



Otariparish

St Teresa and St Thomas More

Parish Priest

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Cardinal McKeefry School, Wilton

Tania Savage 475 3262
St Teresa's School, Karori
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Saturday Vigil:**Weekdays:****Reconciliation:**

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

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

Saturday: 9.30 – 10am

2nd Sunday of Advent

9 and 10 December 2017

Year B

Liturgy of the Word:

Response: 'Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.'

Today's Reading: Isaiah 40/ 1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3/ 8-14; Mark 1/ 1-8

Next Sunday: Isaiah 61/ 1-2, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5/ 16-24; John 1/ 6-8, 19-28

2nd Sunday of Advent

Advent is a time of waiting. Each year we walk as a church through the Mystery of God. We never truly 'get it.' It is always mystery. We get an inkling here, an inkling there, but we never fully understand. The more we 'know' of God, the more we realize just what we don't know. This will be in the 71st Advent, my 71st journey of the Church's Liturgical Year. I hope at the end of this new Church year, I will understand the mystery of God just a little more, and that will be true of us as a parish community as well.

We see life in terms of past, present and future. Always moving on. But the Church year is different. It realizes we cannot take in the Mystery of God. So it repeats it again and again. God is eternal. God created the universe, attempted to show us the way, finally sent his only Son to die for our sins, who rose again, and sent the Holy Spirit to be our Guide. Yes, we can 'get' these facts in our heads, but to really begin to understand them takes more than a lifetime, and an eternity to enjoy.

The journey always begins with Advent. We identify with people of all ages who have yearned for God, especially with the Jewish people whose story we reflect on in the Hebrew (Old Testament) scriptures. At the gateway between the old and the new we meet Zachariah and Elizabeth, Simeon and Anna. Finally John the Baptist, and Mary and Joseph. Mary is the bridge, who bears Jesus, whose birth we celebrate on Christmas Day.

Advent is a time of reflection on the big things of life. Who we are and where we are going. Who is God and who is God in my life?

Reflection suggestions:

Think on the awesomeness of God's love – that God would become like me to show me the way to Him.

At Christmas God fills the emptiness of human hearts. Am I letting Jesus be born again in my heart?

How can I make Jesus alive in the world around me?

Fr Ron

*Advent:
A Season
of Hope
and
Anticipation*





Advent disposes us to wait for God in prayerful hope. Edwina Gately's psalm – Let your God love you – catches this prayerful attitude well:

Be silent

Be still.

Alone

Empty

Before your God.

Say nothing

Ask nothing.

Be silent

Be still.

Let your God

Look upon you.

That is all

God knows

God understands

God loves you

With an enormous love,

And only wants

To look upon you

With that love.

Quiet.

Still.

Be.

Let your God – LOVE YOU

Stewardship reflection on today's scriptures:

"December 10, 2017 - Second Sunday of Advent+
"Prepare the way of the Lord..." – Mark 1/3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship life-style, being grateful and generous with our gifts, does just that – it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy, too.



Synod Recommendations.

Recommendation 11.

Support marriage and families:

The Archdiocese engages with parents, including single parents, to determine how best to support them in educating and involving their children in the faith, and acts on the outcomes.

The Archdiocese carry out a listening process with diverse families, prioritising families on the peripheries ("preferential option for the peripheries") to build trusting relationships and to enable parishes to better respond to their needs.

Parishes make their worship spaces and liturgies more family friendly, through a process of listening to their people.

The Archdiocese provides a point of contact for those in a troubled marriage who are seeking professional help.

Parishes review their support for those suffering grief and loss, including marriage breakdown, health deterioration/disability, with the review supported by Catholic Social Services.

Addressing the needs of older people is a priority, with particular emphasis on their social, emotional and spiritual needs (spirituality of ageing and death).

That the Archdiocese commission a research project into the relevance, reach and effectiveness of marriage preparation programmes, with input from participants married between 2 to 5 years and marriage educators, and drawing on professional research.

Recommendation 12. Build community:

Priority is given in the context of implementing the Synod outcomes to building community and strengthening connectedness (including across the generations and cultures) in amalgamated parishes.

Parishes revisit the Archbishop's letters in the proposal and promulgation documents, "A Future Full of Hope", and align their vision and practices with the spirit of these letters.

Parishes create opportunities for the development of relationships between parishioners, particularly in amalgamated parishes, through working together on projects and responding to needs

Continuing to strengthen the relationship and practical cooperation between parish and schools is a priority.

Seeking out and drawing "the missing" back into the parish community is a factor in all decision making in the implementation of the Synod outcomes.

In being an inclusive and welcoming people, particular attention is given to those who are disabled and their families, including the mentally ill.

Advent Reconciliation

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



**“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

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.

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.

Christmas Carols at Karori Mall

The combined Karori Churches will be singing for about an hour **from 10:45am on Saturday 16th December and Saturday 23rd December in support of the Karori Churches Foodbank.** if you can come to one or both of these occasions. It is always enjoyable and very worth while.



Christmas Food for St Vincent De Paul Society collection at ST Thomas More



Over the next 2 Sundays of Advent there will be a Christmas Box at St Thomas More Church where we are inviting you to donate some special Christmas food and treats. These can include such things as boxes of chocolates, biscuits, ollies, fizzy drink, tins of fruit, chippies, After Dinner Mints, Shortbread, Christmas Cakes, mince pies or any treats you can spare. These will then be delivered to a number of Elderly Parishioners including those in Rest Homes with the remainder being delivered to St Vincent de Paul

The St. Vincent de Paul, Otari Parish Conference

advises that it has gone into recess. Help and assistance is still available through the Area Office, Newtown. Phone:389-8855"



Futuna Chapel Carols.

An evening of festive carol singing from St Teresa's and St Mary's Karori Parish Choirs. Monday 11th Dec .30pm. Christmas refreshments to follow! All welcome.

New Bishop for Christchurch:

Pope Francis has appointed Father Paul Martin SM as the next Bishop of the Christchurch Diocese. Bishop-Elect Paul Martin will be the tenth Bishop of Christchurch and succeeds Bishop Barry Jones who died in February 2016.

Readings for the Week



Readings for the Week 11 – 18 December.

Monday: Isaiah 35/ 1-10; Luke 5/ 17-26.
Tuesday: Isaiah 40/ 1-11; Matthew 18/ 12-14
Wednesday: Isaiah 40/ 25-31; Matthew 11/ 28-30
Thursday: Isaiah 41/ 13-20; Matthew 11/ 11-15
Friday: Isaiah 48/ 17-19; Matthew 11/ 16-19
Saturday: Isaiah Ecclesiasticus 48/ 1-4, 9-12;
Matthew 17/ 10-13
Sunday: Isaiah 61/ 1-2, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5/ 16-24; John 1/ 6-8,



Please pray for those who
have died recently

**Olga Wisniewski
Christina Torres**

And for those whose
anniversaries occur around this time
Maurice McIntyre



Act of Consecration of the Archdiocese to Mary:

(Read in Cathedral on 8 December, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception,
and in all Churches on the Sunday following)

Mary, Mother of God, Christian people have always called on you in their hour of need and you have never failed them. We, the Church of Wellington, on this feast of your Immaculate Conception express our love for you and ask your help for our needs and the needs of the whole world.
[*Holy Mary, Mother of God . . . Response: . . . pray for us.]

We consecrate to you the Archdiocese of Wellington and its people. May we always admire and strive to live the virtues of your life. Watch over and protect the Church and be with Pope Benedict and our Bishops as they shepherd Christ's pilgrim church. [*... Response]

We pray for the peoples of the world, that they may learn to know your Son and banish all that is contrary to the Gospel. Inspire people to work for basic human needs and for understanding and mutual trust between nations. May your Son raise up men and women who will spend themselves in alleviating the needs of people in lands where there is suffering, hunger and disease. Have compassion on parents unable to provide for their families, on husbands and wives who are separated, and on children who are victims of ignorance or violence. [*... Response]

Mother of Mercy, through your intercession may the Holy Spirit change the hearts of all and turn them towards truth, justice and charity. Teach them to see that peace will be possible only when all obey God's Law, respecting the rights and dignity of their neighbour. [*... Response]

We ask you especially to protect the parents and families of our land, that they may learn the meaning of love and justice. Strengthen us so that we may withstand the temptations we meet and reach our potential as unique creations of God. [*... Response]

God established the earth on firm foundations. Ask God now to remove from our land the danger of earthquakes and the terror and destruction they bring. [*... Response]

Mother of God, through your intercession may all nations turn from sin. Lead the nations to the loving and merciful heart of your Son, where alone they will find truth, life and peace forever
