8pm, Meeting Room 1 (classroom)
Sat, 30 Dec	Legion of Mary meeting, 9.45am – 11.30am, Whare Iti
Sat, 30 Dec	** Church Cleaning 9.30am – 12.00pm: Legion of Mary Prayer Group **
Sat, 30 Dec	** Church Flowers 9.30am – 12.00pm: Divine Mercy Prayer Group **
Sat, 30 Dec	Samoa Community Choir, 3pm – 5pm, Meeting Room 1 (classroom)
Sat, 30 Dec	Divine Mercy Prayer Group, 3pm – 5pm, Te Whau Iti
Sat, 30 Dec	Tongan Community Choir, 5pm – 7pm, Fr McGrath Room
Wed, 3 Jan 24	Parish Youth Choir, 6pm – 8pm, Church
Thu, 4 Jan	Tongan Community Choir, 7pm – 9pm, Fr McGrath Room
Thu, 4 Jan	Samoa Community Choir, 6pm – 8pm, Meeting Room 1 (classroom)
Sat, 6 Jan	** Church Cleaning 9.30am – 12.00pm: Lataki Youth Group **
Sat, 6 Jan	** Church Flowers 9.30am – 12.00pm: Tongan Community **
Sat, 6 Jan	Legion of Mary meeting, 9.45am – 11.30am, Whare Iti
Sat, 6 Jan	Samoa Community Choir, 3pm – 5pm, Meeting Room 1 (classroom)
Sat, 6 Jan	Divine Mercy Prayer Group, 3pm – 5pm, Te Whau Iti
Sat, 6 Jan	Tongan Community Choir, 5pm – 7pm, Fr McGrath Room
Sun, 7 Jan	Tongan Community Monthly Meeting, 12pm – 2pm, Fr McGrath Room

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

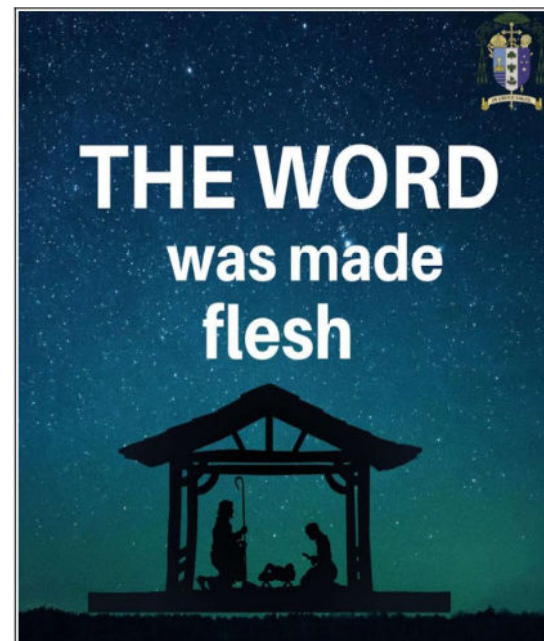
*To Grow in Awareness as One Parish Family / Kokiritia te Oranga
Kotahitanga o te Whanau Whakapono*

~ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 24th DECEMBER 2023 ~

CHRISTMAS EVE ~ Day readings: 2Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-11, 16 | Ps 89 | Romans 16: 25-27 | Luke 1: 26-38

Midnight Mass readings: Isaiah 9: 1-7 | Ps 96 | Titus 2: 11-14 | Luke 2: 1-14

Gospel Reflection



This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the Birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Saviour was among us, although not yet recognised. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the Birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be

possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognise God's saving plan for us and are able to respond with obedience.



Parish Priest: Pa Peter Tipene
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Parish Secretary: Gwendoline Jessop
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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 ~

Parish Office hours & Parish Bulletin, Christmas/New Year break.

The Parish Office is now closed for the Christmas/New Year break and will reopen on Tuesday 9th January 2024. This is also the last issue of the Parish Bulletin for this year. The first issue for 2024 will be in late January. Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Christmas, and a prosperous New Year 2024!

The photographs of the Confirmation and First Holy Communion Mass on the 26th November 2023 are ready for viewing. Parents who want to order copies, please contact Joe James in person, or leave a message on 09 8281577.

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

NGA TAPUWAE SELF DIRECTED PILGRIMAGE: Registrations are now open for Ngā Tapuwāe – A Self Directed Pilgrimage 2024. Our Northland pilgrimage sites will be attended by CDA staff to welcome you and share the stories at specific times on 12th and 13th January 2024, but you will travel independently having organised your transport, accommodation, and food. Your pilgrimage will end with the anniversary Mass at Totara Point on 14th January. All are welcome to participate and learn more of our Catholic heritage. You can experience the sacred places of Kupe, Bishop Pompallier and the early missionaries. To register, email Deacon Steve Fraser on stephenf@cda.org.nz or phone 021439407.

What about the Synod? The Synod on Synodality was not just a meeting in Rome in October. This week the Synod Secretariat issues guidelines Towards October 2024 for how local Churches continue the journey together exploring the question "HOW can we be a synodal Church in mission?" Regional opportunities for holding conversations around this theme will be held post Easter that the diocese might participate in this phase. To find out more, head to <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/synod/>. Details about the session will be available early 2024.

Hāto Petera past students and whānau are invited to comment on draft purposed repurposing plans for the site by 19 January 2024. More information at: <https://hatopetera.com/about-hato-petera>.

The **Christmas 2023 Mass times from parishes in the Auckland Catholic Diocese** have been published. Here is the link: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/christmas-masses-2023>



St Mary's Catholic Church
2134 Great North Road
Avondale

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

~ Special Announcements ~

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to those with Birthdays coming up:

Amara Lin | Mihi Angell | Vika Tahifote | Kepuelli Funaki
Setaleki Funaki | Steven Membre | Arnica Laiman
Kathleen Corbett | Rachel Mohottige | Tania Tu'ima
Gwendoline Jessop | Kayden Talwatta | Soanetai Tu'ima

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following couples who celebrate their special milestone during this festive season and in the coming weeks:

'Otolata & Malia Tu'ima – 31 years

Desmond & Charmaine Vessaokar – 28 years

Tony & Seine Rea – 50 years (next month)

Francis & Amberleigh Katoa – 2 years

Simon & Katrina Buxton – 6 years

Liston & Elaine Colaco – 21 years

Greg & Anna Schipper – 38 years

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Pa Peter who celebrates his 29th Anniversary of Priesthood on 29th December 2023.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for our dearly departed, whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially:

Petelo Poe | Kathleen Conway | Frank McKeever

Henry Yumui | Moira Walker | Alphonsus Lambe

George Doyle | Tutogi Carter | Coral Clark | Teresa Segui

Walter Gruijters



ALL DONATIONS DOUBLED! \$ = \$\$

Christmas Appeal

Give a gift to help families and people in need.

caring
Giving for families. Giving for the future.

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 www.caringfoundation.org.nz
Or online: **BNZ 02-0100-0242648-00**
(Use your supporter number as reference or surname and initials) or call our team **(09) 360 3045**

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Giving for families. Giving for the future.

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**.

Mon 25th Dec 2023: Isaiah 52: 7-10 | Ps. 98 | Hebrews 1:1-6 | John 1: 1-18
Sun 31st Dec 2023: Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14 | Ps. 128 | Colossians 3: 12-21 | Luke 2: 22-40
Mon 1st Jan 2024: Numbers 6: 22-27 | Ps. 67 | Galatians 4: 4-7 | Luke 2: 16-21

	Mon 25 Dec 2023 9.00am Mass	Sun 31 Dec 2023 8.30am Mass	Sun 31 Dec 2023 10.30am Mass	Mon 1 Jan 2024 9.00am Mass
Commentator		Mafi Funaki-Tahifote	Patricia Leavai	
Word	Pa Peter will contact Ministers of the Word & Extraordinary Ministers of Communion for this Mass.	1 st : Maninoa Funaki 2 nd : Malia Funaki	1 st : Kisina Halangahu 2 nd : Vika Lemeki	Pa Peter will contact Ministers of the Word & Extraordinary Ministers of Communion for this Mass.
Holy Communion		Jarrod Peauvasa Maselina Suisala Otessa Ale Paula Betham Tevita Funaki	Sr. Amalia MC Sr. Josie MC Sr. Damielene MC Sr. Lucy Agnes MC Malia Tu'ima	
Choir/Musicians	Samoan Community	Congregation / Choir	Congregation / Choir	Congregation / Choir

Note: Please email office@avondalecatholic.org.nz if you are unable to read/serve on the date that you are rostered. Thanks.