



## *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 ~ 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024**

*Readings: Micah 5: 1-4 | Ps. 80 | Hebrews 10: 5-10 | Luke 1: 39-44*

#### ***Gospel Reflection***

On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before His birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favour upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.



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

**Parish Office hours & Parish Bulletin:** The Parish Office is now closed for the Christmas/New Year break and will reopen on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025. This is also the last issue of the Parish Bulletin for this year. The first issue for 2025 will be on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January. *Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Christmas, and a prosperous New Year 2025!*

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

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



We, the Missionaries of Charity Sisters, invite you to celebrate with us the Silver Jubilee of the opening of our Auckland House.

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2025 (New years day)  
Time: 10:30am  
Place: Holy Cross Church, 2 Lavelle Rd Henderson  
Main Celebrant: Rev. Fr. Ephrem. Ofm  
Special Concelebrant: Bishop. Patrick. Dunn  
Please bring a plate  
Please join us after Mass for a light refreshments in the Holy Cross Church Hall.

All 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 have **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.

**Christmas Mass Times around Auckland Catholic Diocese:** The Diocese has collected the times of Christmas Masses throughout the diocese which can be accessed from the front page of the website: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/christmas-masses-2024/>

**Opening of the Year of Jubilee:** Join Bishop Steve in Mass opening the Year of Jubilee 2025, St. Patrick's Cathedral, 11pm, 31<sup>st</sup> December 24.

**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: [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/)

**The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference** is seeking an experienced journalist to support its communications efforts in 2025 and beyond. This new position will assist the Church in sharing its stories and in keeping the Catholic and wider community informed about the life, mission and ministry of the Church. A background in religious journalism would be advantageous, as would experience in media monitoring. Please send expressions of interest to [communications@nzcbc.org.nz](mailto:communications@nzcbc.org.nz) no later than 12<sup>th</sup> January. The role could be filled sooner than 12<sup>th</sup> January for the right candidate, so please contact the Bishops Conference promptly.

## ~ Special Announcements ~

### BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to those who celebrate Birthdays in the coming days and weeks ahead, especially:

Mihi Angell (83), Damia Leavai, Noella Edwards,  
Vika Tahifote, Colleen Lewis, Kepueli Funaki,  
Setaleki Funaki, Arnica Laiman, Makerita Adams,  
Maryanne Moata'ane, Kath Corbett, Rachel Mohottigge

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following couples who celebrate their special milestone:

Lizzie (nee Sisson) and Paul Molloy, who were married here at St. Mary's 53 years ago last week.

### RECENT DEATHS

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

Violet Fernandes | Fr. Don Cowan

### DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

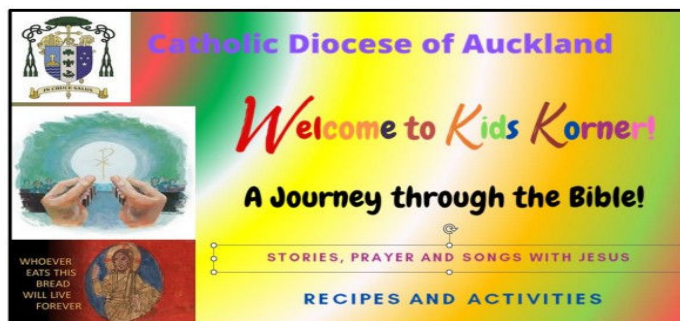
We pray for our dearly departed, whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially:

Cardinal Tom Williams, Nathalia Lobo,  
John Boniface Edwards, Mike Tipene, Petelo Poe,  
Kathleen Conway, Marina Lundon, Heather Laverty,  
June Rodriguez, Regina Tapusoa Muliaga,  
Bishop Robin Leamy, Frank McKeever, Heta Lewis,  
Johanna Lewis, Frank Lewis, Murry Lewis, Jim Lewis



### 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-Four-LOVE.pdf>

## FEAST DAY OF THE HOLY FAMILY ~ 29<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024

Readings: Sirach 3: 2 – 6: 12-14 | Ps. 128 | Colossians 3: 12-21 | Luke 2: 41-52

	Sunday, 8.30am	Sunday, 10.30am	Sunday, 6.00pm
<b>Commentator</b>	Ivory-Joan Peauvasa	Soanetai Tu'ima	<b>NO 6PM MASS</b>
<b>Word</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> : Keith Simento 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Mark Simento	1 <sup>st</sup> : Loutoa Tu'ima 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Meleane Tu'ima	
<b>Holy Communion</b>	Otessa Ale Paula Betham Carla Carmody Liston Colaco Maselina Suisala	Kefilini Tu'ima Fololina A'Costa Bastiana Joseph Mary Faasavalu Leavai Lagi Lilo	
<b>Choir/Musicians</b>	Congregation / Choir (Colleen & Terry)	Congregation / Choir (Maori Community)	

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 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025*

Thu, 26 Dec	MEETING ROOM 1: Samoan Community Choir, 6pm – 8pm
Thu, 26 Dec	CHURCH: Tongan Community Choir, 7pm – 9pm
Sat, 28 Dec	** Church Cleaning Roster: Samoan Community, 9.30am – 12pm **
Sat, 28 Dec	** Church Flowers Roster: Divine Mercy Prayer Group, 9.30am – 12pm**
Sat, 28 Dec	WHARE ITI: Legion of Mary meeting, 9.45am – 11.30am
Sat, 28 Dec	MEETING ROOM 1: Samoan Community Choir, 3pm – 5pm
Sat, 28 Dec	TE WHAU ITI: Divine Mercy Prayer Group, 3pm – 5pm
Sat, 28 Dec	MEETING ROOM 1: Tongan Community Choir, 5pm – 7pm
Thu, 2 Jan 25	MEETING ROOM 1: Samoan Community Choir, 6pm – 8pm
Thu, 2 Jan	CHURCH: Tongan Community Choir, 7pm – 9pm
Sat, 4 Jan	** Church Cleaning Roster: Divine Mercy Prayer Group, 9.30am – 12pm
Sat, 4 Jan	** Church Flowers Roster: Tongan Community, 9.30am – 12pm
Sat, 4 Jan	WHARE ITI: Legion of Mary meeting, 9.45am – 11.30am
Sat, 4 Jan	MEETING ROOM 1: Samoan Community Choir, 3pm – 5pm
Sat, 4 Jan	TE WHAU ITI: Divine Mercy Prayer Group, 3pm – 5pm
Sat, 4 Jan	MEETING ROOM 1: Tongan Community Choir, 5pm – 7pm
Sun, 5 Jan	MEETING ROOM 1: Tongan Community monthly meeting, 12pm – 2pm

**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)



*To Our Volunteers*  
**Church Cleaning Roster**

**Sat 28 Dec 2024**

Samoan Community

**Sat 4 Jan 2025**

Divine Mercy Prayer Group

**Flower Arrangement Roster**

**Sat 28 Dec 2024**

Divine Mercy Prayer Group

**Sat 4 Jan 2025**

Tongan Community

~ 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