

Maria Assumpta Parish Bulletin

MARIA ASSUMPTA CATHOLIC CHURCH
198 Beach Haven Road, Auckland 0626
www.beachhavencatholic.org.nz

SUNDAY MASS: 8am, 10am - BOOK ONLINE

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 10am-12pm - CLOSED

WEEKDAY MASS: 9am - Tuesday to Saturday - CLOSED

MARRIAGE PREPARATION:

Contact Parish priest

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Contact Parish priest

Parish Priest: Fr Aleki Piula

Email: alekipiula@yahoo.co.nz

Presbytery Phone: 483 7919

Parish Secretary: Marc Theron

Email: secretary@mariaassumpta.org.nz

Parish Office: 09-483-5919

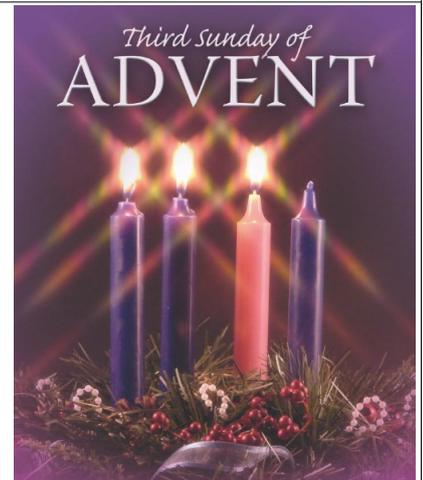
PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon, Thurs, Friday 9am-1pm

3rd Sunday of Advent 12 December 2021

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18
Psalm: Psalm Isaiah 12: 2-3
Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

Reflection by Fr Aleki Piula

What, then, must we do? for the Lord is near



Today we celebrate the third Sunday of the Advent then we lit the third candle symbolizes joy and is called 'the Shepherd candle'. To the Shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them too. The colour rose signifies joy.

This coloured pink represent joyfulness and rejoicing. Here there is a clear note of rejoicing in our today's liturgy. This is known as Gaudete Sunday. The word Gaudete means rejoice. The basis for this rejoicing is the nearness of the Lord. As we gather here to celebrate the Eucharist, the Lord is very near us. Indeed, he is in our midst. As we know that over last five months of not celebrating together of our community mass, It is a privilege for us to be here celebrating together our third candle of the Advent reminding us of our joy because the Lord is Near as the people asked John the Baptist, What must we do?

Because Jesus is near in our midst the main thing, we realise the present of Jesus in our midst to receive him into our lives we should repentance and renew our lives by doing God's will. So today's candle reminds us Gaudete to be rejoice in welcoming Jesus into our midst through our repentance, our renewal of life and by doing God's will. So the opening antiphon, 'Gaudete in Domino semper', rejoice in the Lord always.

As we light the candle of rose candle probably the priest wear rose vestment to express our communal joy in the coming of Christ as our Saviour. Then we have to rejoice because we will celebrate the day of Christ's birth, we will recognise Jesus' daily which presence in our midst and we also wait for the coming return of Christ in his glory. In the first reading from the prophet Zephaniah urges Jerusalem to rejoice because God stands in her midst. We too can take heart from this message of hope. He encourages them to shout out for the joy of their expected deliverance by the Lord.

The prophet Zephaniah wrote in the seventh century BC, bids Jerusalem to rejoice because salvation is near. God stands in her midst and will deliver her from her enemies. God is portrayed, not only as a king and warrior, but also as a loving bridegroom, who steadfastly loves his unworthy and unfaithful bride.

**Welcome - Malo e lelei - Bula Vinaka - Talofa lava - Mabuhay - Bienvenue
Nei hou ma - Anneunghaseyo - Ayu Bowan - Willkommen - Welkom
Haere mai! Nau mai! Whakatau mai!**

So the nearness or presence of God in our midst is the focus of today's liturgy. The prophet Zephaniah introduces the theme. The Assyrian invaders had devastated the northern kingdom and appeared ready to do the same to Jerusalem. However, they withdrew their armies. Zephaniah attributed the rescue to God. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior'.

His words are repeated in the song of Isaiah which is used for today's psalm: For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. He writes of God as my salvation, my strength, my song. He introduces an intriguing image of hope. Isaiah said, shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel'. Before the availability of piped water on tap, people had to let down their buckets and draw up water from a well. It pictures the deep, inner resource that one needs to draw from at a time of spiritual need. In the second reading a letter of saint Paul to the Philippians urges us and them to rejoice in the Lord, and to let go of anxiety by living in a spirit of prayer and thanksgiving. Here saint Paul echoes the message of joy. He wrote this letter from the prison saying, 'Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice'.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist tells the people what they must do to prepare well for the coming of the Lord and to escape his searching judgement. He explains the secret of the Christian joy is our wholehearted commitment to God's way by doing of His will. Here John challenges them and us in their generosity and fairness so that other may have reason to rejoice.

For John happiness comes from doing our duties well and faithfully, and doing good for others, together with sharing our blessings with others in need. He called to repentance is a call for joy and restoration. What is repentance stand for, it is a change in our purpose and direction of our lives. He also reminds them, the people to act with justice, charity, and honesty, by letting their lives reflect their transformation. Transformation occurs when Christ enters our lives, and it is to be reflected in our living in the ways John suggests.

The theme of joy more emphatic in saint Paul's letter to the Philippians calling them to rejoice because the Lord is near, for him thinking about the Second coming which believed was near.

So, there is no need to worry. If they need anything, they are to pray for it, and the peace of God will be with them. His deep inner well of faith and from his conviction that the Lord is near he drew a great happiness which he wants to share with the Philippian. He urges them to show this inner happiness in two ways: tolerance towards others and a trust in God which banishes worry. With good news of Christmas make me more patient and tolerant? Less worried? Truly happy? With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

This theme also is at the heart of our Gospel today. Hence, John the Baptist tells the people what they must do to prepare for the Lord's coming and to escape his searching judgement. At the same time, he makes it clear that he is subordinate to Jesus. The challenge which faces us today to see the arrival of the Messiah only in the historical event. In reality Jesus had already overcome death, is present now in our world and wherever there is love, there is God. And there is no greater cause for rejoicing than awareness of this fact.

What we learn from John the Baptist is we are called to a change of life. We also have to remember that we are Christ's precursors like John the Baptist as to act by repenting our sins, reforming our lives and bringing Christ into the lives of those entrusted to their care. Let us repeat saint Paul's words. 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice'. (Philippians 4:4).

May the joy of the Lord bless you all.

God Bless, Fr Aleki



<https://bit.ly/3lyPs5x>

Announcements :

PLEASE SCAN in using QR CODE.

- For MASS Please BOOK online: <https://beachhavencatholic.org.nz/events/>
- Mass will be held at 8.00am and 10.00am on Sundays starting from Sunday 12 December for fully vaccinated people.
- Everyone over the age of 12 will need to have the 'My Vaccine Pass' and these will be checked before entry into church.
- At Mass face masks will be required, there will be no singing, communion will be in the hand only.
- There will not be refreshments in the Hall after Mass.
- TODAY— PPC meeting after mass at 10am at the hall.
- Parish reconciliation on the 22nd Wednesday of December at 7pm



IF YOU SEE COVID-19 MISINFORMATION

- 1 DON'T ENGAGE**
If you reply, share, or quote misinformation, you help to spread it.
- 2 BLOCK THEM**
If someone you don't know is sharing misinformation, block them.
- 3 MESSAGE PRIVATELY**
If someone you know is sharing misinformation, message them privately and ask them not to.
- 4 REPORT**
Report misinformation to platforms or group admins asking them to remove that content.
- 5 INSTEAD, SPREAD OFFICIAL ADVICE**
Drown out fake news by sharing official scientific advice, as well as posts promoting good causes in tough times.



Our New Parish Database

As part of our NEW, Auckland Diocese mandated Parish Database implementation, we need everyone to register with us as we currently have poor records of our wonderful community.

THANK YOU to the first 14 Families who have already registered, fantastic.

This will assist us in sending out accurate communication once we have a complete idea of our actual parish numbers and especially our young tamariki.

We look forward to having actual names associated with emails and accurate contact details etc so we can grow together. This will allow us to finally properly communicate with our wonderful community.

PLEASE set aside around 10 min to complete this registration.

Registration link is below:

<https://bit.ly/3GfSsBX>

No Internet Access? Please come into the office so we can assist you in completing this registration online.



This is a time when the Domestic Church is so important. Visit the Family Life Page on our website where we have put together a number of resources for all.

<https://bit.ly/3oiaygj>



New Covid19 Traffic Light System

The COVID-19 Protection Framework, also known as the **traffic light system**, has started at the RED level. There is a [summary online](#).

Please read this. <https://bit.ly/3lagq9j>



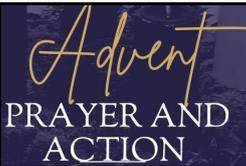
The PPC has issued two **very important letters** to:

- Parishioners on how we will operate (<https://bit.ly/3DVtSp9>)
- All our current volunteers in all Ministries



How the Traffic Light system will operate at Maria Assumpta going forward:

- Our first two Masses will be on 12 Dec 2021 at 8 am and 10 am.
- ONLY Fully Vaccinated Parishioners can attend Mass.
- All who are involved in all ministries and all key holders will have to be fully vaccinated and have the "My Vaccine Pass".
- Masks will be Mandatory.
- Only 52 parishioners can attend each Mass.
- You have to have BOOKED using the booking system. <https://bit.ly/31TgtTC>
- Your "My Vaccine Pass" will have to be produced with ID to enter the Church for Mass and will be checked using the "NZ Pass Verifier App"



An Invitation:

In this season when we prepare with hope for the coming of Emmanuel – God with us all are invited to join a circle of prayer. Prayer for ourselves, our communities, the world. Each morning from the first **Sunday of Advent 28 November – Christmas Eve** at 8.30am on the diocesan Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/aucklandcatholic> advent prayer will be offered. Young people from our school communities, representatives from parish and ethnic communities, diocesan staff will lead us prayer. We the diocese gathering to pause and pray together. Then at 10.30 am [1-24 December] same place we will upload an Advent Calendar. Please join us.

The Word in other Words

A Bible Diary containing the Daily Gospel Read-ing and a short day reflection penned by missionaries work in different mission places worldwide. This Bible Diary is a valuable help in prayer and meditation, especially during this time of the Pandemic.

To order: Call MISSIO-NZ Office (09) 489 6549 or email info@missio.nz or use our online www.missio.nz/donate page facility clicking Bible Diary on the dropdown window. Each copy is \$20 + postage. Postage \$5.10 up to 2 books/\$7.20 up to 4 books/20 books \$27.



St Vincent de Paul is continuing to provide support contactlessly during the level 3. If you need support, or a food parcel, please contact either Chris (020 4139 5170) or Charles (022 0242 753)

Dear Parishioners, please consider coming to help out at our Vinnies Charity shops. We need lots of volunteers and helpers – even for an hour or two once a week would be wonderful. Our oldest volunteer is 87 and our youngest is 14! If you can, please join our friendly team at either Beach Haven or Glenfield. Volunteering can be so rewarding!

Contact Janet on 022-356-3811 or Janetlee.vinnies@gmail.com





Daily Mass Calendar

2022

Columban Calendars

for sale - \$12

Daily Mass Calendar

for sale - \$5

Please email the office
to Order



RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

R. Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might
he has become my salvation.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. *R.*

Give thanks to the Lord,
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted. *R.*

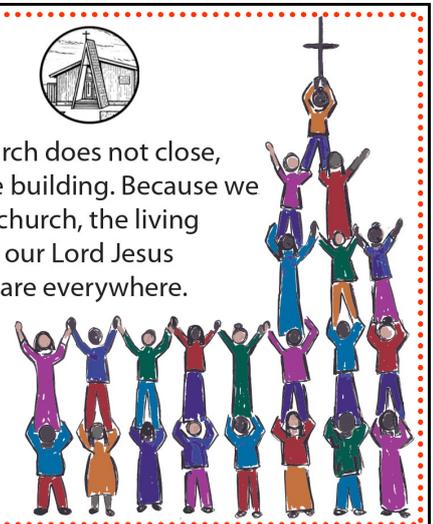
Sing praises to the Lord,
for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel. *R.*

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages. God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



The church does not close,
only the building. Because we
are the church, the living
body of our Lord Jesus
and we are everywhere.



GOSPEL

✠ A reading from the gospel according to Luke.

The crowds, who were gathering to be baptized by John, asked him,
“What should we do?”

In reply John said to them,

“Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none;
and whoever has food must do likewise.”

Even tax collectors came to be baptized,
and they asked him,

“Teacher, what should we do?”

He said to them,

“Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.”

Soldiers also asked him,

“And we, what should we do?”

He said to them,

“Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation,
and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation,
and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John,
whether he might be the Messiah,

John answered all of them by saying,

“I baptize you with water;

but one who is more powerful than I is coming;
I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

His winnowing fork is in his hand,
to clear his threshing floor

and to gather the wheat into his granary;
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So, with many other exhortations,

John proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.