



Otariparish

St Teresa and St Thomas More

Parish Priest

Fr Ron Bennett 021 065 8997
Fr Sanele Finau
476 6131

Parish Office

Catherine Vernon
476 6131

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Parish Office

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Cardinal McKeefry School, Wilton

Tania Savage 475 3262
St Teresa's School, Karori
Mary-Angela Tombs 939 1725

Saturday Vigil:

5:30 pm (Karori), **Sunday** 8.30am (Wilton) 10.00 am (Karori)

Weekdays:

Tue 9.30am, Wed 6.30am & 9.30am, Thurs 9.30am, Fri 6.30am & 9.30am, Sat 9am

Reconciliation:

Saturday: 9.30 – 10am

3rd Sunday of Advent

16 and 17 December 2017

Year B

Liturgy of the Word:

Response: 'My soul rejoices in my God.'

Today's Reading: Isaiah 61/ 1-2, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5/ 16-24; John 1/ 6-8, 19-28

Next Sunday: 2 Samuel 7/ 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Romans 16/ 25-27; Luke 1/ 26-38.

3rd Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist was a wild man. He felt drawn to the wilderness. He was himself there. *"I am a voice crying in the wilderness."* It was where he felt at home. He knew he had a mission, that in some way he was part of God's plan.

Yet the people flocked to him and he exerted a phenomenal influence over the people of power. Free of attachments and undisturbed by the temptations of security that most people succumb to, he had a passion for the truth and for telling it as it is. People realized that he was different, that he had a message that they needed to hear. In the end, falling foul of the king, he paid the ultimate price that many prophets have had to pay, his own life.

In this passage from John's gospel, John is at pains to explain that he is not the one they are looking for, not the promised messiah, not the prophet, not the promised one. He is simply a signpost, pointing the way.

John's message is just as relevant for us each Advent. Advent is a time to take stock of ourselves, who we are and where we are going. It is a chance to make Jesus again the centre of our lives. In the end, nothing else really matters.

With the few days remaining this advent, let us spend time with the Lord. Whether it is quiet prayer times at home, going to Mass during the week, reading the Chapters in the beginning of the 4 gospels, that tell of the coming of Christ. The 1st 2 chapters of Luke's Gospel might be a good place to start.

Both John the Baptist and later Jesus mention repentance, change. Perhaps consider coming to the Sacrament of Reconciliation this coming week – a wonderful way of letting God into our lives.

Advent Reconciliation

2nd Rite of Reconciliation - St Teresa's on 17th December at 5.00pm

2nd Rite of Reconciliation - Cathedral on 19th December at 7.00pm

St Mary of the Angels: Daily at 11.30am - 12pm, 12.30pm – 1pm, 4.30pm – 5pm.

Fr Ron



What must we do?

Advent

*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

Advent is a time to wait, listen and ponder the awesome wonder of God who sent his only son as a baby to save us. Pause and spend some time this season reflecting on God's gift of love.

"The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before... What is possible is to not see it, to miss it, to turn just as it brushes past you. So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder. There will be time enough for running. For rushing. For worrying. For pushing. For now, stay. Wait. Something is on the horizon."
Jan L. Richardson, Night Visions:

"You keep us waiting. You, the God of all time, want us to wait. For the right time in which to discover who we are, where we are to go, who will be with us, and what we must do. So thank you for the waiting time." *John Bell*

"Christmas is fast approaching. And now that Christ has aroused our seasonal expectations, he'll soon fulfil them all!" *St. Augustine, Sermon 51*

"God is coming! God is coming! All the element we swim in, this existence, Echoes ahead the advent. God is coming! Can't you feel it?" *Walter Wangerin, Jr*

"How can God stoop lower than to come and dwell with a poor humble soul? Which is more than if he had said, such a one should dwell with him; for a beggar to live at court is not so much as the king to dwell with him in his cottage."—*William Gurnall*

"Advent: the time to listen for footsteps – you can't hear footsteps when you're running yourself." *Bill McKibben*

"A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes...and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent." *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1943*

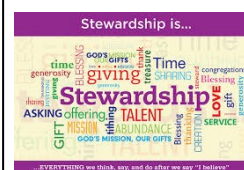
"Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehem's of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present.

"An old abbot was fond of saying, 'The devil is always the most active on the highest feast days.'

"This Advent we look to the Wise Men to teach us where to focus our attention. We set our sights on things above, where God is. We draw closer to Jesus... When our Advent journey ends, and we reach the place where Jesus resides in Bethlehem, may we, like the Wise Men, fall on our knees and adore him as our true and only King." *Mark Zimmermann in Our Advent Journey*

"Christmas has lost its meaning for us because we have lost the spirit of expectancy. We cannot prepare for an observance. We must prepare for an experience." *Handel Brown*

"Sometimes it seems as though we spend our lives waiting. Daydreaming about an upcoming vacation, worrying over a medical test, preparing for the birth of grandchild—our days are filled with anticipation and anxiety over what the future holds. As Christians, we too spend our lives waiting. But we are waiting for something much bigger than a trip, bigger even than retirement or a wedding: We are waiting for the return of Jesus in glory. Advent heightens this sense of waiting, because it marks not only our anticipation of Jesus' final coming, but also our remembrance of his arrival into our world more than 2,000 years ago."
Anonymous



Stewardship reflection on today's scriptures:

17 December 3rd Sunday of Advent:

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" - *1 Thessalonians 5/ 16-18*

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations.

Synod Recommendations.

Recommendation 13 (final)



Communicate effectively

The Archdiocese creates a centralised "hub of connectedness" for the purposes of building community through telling stories (personal and collective), sharing resources, linking to apps, disseminating information, sharing best practice and ways of getting involved.

The Archdiocese provides on-line formation and learning opportunities.

The Archdiocese "raises the profile of the assistance the Church can offer" to the wider community.

Parishes review their modes of communication regarding events, groups, achievements and needs, in order that parishioners might have a better understanding of what is happening in the parish.

The Archdiocese develops a clear style of effective communication, which avoids technical Church language and jargon, without obscuring or devaluing the meaning.

Advent Reconciliation

2nd Rite of Reconciliation - St Teresa's on
17th December at 5.00pm
2nd Rite of Reconciliation - Cathedral on
19th December at 7.00pm



**“Calling all angels, shepherds
and animals in the stable!”**
Please join us for the **Christmas
Eve Children's Mass at St
Teresa's Church at 6.00pm**

If you would like to participate in the Nativity Play as part of the Mass, **please contact Pat Gee on 0272466150**. We will have one rehearsal on the Saturday morning (December 23rd) from 10.30am until 12.00pm at St Teresa's church. All costumes are provided.

Also ...Christmas Vigil Family Mass at St Thomas More Church - 7pm Sunday 24th December

There will be a Nativity Play during this Mass and all children/grandchildren are welcome to participate. This is a good way of helping children to focus on the real Christmas story and fill in some of their time before Christmas.

There will be two practices at 9.30am on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd December.

You are welcome to drop your children off and pick them up after the practice.

Let Estelle know if your child would like to take part
Ph. 0273123200 or email ev.henrys@gmail.com



Otari Parish Advent Gift Giving:

This year instead of children's gifts, we are collecting for the Soup Kitchen who will purchase food or gifts as they need for Christmas Day.

Envelopes can be deposited under the

Christmas tree at Masses.

Donations can also be made direct to our parish account 02 0536 0392292 00 with the reference SK Appeal. For those families not already on Planned Giving, a receipt will be issued on request to the parish office.

Fr Ron visits

Fr Ron is at present on the 'S' streets.' However, if you wish to have a visit from a priest immediately, please contact the office 476 6131 or Fr Ron 021 065 8997. This also applies for preference certificates.

Early morning Masses: 6.30am in the St Teresa's Chapel on Wednesday and Friday mornings until Xmas.
Exposition and Adoration is held on the first Friday of the month in the chapel at St Teresa's after Mass.
Divine Mercy Devotion
Divine Mercy Devotion at St Teresa's at 5.00pm every Saturday night.



Northland Community Carols

Thanks to the musicians, the Tinakori Hand Bells, readers and everyone who came along to fill the

Community Centre with 'Sounding Joy'. A special thanks to the children from Room 5 of Cardinal McKeefry School and the Northland School Choir who charmed the audience with their items. The children enjoyed building up a Nativity scene to finish the programme.



\$1544.10 was received in donations from our parish last month for the **Compassion Soup Kitchen:**

AND

\$1103.90 was received in donations for the **Pontifical Mission Societies**

on Mission Sunday.

Both organisations would like to thank parishioners for their generosity.

The Christmas Party for the parish hosted by the CWL was well attended and were entertained by the Goodtime Gals! Big thanks to all those who provided the fabulous food and organised this event.



Family Day at Our Lady's Home of Compassion. TODAY Sun. 17 December. Join us to put up the crib in the Chapel

at 12.30pm. Nativity activities for children will follow in the Heritage Centre.

12noon3pm. Contact: heritagecentre@compassion.org.nz or (04) 282 1953 for more information.

Calendar. We have just produced our first calendar and it is full of beautiful photos and important dates.

You can buy a copy for you or someone you love for just \$10 and plus \$5 postage at <https://compassion.org.nz/product/2018-calendar/>.

Readings for the Week



Readings for the Week 18 – 24 December.

Monday: Jeremiah 23/ 5-8; Matthew 1/ 18-24
Tuesday: Judges 13/ 2-7, 24-25; Luke 1/ 5-25
Wednesday: Isaiah 7/ 10-14; Luke 1/ 26-38
Thursday: Song of Songs 2/ 8-14; Luke 1/ 39-45.
Friday: 1 Samuel 1/ 24-28; Luke 1/ 46-56
Saturday: Malachi 3/ 1-4, 23-24; Luke 1/57-66.
Sunday: 2 Samuel 7/ 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Romans 16/ 25-27; Luke 1/ 26-38.



Please pray for those who have died recently

And for those whose anniversaries occur around this time especially

Dennis Ryan

Otari Mass and Services Calendar December 2017 and January 2018

<u>December</u> Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>17th</i> 8.30am St TM 10.00am ST T 5.00pm Reconciliation	<i>18th</i>	<i>19th</i> 9.30am Mass ST T	<i>20th</i> 6.30am Mass ST T 9.30am Mass ST T	<i>21st</i> 9.30am Mass ST T	<i>22nd</i> 6.30am Mass ST T 9.30am Mass ST T	<i>23rd</i> 9.00am Mass. 10.30 Children's Mass Practise 5.30pm Mass.
<i>24 Christmas Eve</i> 8.30am St TM 10.00am ST T 6.00pm ST T 7.00pm ST TM 9.00pm ST T Midnight ST T	<i>25 Christmas Day</i> 10.00am at ST T	<i>26 Boxing Day</i> 9.30am Mass ST T	<i>27</i> 9.30am Mass ST T	<i>28</i> 9.30am Mass ST T	<i>29</i> 9.30am Mass ST T	<i>30</i> 5.30pm ST T
<i>31 New Years Eve</i> 8.30am St TM 10.00am ST T Midnight Tongan Mass at ST T Midnight Syro- Malabar Mass ST TM						
<u>January</u> Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 9.30am Liturgy of the Word at ST T	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 9.30am Liturgy of the Word ST T	<i>6</i> 5.30pm Mass ST T
<i>7</i> 8.30am Mass ST TM 10.00am Mass ST T	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 9.30am Liturgy of the Word at ST T	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> 9.30am Liturgy of the Word ST T	<i>13</i> 5.30pm Mass ST T
<i>14</i> 8.30am Mass ST TM 10.00am Mass ST T	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 9.30am Liturgy of the Word at ST T	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> 9.30am Liturgy of the Word ST T	<i>20</i> 5.30pm Mass ST T
<i>21</i> 8.30am Mass ST TM 10.00am Mass ST T	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 9.30 Mass ST T	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> 9.30 Mass ST T	<i>27</i> 5.30pm Mass ST T
<i>28</i> 8.30am Mass ST TM 10.00am Mass ST T	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 9.30 Mass ST T			