OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER

First Sunday of Advent **30 November 2025**

A Wake-Up Call

This is the first Sunday of a new liturgical year. Another year has come and gone. Time is passing and we must seize the day. We shall pass through this world but once. Therefore, any good that we can do, to any human being, let us do it now. We have nothing to fear and everything to gain from answering Advent's wake-up call.

In the Second Reading St Paul tells us that we must wake up ***now.*** The Gospel goes even further - it tells us to ***stay awake*** and that would mean awareness, understanding and vision.

Each day summons us to awake from sleep. Sometimes we cannot wait for the morning to come. We wake up in joyful anticipation. We feel good to be alive. We are thankful to God for the gift of a new day. It gives us a chance to carry on some tasks we have started or begin something new. Other times we greet the new day with less enthusiasm. Life may seem monotonous - perhaps we are unemployed or retired and there is nothing to look forward to. We tend to dread the approach of morning each day. How we greet each morning is very important. No one has a perfect life - all of us have to face challenges. It is what we make of these challenges that matters. If we don't like something we should try changing it. If we can't change it, we should try changing the way we think about it.

Our conduct is in our own power.

Advent is a spiritual wake-up call to us and has an awakening power. To be awake spiritually means to be open and receptive, vigilant and active. It also means to be attentive to God and to others. We have two choices: we can be a *watcher* or a *sleeper*.

Story

Bishop Samuel Ruiz served in Mexico and almost 80 percent of the population of his diocese was indigenous. He became known as the '*defender of the Indians*'. But it wasn't always like that. In a talk given in Westminster Cathedral in Lent (1996) he said:

'For twenty years I was like a sleeping fish. I had my eyes open but saw nothing. I was just proud to be in a diocese where the churches were full. Then one day I saw an Indian tied to a tree and being whipped by his boss since he had refused to work an extra eight hours.'

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PARISH NEWS

Important Dates

Anointing of the Sick Mass ~ Fri 05 Dec 9am
Parish Morning Tea (last) ~ Fri 05 Dec
Parish Working Bee ~ Sat 06 Dec 9am
The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary~ Mon 08 Dec Mass 9am
Parish Advent Reconciliation ~ Tues 09 Dec 7pm

DIOCESE NEWS

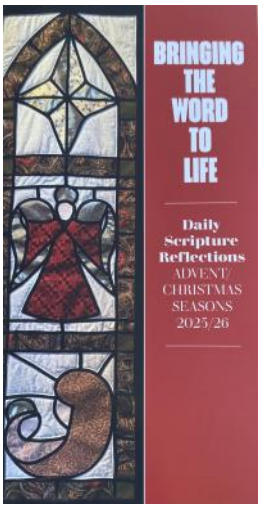
Celebration Mass
St Patrick's Cathedral

This special event marks the end of our year-long journey with the young leaders of the Diocese of Auckland. We are excited to celebrate the many ways they have served in 2025 and present the Tu Kahikatea Awards to them. These awards recognize young people who have made an outstanding contribution to the Diocese.
Bishop Steve will celebrate the mass, present the awards and give a special blessing to all our youth and young adult ministry leaders ~ **Sun 07 Dec 4.30pm.** *Don't miss it, all welcome!*

Food for Faith

Daily reflections in preparation for Christmas. Sign up to receive daily emails during Advent at:
www.foodforfaith.org.nz

Advent/ Christmas 2025



Get your copy of the amazing 84-page booklet titled *"Bringing the Word to Life"* now on sale at the bookshop.

$8 a copy

"*As we enter the sacred season, this booklet provides material for reflection each day based on the daily readings. These help us to pause, pray and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. I highly recommend it as it reflects our faith experience within the context of this beautiful country we live in."*

Paul Martin SM, Archbishop of Wellington

St Francis Retreat Centre

Time Out Days ~ for those who seek a day retreat—**Wed 10 Dec 9.30am to 2.30pm** ($35 incl lunch). For more info and to book go to:
www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz

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, Mary Holmes, Ethan Peter Lelo, Rosalen Ahearn, Saulius David Balsys, Kalameli Tauta, Pauline Caffell, Louisa Baptist, Robert Shearman, Siufaga Maileoi Lilii, Lee Dunn, Alex Soniega, Aaron Ablan, Priscilla Fernandes, Nellie Lemusu-Kea, Joy Rapcsak, Gerard Hoover

30 Nov - 21 Dec: "Come Lord Jesus"

The first candle of Advent is Hope (also known as the Prophecy Candle) recalling prophet Isaiah who foretold the birth of 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 - $1,973.00
Parish - $3,190.00

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 01 Dec:	Is 4:2-6
Mt 8:5-11	Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9
Tue 02 Dec:	Is 11:1-10
Lk 10:21-24	Ps 71:1-2,7-8,12-13, 17
Wed 03 Dec:	Is 25:6-10
Mt 15:29-37	Ps 22
Thu 04 Dec:	Is 26:1-6
Mt 7:24-27	Ps 117:1, 8-9, 19-21
Fri 05 Dec:	Is 29:17-24
Mt 9:27-31	Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14
Sat 06 Dec:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26
Ps 146:1-6	Mt 9:35 - 10:1, 6-8
Sun 07 Dec:	Is 11:1-10
Mt 3:1-12	Ps 71:1-2,7-8,12-13,17
Rom 15:4-9	

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That incident opened the bishop's eyes and he began to look. What he saw being done to his people spurred him into action. He got involved in negotiations between the Zapatista rebels and the Mexican government.

It is not enough to be physically awake. We need to be awake socially, morally and spiritually. For Christians the worst kind of sleep is that of indifference.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Parish Morning Tea

While shared meals were a part of the very early Christian Church (known as *agape* meals), the modern "morning tea" tradition is likely an adaptation which was popularized in the British Empire in the 19th century. The practice was a way for people to socialize and this cultural norm was integrated into church life as a structured social time following the Sunday service. It is now being practiced in many parishes today as it serves as a practical expression of Christian hospitality, making newcomers, visitors or those who are alone feel seen, welcomed and be part of a church community. It also provides an opportunity for parishioners to chat, catch up with friends, and develop stronger personal bonds in a relaxed setting.

It is with sadness that we are informing you all that Kevin will no longer be hosting our *Monthly Parish Morning Tea*.

THANK YOU Kevin for all the years (and not just recent ones) that you have welcomed us, entertained us, and told us that it is time to leave…. (LOL).
You have been an amazing host with a cheerful spirit always. God bless.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Asst Parish Priest:
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