



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 ~ 8th December 2024

Readings: Baruch 5: 1-9 | Ps 25 | Philippians 1: 3-6, 8-11 | Luke 3: 1-6

Gospel Reflection

This week and next, our Gospel readings invite us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. To affirm this, Luke quotes at length from the prophet Isaiah. John baptises for repentance and for forgiveness of sins, preparing the way for God's salvation.

The three Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke – attest to the importance of the baptism of John in preparing for Jesus. Only the Gospel of Luke, however, extends the connection between these two men to their birth. The first two chapters of Luke's Gospel contain the Infancy Narrative, which tells about the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. These stories set the stage for the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in chapter 3.

The evangelist Luke is the author of the Gospel that bears his name, and he also wrote the Acts of the Apostles as a continuation of the story of Jesus and the Church. In these two works, Luke's sense of time and history emerges. He identifies three epochs of salvation history: the time before Christ, the time of Christ, and the time of the Church and the Holy Spirit. In today's Gospel reading, as elsewhere, John the Baptist is presented as the figure who bridges the time before Christ and prepares the way for Christ's own ministry.

In today's Gospel we also note Luke's attention to political and historical detail. Luke shows that salvation is for all people and situated in world events. Therefore, Luke lists the political and religious leaders at the time of John's appearance in the desert. Salvation is understood as God's breaking into this political and social history.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did.



~ News and Updates from the Parish and Diocese ~

Changes to the Mass Schedule for two weeks (Tuesday 3rd December to Saturday 14th December 2024): No weekday Masses from Tuesday 3rd Dec to Saturday 7th Dec (inclusive). Sunday Masses as usual on 8th December at 8.30am, 10.30am and 6.00pm. No weekday Masses from Tuesday 10th December to Saturday 14th December (inclusive). Sunday Masses as usual on 15th December at 8.30am, 10.30am and 6.00pm. Weekday 9.00am Masses resume from Tuesday 17th 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 16th 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 using the Donation device on the table in the foyer, or hand your payment into the Parish Office (during office hours).

Joshua Family Night at St. Mark's Church: All families are invited to the next Joshua meeting on Mon 9th December at 7.30pm at St. Mark's Church Hall, 334 Pakuranga Rd, Pakuranga. Please bring a plate if you can, and come and find out what a Joshua meeting is all about! Our guest speaker for the evening is Pregnancy Choice Director – Rebecca Crowe. Call Mike Lobo on

021 2809285 for more information.

G.I.F.T. Christmas Mass Celebration Growth in Faith Together for people with intellectual disabilities. Sunday 15th December at 4.00pm at Good Shepherd Church, Telford Ave, Balmoral. After Mass please join us for a meal. Everyone welcome.



See the Need. Be the Hope! Catholic Caring Foundation's Christmas Appeal. Please support the Caring Foundation's Christmas Appeal through your donations and prayers. Your donation will double the impact! Please feel free to take home our Christmas newsletter and see where your donations are making a difference. <https://www.caringfoundation.org.nz> or call (09) 3603012.

~ Special Announcements ~

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to those who celebrate Birthdays this week, especially:

Jane Endemann | Autu Nicolae Isaia

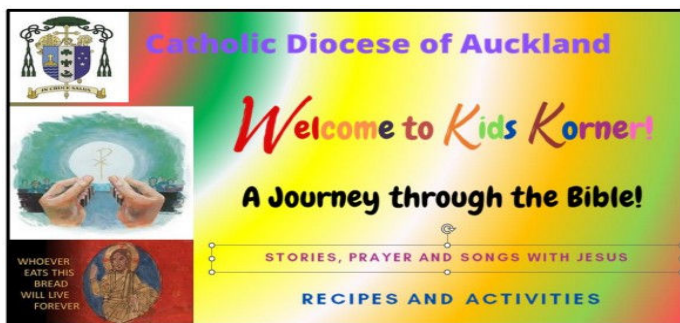
Anastasia Isaia | Albert Jessop

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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. 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-Two-PEACE.pdf>

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 15th DECEMBER 2024

Readings: Zephaniah 3: 14-18 | Canticle Isaiah p.170 | Philippians 4: 4-7 | Luke 3: 10-18

	Sunday, 8.30am	Sunday, 10.30am	Sunday, 6.00pm
Commentator	MDM Youth Group	Parish Youth Mass	Amy Silver
Word	1 st : MDM Youth Group 2 nd : MDM Youth Group	Parish Youth Mass	1 st : Mike Vinkenvleugel 2 nd : Jude Xavier
Holy Communion	Otessa Ale Tevita Funaki Jacinta James Jarrod Peauvasa Maselina Suisala (plus 1 x extra)	Fololina A'Costa Bastiana Joseph Mary Fisi'italia Pouhila Sr. Josie MC Sr. Damielene MC (plus 1 x extra)	Lourdes Noronha
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

Dates for your Diary: Monday 9th – Sunday 15th December 2024

Please note that the Fr. McGrath Meeting Room is now decommissioned in preparation for demolition.
Please contact the Parish Office to discuss your bookings for all parish facilities. Thank you.

Wed, 11 Dec	CHURCH: Parish Youth Choir, 6pm – 8pm
Thu, 12 Dec	MEETING ROOM 1: Samoan Community Choir, 6pm – 8pm
Thu, 12 Dec	CHURCH: Tongan Community Choir, 7pm – 9pm
Sat, 14 Dec	** Church Cleaning Roster: Legion of Mary Prayer Group, 9.30am – 12.00pm **
Sat, 14 Dec	** Church Flowers Roster: No flowers required during the Season of Advent **
Sat, 14 Dec	WHARE ITI: Legion of Mary meeting, 9.45am – 11.30am
Sat, 14 Dec	MEETING ROOM 1: Samoan Community Choir, 3pm – 5pm
Sat, 14 Dec	TE WHAU ITI: Divine Mercy Prayer Group, 3pm – 5pm
Sat, 14 Dec	MEETING ROOM 1: Tongan Community Choir, 5pm – 7pm
Sat, 14 Dec	MEETING ROOM 1: Group 3 meeting (Tongan Community), 7pm – 9pm
Sun, 15 Dec	MEETING ROOM 1: Parish Youth session, 12pm – 3pm

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)



ST. MARY'S PARISH, AVONDALE
END OF YEAR FUNDRAISER

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE
& BAKE SALE!**

**SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2024
AFTER THE 8.30AM & 10.30AM MASSES**

ALL PROCEEDS RAISED FROM THIS EVENT WILL
GO TOWARDS PARISH FUNDS.



**To Our Volunteers
Church Cleaning Roster**

Sat 14 Dec 2024

Legion of Mary

Sat 21 Dec 2024

Lataki Youth Group

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
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: 9.30am – 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