

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



Third Sunday of Advent

17 December 2023

The Witness of John

John the Baptist was the last and greatest of the long line of prophets who prepared the way for the coming of the Messiah. One thing we require from prophets is that they live what they preach. When there is a wide gap between the message the prophet is preaching and the kind of life he is living, a serious shadow is cast over the authenticity of the message.

John was exemplary in this regard. He was a living example of what he preached. No wonder people flocked to see and hear him. In today's Gospel Jesus himself testifies to the greatness of John.

Firstly, he paid tribute to the kind of person John was. John was his own man - a strong personality and a man of principle.

Secondly, Jesus paid tribute to John's lifestyle. His lifestyle was that of an ascetic. He did not choose a life of ease and comfort. He lived in the desert - a place of sand, thorn bushes, heat, cold, hunger, thirst and loneliness. Nor did he go in for soft and expensive clothes. He wore a garment made of camel hair. He did not eat rich and expensive food but scant food of the desert - locusts and wild honey.

Thirdly, Jesus stressed the greatness of the role John played. John was more than a prophet. He was the messenger sent by God to prepare the way for the Messiah. He devoted himself totally to that mission. And when his task was done, he moved aside to make way for Jesus.

This increased his heroism in that he prepared the way for a kingdom that he himself would never enter (on earth).

The great astronomer, Galileo born in Italy in 1564, confirmed what Copernicus had said, namely, that it is earth that goes around the sun and not vice versa. His discoveries greatly enlarged our knowledge of the universe. Yet he spent his last years in darkness. Galileo reminds us of John the Baptist. Like Galileo, John the Baptist ushered in a new age - the age of Jesus. And like Galileo, he died in darkness.

While we should draw inspiration from both men but it is in Jesus that our hope lies. He is the one who gives meaning to all our work and suffering, to our living and dying.

FLOR McCARTHY SDB

PARISH NEWS

Parking Permits

As inserted in our newsletter today, these are to be used every time you are visiting the parish. Any car without the permit showing on the dashboard is likely to be towed away. Please use until further notice.

Thank you ~ Parish Council.

Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

9.00am / 10.30am /

6.30pm Carols ~ 7.00pm Family Mass

11.30pm Carols ~ 12.00am Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9.00 am & 10.30am

The Holy Innocents

9.30am & 6.30pm

New Year's Eve

9.00am / 10.30am / 5.00pm / 10.30pm

New Year's Day

9.00am

The parish office will be closed from **Monday 25 December to Friday 19 January 2024**. Please note that the hall will not be available for bookings during this period.

Office reopens on **Monday 22 January 2024**.

Happy 30th Anniversary Fr Paul

A little celebration in the hall (shared lunch) after the 10.30am mass **Sunday 17 December**. All welcome.

DIOCESE NEWS

Medjugorje May 2024

"Every pilgrim has a destination, even if at times he is not explicitly aware of it"
~ Pope Benedict XVI.

Experience being a pilgrim in Medjugorje. **Cost per person share twin \$6,640** (cost based on minimum 15 pilgrims)

10 nights (19 May- 01 June).

For more info email [Patricia Parsons info@mirpilgrimimages.co.nz](mailto:Patricia.Parsons.info@mirpilgrimimages.co.nz) or visit their website: www.pilgrimage.nz

Auckland Catholic Single Social Group

Meeting for afternoon drinks at Good George, Mission Bay **27 January 4pm** followed by a stroll around the beach. It will be a very relaxed fun way to spend the evening with like-minded people.

For more info, email Marie-Claire: aklcatholicssinglesocialgroup@gmail.com

Upcoming 2024 30s & 40s social events

24 Feb ~ Auckland Lantern Festival

09 March ~ Movies in the Park: Coco

23 March ~ Takapuna beach hike & picnic

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 - \$ 1,230.50

Parish - \$ 1,636.90

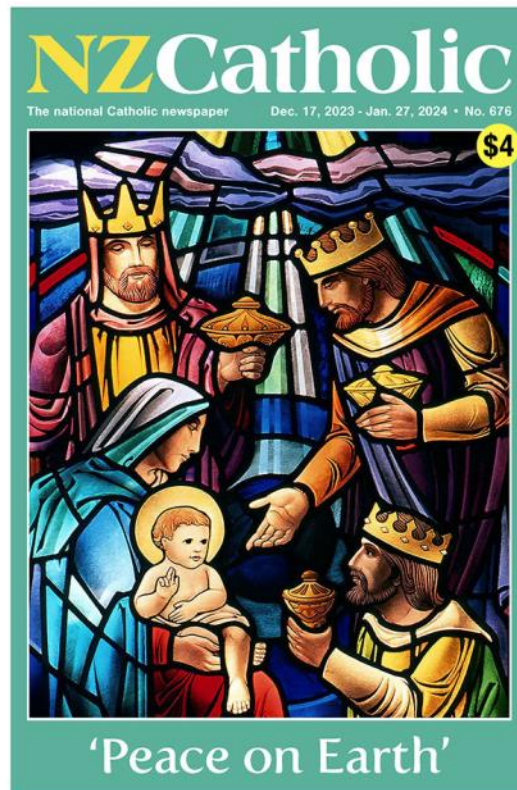
Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 18 Dec: Jer 23:5-8
Mt 1:18-24 Ps 71:1-2, 12-13, 18-19
Tue 19 Dec: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25
Lk 1:5-25 Ps 70:3-6, 16-17
Wed 20 Dec: Is 7:10-14
Lk 1:26-38 Ps 23:1-6
Thu 21 Dec: Zeph 3:14-18
Lk 1:39-45 Ps 32:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
Fri 22 Dec: 1 Sam 1:24-28
Lk 1:46-56 1 Sam 2:1, 4-8
Sat 23 Dec: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24
Lk 1:57-66 Ps 24:4-5, 8-10, 14
Sun 24 Dec: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14
Lk 1:26-38 Rom 16:25-27
Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29

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 **12 & 13 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 **14 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 or phone [021 439 407](tel:021439407)



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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