



# *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*

## **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

*Readings: Jeremiah 33: 14-16 | Ps 25 | Thessalonians 3: 12 – 4: 2 | Luke 21: 25-28, 24-36*

### **Gospel Reflection**

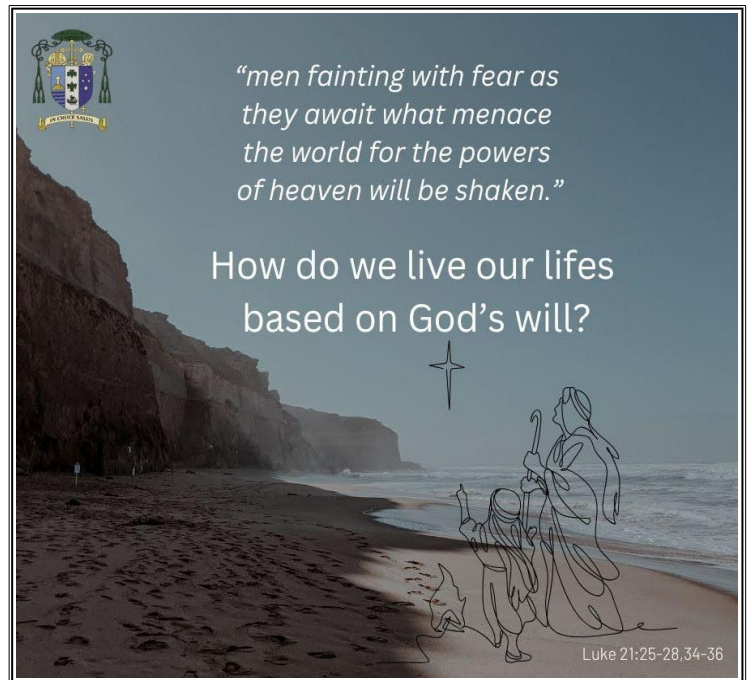
Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C). Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to His disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were already experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke's Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus' second coming was near.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages His disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances.

Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In His person and in His message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in His continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.



## ~ News and Updates from the Parish and Diocese ~

**Changes to the Mass Schedule for two weeks (Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December to Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2024):** No weekday Masses from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec to Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec (inclusive). Sunday Masses as usual on 8<sup>th</sup> December at 8.30am, 10.30am and 6.00pm. No weekday Masses from Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December to Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December (inclusive). Sunday Masses as usual on 15<sup>th</sup> December at 8.30am, 10.30am and 6.00pm. Weekday 9.00am Masses resume from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Please note that Parish Office hours remain the same during these two weeks.

**St. Mary's School 'End of Year Thanksgiving Mass'** will be at 10.00am on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

**St. Mary's School Newsletter:** Check out the latest news from our wonderful School with this link: <https://www.stmarysavondale.school.nz/newsletters>



**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, AVONDALE**  
**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR TIMETABLE**

**Sunday 22nd December 2024**  
Masses at: 8.30am | 10.30am | 6.00pm

**Monday 23rd December 2024**  
No Mass or Liturgy

**Tuesday 24th December 2024 (Christmas Eve)**  
Mass at 9.00am  
Carol singing from 11.30pm  
Midnight Christmas Mass at: 12.00am

**Wednesday 25th December 2024 - The Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ**  
Christmas Day Mass at 9.00am ONLY

**Thursday 26th to Saturday 28th December 2024**  
Mass at: 9.00am

**Sunday 29th December 2024**  
Masses at: 8.30am | 10.30am (No 6.00pm Mass)

**Monday 30th December 2024**  
No Mass or Liturgy

**Tuesday 31st December 2024 - Feast of the Holy Family**  
Mass at 9.00am ONLY

**Wednesday 1st January 2025 - Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**  
Mass at 9.00am ONLY

**Thursday 2nd to Saturday 4th January 2025**  
Mass at: 9.00am

**Sunday 5th January 2025 - The Epiphany of the Lord**  
Masses at: 8.30am | 10.30am (No 6.00pm Mass)

**Monday 6th January 2025**  
No Mass or Liturgy

Mass Timetable resumes as usual from the 7th January 2025

**Tuesday 7th to Saturday 11th January 2025**  
Mass at: 9.00am

**Sunday 12th January 2025 - The Baptism of the Lord**  
Masses at: 8.30am | 10.30am | 6.00pm

### Weekday Masses at nearby Parishes:

**St. Dominic's, Blockhouse Bay:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday at 9.15am. Wednesday at 7pm.

**Christ the King, Owairaka:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday at 9am. Friday at 10am.

**Our Lady of Lourdes, Glen Eden:** Monday & Friday at 9am. Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at 6.30pm.

**St. Mary's, Mt Albert:** Tuesday at 6.30pm. Wednesday at 9am. Thursday at 10am. Friday & Saturday at 9am.

**Bible Diary 2025 | \$20 each:** Now available to purchase from the Church foyer after Mass. You can either pay by cash (exact amount) to Pa, or use the Donation device on the table in the foyer, or hand your payment into the Parish Office (during office hours).

**Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm, St. Mary's Parish, 20 Kitenui Ave, Mt Albert.** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy (sung), Benediction, Mass, followed by Veneration of St. Faustina's relic. All welcome.

**Local Youth Ministers Wanted!** The Catholic Diocese of Auckland is

looking for self-motivated leaders to become paid Local Youth Ministers, working across both a secondary school and parish. This is a unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people! To learn more and to apply, please visit: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies>

**'Food For Faith' for Advent:** Sign up at <https://www.foodforfaith.org.nz> to prepare for Christmas receiving daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor's 'Food For Faith' website.

At **Family Life Catholic Gifts**, we have many lovely Christmas gifts as we move into the Season of Advent. We have a good variety of Nativities (a number of which are on special), and other Christmas gifts, as well as our usual supply of Rosaries, Statues, Books, etc... Come and visit us at 569 Richardson Road, Mt Roskill, Auckland or online at <https://www.catholicgifts.co.nz> | Ph: (09) 629 0820. All proceeds from sales support our life-saving work defending Life, Faith and Family.

## ~ Special Announcements ~

### BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to those who celebrate Birthdays this week, especially:

Malia Muliaga (70) | Quins Colaco | Soane Funaki  
Adam Le

### WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Laina Muliaga who married Caleb Matafai last week.

### RECENT DEATHS

We pray for the loved ones of those who have died recently, especially:

Theresa Brown Wallwork | Bernard Hotere | Nikki Kaye

### DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

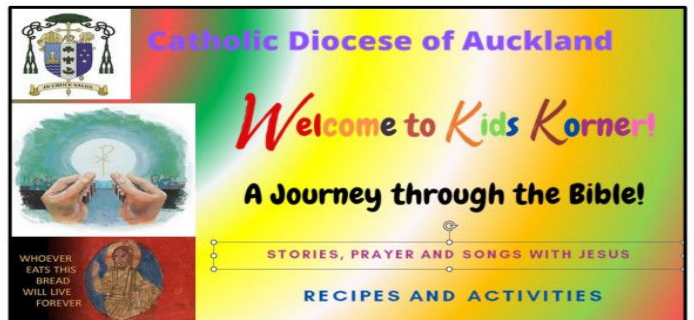
We pray for our dearly departed, whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially:

Sr. Rossello Pepper rsm | Davendra Veera



### SAFE CHURCH - SAFE GUARDING

As Catholics we believe that every person is created in the likeness and image of God. Therefore, we continue to ensure that our parish is a place where everyone is treated with respect and dignity. We foster an environment which is welcoming, and in which all our parish whanau, including our tamariki, rangatahi, kuia and kaumatua, feel safe. If you have any complaints or concerns, our Safeguarding Co-ordinator is Tania Starr and you can contact her via email: [safeguardingrep@avondalecatholic.org.nz](mailto:safeguardingrep@avondalecatholic.org.nz). You may also contact the National Office for Professional Standards 0800 114 662. You may also contact the Police 111.



Click on above image to view activities or <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Celebrating-ADVENT-Week-one-HOPE.pdf>

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024

Readings: Baruch 5: 1-9 | Ps 126 | Philippians 1: 3-6, 8-11 | Luke 3: 1-6

	Sunday, 8.30am	Sunday, 10.30am	Sunday, 6.00pm
<b>Commentator</b>	Mafi Funaki-Tahifote	Kisina Halangahu	Raisa Mathias
<b>Word</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> : Susan Healy 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Fotu Høglund	1 <sup>st</sup> : Patricia Leavai 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Vika Lemeki	1 <sup>st</sup> : Cynthia Paul 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Don Perera
<b>Holy Communion</b>	Otessa Ale Paula Betham Liston Colaco Jarrod Peauvasa Maselina Suisala (plus 1 x extra)	Bastiana Joseph Mary Fisi'italia Pouhila Sr. Seraphina MC Sr. Vincy MC Kefilini Tu'ima (plus 1 x extra)	Mariquinha Colaco
<b>Choir/Musicians</b>	Congregation / Choir (Annemarie Kerridge)	Samoan Community Choir	Friendly Choir

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](mailto:office@avondalecatholic.org.nz)

*Dates for your Diary: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024*

Wed, 4 Dec	CHURCH: Parish Youth Choir, 6pm – 8pm
Thu, 5 Dec	MEETING ROOM 1: Samoan Community Choir, 6pm – 8pm
Thu, 5 Dec	FR. McGRATH ROOM: Tongan Community Choir, 7pm – 9pm
Sat, 7 Dec	** Church Cleaning Roster: Parish Youth Group, 9.30am – 12.00pm **
Sat, 7 Dec	** Church Flowers Roster: Friendly Flower Group, 9.30am – 12.00pm **
Sat, 7 Dec	WHARE ITI: Legion of Mary meeting, 9.45am – 11.30am
Sat, 7 Dec	FR. McGRATH ROOM: Tongan Sunday School, 3pm – 5pm
Sat, 7 Dec	MEETING ROOM 1: Samoan Community Choir, 3pm – 5pm
Sat, 7 Dec	TE WHAU ITI: Divine Mercy Prayer Group, 3pm – 5pm
Sat, 7 Dec	FR. McGRATH ROOM: Tongan Community Choir, 5pm – 7pm
Sun, 8 Dec	FR. McGRATH ROOM: Tongan Sunday School, 12pm – 2pm
Sun, 8 Dec	FR. McGRATH ROOM: Mother Mary Prayer Meeting (Tongan Community), 4pm – 5pm

**MASS SCHEDULE 2024**

**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)

OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, ELLERSLIE

# Advent Retreat

**LED BY FR. RICHARD SHORTALL S.J.**  
(RETREAT DIRECTOR & SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR, DIOCESE OF HAMILTON)

**2ND-6TH DECEMBER (MONDAY - FRIDAY)**

**MORNING SESSION:**  
8:00 AM - MASS & NOVENA  
8:30 - 9:00 AM - RETREAT TALK

**EVENING SESSION:**  
6:30 PM - MASS & NOVENA  
7:15 - 7:45 PM - RETREAT TALK

**PLEASE ATTEND THE MORNING OR EVENING SESSIONS**



**To Our Volunteers  
Church Cleaning Roster**

**Sat 7 Dec 2024**

Parish Youth Group

**Sat 14 Dec 2024**

Legion of Mary

**Flower Arrangement Roster**

There will be no flowers in the Church during the Season of Advent.

~ Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to join the volunteer rosters above. ~

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

**Parish Office:**  
**Phone:** (09) 828 9309  
**Tue – Fri:** 9.30am – 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