



## *Vision Of A New World*

The astronauts were the first human beings to see the earth from space. As they gazed down on the earth from space, they realized as never before that we are one family, with spaceship Earth as our common home. One of them said later: 'The first day in space, we all pointed to our own countries. The second day, we pointed to our continents, By the third day, we were aware of only one Earth.'

The prophets had the same kind of high and wide vision. Isaiah dreamt of a world in which the wolf would lie down with the lamb. A world in which those who were furthest apart from each other would be united in friendship. His vision offers us hope when we are tempted to despair and courage when we are tempted to give up. But how real is this vision? Sadly to say that when one reads a history book, or even just the daily newspaper, at times we feel ashamed to be human. What is human history if not wars and more wars? The world is drenched in blood.

As for the wolf and the lamb living together, often two neighbours, or even two members of the same family, have a falling out and refuse to talk to one another. Should all hope be abandoned?

The prophets lived in the real world and were just as dismayed by the horrors and injustices as we are. Yet through faith in God they continued to dream of a new world, a world free from injustice and war.

And the prophets were people with a vision, they were people with hope. They were fiercely committed. They held a bright vision up before us, a vision unrealisable to humans alone, but realisable with the help of God.

The marvellous vision of the peaceable kingdom is not an escapist dream. Jesus had a word for the new world. He called it the 'Kingdom of God'. It was to establish this kingdom that he came on earth. He inaugurated it. And he now wants his followers to dedicate themselves to the building of that kingdom.

Far from encouraging us to escape from real life, this beautiful vision summons us to get involved. Even though it is a struggle we will never win completely, the struggle is good for us. It awakens everything that is important to us - every time we show compassion, work for peace and justice, forgive a person - we are helping the vision to become a reality.

**FLOR McCARTHY SDB**

## PARISH NEWS

### Important Dates

- ♦ **Tuesday 12 Dec** - Reconciliation 7pm (after 6.30pm mass)
- ♦ **Friday 15 Dec** - Mass for the Anointing of the Sick at 9am followed by morning tea in the hall.
- ♦ **Sunday 17 Dec** - Father Paul 30 years Ordination to Priesthood

### Parish Music Group

Choir practice (leading up to Christmas Eve) every **Monday 7pm** in the church. Join us as we will be singing at the midnight mass.

### Work Bee



A big thank you from the Parish for all the help and support received last Saturday. It was a joy seeing everyone joining in and handling different tasks. Your time and effort was much appreciated. May you all be blessed abundantly with our best wishes for Christmas & New Year.

### Xmas Cards

Last day to send your order to the Parish office is **Monday 11 December**. Poster is on the noticeboard.

## DIOCESE NEWS

### Ngā Tapuwae Pilgrimage

Registrations are now open for the Ngā Tapuwae - A Self Directed Pilgrimage 2024. Our Northland pilgrimage sites will be attended by CDA staff to welcome you and share the stories at specific times on 12th & 13th January 2024 but you will travel independently having organized your transport, accommodation and food. Your pilgrimage will end with the anniversary Mass at Totara Point on 14th January. All welcome to participate and learn more of our Catholic heritage. You can experience the sacred places of Kupe, Bishop Pompallier and the early missionaries. To register email Deacon Steve Fraser on [stephenf@cda.org.nz](mailto:stephenf@cda.org.nz) or phone [021 439 407](tel:021439407)

### Handel's Messiah: Performance by Auckland Choral

**Sunday 17 Dec 5.00pm** onwards at the Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall.  
Cost \$35 per person + booking fees.

Book your ticket at:  
[www.ticketmaster.co.nz/auckland-choral-tickets/artist/1956464](http://www.ticketmaster.co.nz/auckland-choral-tickets/artist/1956464).

Book your tickets around the **Stalls Row SS.**

*Socializing afterwards:* Meet at the Queen Street front door entry, near the grand stairs after the concert.

### Mass Times

Monday: 9am  
Tues/Wed/Thurs 6.30pm  
Wed: Novena 6pm  
Friday: 9am  
First Friday: 6.30pm  
Saturday: 5pm Vigil  
Sunday: 9am, 10.30am, 5pm

**Reconciliation by appointment.  
Please contact the parish office.**

### Please pray for our sick parishioners:

Violet Furtado, Yvonne Sommers, Mary Holmes, Kanesi Masae, Ethan Peter Lelo, Rosalen Ahearn, Saulius David Balsys, Kalameli Tauta, Joan Unkovich, Pauline Caffell, Louisa Baptist, Robert Shearman, Siufaga Maileoi Lili, Lee Dunn, Alex Soniega, Barbara Lynch, Fata Peter & Lenora Fuiava, Priscilla Fernandes, Nellie Lemusu-Kea, Aaron Ablan, Joy Rapcsak, Gerard Hoover.



*3-24 December: "Come Lord Jesus".*

*During Advent,  
we prepare for the  
celebration of Christ's  
birth through prayer and  
reflection.*

**If you wish to place a notice in our parish newsletter, please email the parish office by Wednesday.**

### Last Week's Collection:

**House - \$ 741.80**

**Parish - \$ 1,084.50**

**Thank you for your generosity.**

### Readings For The Upcoming Week

**Mon 11 Dec:** Is 35:1-10  
Lk 5:17-26 Ps 84:9-14  
**Tue 12 Dec:** Is 40:1-11  
Mt 18:12-14 Ps 95:1-3, 10-13  
**Wed 13 Dec:** Is 40:25-31  
Mt 11:28-30 Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10  
**Thu 14 Dec:** Is 41:13-20  
Mt 11:11-15 Ps 144:1, 9-13  
**Fri 15 Dec:** Is 48:17-19  
Mt 11:16-19 Ps 1:1-4, 6  
**Sat 16 Dec:** Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11  
Ps 79:2-3 Mt 17:10-13  
**Sun 17 Dec:** Is 61:1-2, 10-11  
Lk 1:46-50 1 Thess 5:16-24  
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



[\*Parish Music Group at the Gaudete Concert Saturday 25 Nov 2023\*](#)

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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