



The Secret of Happiness

The third Sunday of Advent is known as *Gaudete* Sunday meaning *rejoice*.

This invitation to rejoice is reflected in the Scripture readings. In the First Reading, the prophet Zephaniah urges us to 'shout for joy'. And in the Second Reading, St Paul says, 'I want you to be happy.' All of us want to be happy.

But what is the secret of happiness?

Once a shepherd sent his son to a wise man to learn the secret of happiness. When he arrived at the beautiful castle where the wise man lived, the boy told him he wished to know the secret of happiness. However, instead of explaining the secret to him, the wise man handed him a spoon filled with oil, saying, 'Take a look around the palace. As you go around, carry this spoon with you without allowing the oil to spill.' The boy began to move around the palace but keeping his eyes fixed on the spoon. After two hours, he returned to the room where the wise man was.

'Well.....what have you seen?' asked the wise man.

The boy was embarrassed, and confessed that he had not seen anything. His only concern had been not to spill the oil that the wise man had entrusted to him.

'Well then, go back and observe the marvels of my world. You cannot trust a man if you don't know his house,' replied the wise man.

Relieved the boy picked up the spoon and returned to his exploration of the palace, this time observing all the beautiful furniture and works of art that adorned the rooms of the castle. Then he visited the garden, with its magnificent fountain and beautiful flowers, admiring the taste with which everything was laid out. On returning to the wise man, he related in detail everything he had seen.

'But where are the drops of oil I entrusted to you?' asked the wise man.

Looking down at the spoon, the boy saw that the oil was gone.

'Well, there is only one piece of advice I can give you. The secret of happiness lies in the ability to see all the marvels of the world, and never to forget the drops of oil in the spoon,' said the wise man.

The boy understood immediately what the wise man was saying. A shepherd may like to travel, but he should not forget his sheep.

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PARISH NEWS

Christmas & New Year Mass Times



Christmas Eve

6.30pm Carols | Family Mass 7pm

Nativity Play

11.30pm Carols | Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9am & 10.30am

New Year's Eve

10pm

New Year's Day

9am & 10.30am

The parish office will be closed from **24 Dec 2024 to 26 Jan 2025**. Office reopens Monday 27 Jan 2025 9am.

Croatian Mass 2025

As from January 2025, Fr Danko will celebrate mass every **second Sunday** of the month.

Important Dates 2024-2025

Last Perpetual Succour Novena ~
Wed 18 Dec 6pm.

Novena will resume **Wed 12 Feb 2025 6pm** and every Wednesday thereafter. There will be no **First Friday 6.30pm** mass in the month of January.

Parish Novena to *Our Lady of Lourdes* will begin **Sun 02 Feb to Mon 10 Feb 2025**.

Rosary & Novena prayers 6pm daily followed by mass 6.30pm.

Sun 02 & Sun 09 Feb ~ mass 5pm (before Rosary & Novena).

Feast Mass ~ **Tues 11 Feb 6.30pm** followed by shared meal in the hall. Please bring a plate.

Columban Calendars 2025 & Christmas Cards



On sale at the bookshop or available at the office during office hours (Mon-Fri 9am-3pm).

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**

Advent Retreat

Come, explore and reflect on the
Gospel readings for Advent



Monday 16 Dec 6.30pm - 8.30pm
(hall)

Please register with Lyn Smith:

lyns@cda.org.nz

Coffee & cake will be served. Please
register by **Sunday 15 December**

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

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, Aaron Ablan,
Priscilla Fernandes, Nellie Lemusu-Kea,
Joy Rapcsak, Gerard Hoover

Last Week's Collection:

House - \$1,556.20

Parish - \$2,305.30

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 16 Dec: Num 24:2-7, 15-17

Mt 21:23-27 Ps 24:4-9

Tue 17 Dec: Gen 49:2, 8-10

Mt 1:1-17 Ps 71:1-4, 7-8, 17

Wed 18 Dec: Jer 23:5-8

Mt 1:18-24 Ps 71:1-2, 12-13, 18-19

Thu 19 Dec: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25

Lk 1:5-25 Ps 70:3-6, 16-17

Fri 20 Dec: Is 7:10-14

Lk 1:26-38 Ps 23:1-6

Sat 21 Dec: Zeph 3:14-18

Lk 1:39-45 Ps 32:2-3, 11-12, 20-21

Sun 22 Dec: Heb 10:5-10

Micah 5:1-4 Lk 1:39-44

Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

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The secret of happiness consists of being faithful to one's commitments and responsibilities while at the same time enjoying life. It is easy to be happy when *we are doing what we want*. But to find happiness in what *we have to do*, this is a blessing from God.

And we mustn't equate joy with pleasure. Pleasure is of the body; joy is of the spirit. You can quickly become tired of pleasures, but you never grow tired of joys.

The presence of God is the cause of our joy. The joy that this world cannot give is the joy that comes from a sense of the nearness of God and the certainty of his love for us.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Raffle Tickets

Please support our raffle, organized by the Parish Council. All proceeds will go towards supporting our parish community. Tickets will go on sale after each mass (namely Sat 5pm, Sun 9am & Sun 10.30am) until **Sunday 22 Dec**.

Tickets: **\$2 each OR 3 for \$5 (cash only)**. Thank you for your support.

Family Life Catholic Gifts

We have a good variety of Christmas gifts including Nativity Sets (on specials) as well as our usual supply of rosaries, statues, books, etc.... Come and visit us at 569 Richardson Rd, Mt Roskill or order online at www.catholicgifts.co.nz

G.I.F.T Christmas Mass Celebration

Grow In Faith Together for people with intellectual disabilities. Mass ~ **Sunday 15 Dec 4pm** at Good Shepherd Church, Balmoral. Please join us for a meal after mass. All welcome.

<p>OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH 7 Glendale Rd, Glen Eden Ph: 818-6325 Office hours: 9am to 3pm (Mon-Fri) E-mail: ourladyoflourdes@xtra.co.nz Web: www.glenedencatholic.org.nz Facebook: Glen Eden Catholic Church</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Priests Contacts:</p> <p>Parish Priest: Fr Paul Helsham OFM Cap E:paulhelsham@gmail.com</p> <p>Asst Parish Priest: Fr Boniface Kujur OFM Cap E:bonikujur1969@gmail.com</p> <p>Deacon: Robert Mitchell E:robertmitchell1410@gmail.com</p>
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