



A Catholic Parish of
The Archdiocese of Wellington

To Tatou Wahine O Nga Whanga Parahi Katorika

OUR LADY OF THE BAYS

MOTUEKA • RICHMOND • TAKAKA • WAIMEA WEST • WAKEFIELD

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

12 December 2021

3rd Sunday in Advent Year

Issue 218

Zephaniah 3: 14 - 18; Philippians 4: 4 - 7; Luke 3: 10 - 18

MASS TIME

Sunday Mass

MOTUEKA Saturday vigil 5.00pm,
Sunday 9.30am

RICHMOND Sunday 9.30am

WAKEFIELD Sunday, 8.00 am

WAIMEA WEST No Masses until
further notice

TAKAKA Sunday 5.00pm

Weekdays Mass

MOTUEKA Tuesday and Thursday
9.30am

RICHMOND Wednesday and Friday
9.30am

CONTACT

Priests

Fr Seph Pijfers

Parish Priest, Richmond

Fr Paul Finlayson

Assistant Priest, Motueka

Parish Office

Parish Office Hours: 9.00am to 2 pm,
Monday, Wednesday, Friday

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OLOB Newsletter

ourlady.newsletter@gmail.com

Deadline Wednesday Noon

'What must we do John?'

T

oday is the 3rd Sunday of Advent: Zephaniah 3:14-15, Isaiah 12, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-16, 18

This week's candle in the Advent wreath is pink – a symbol of joy as we look forward to Christmas. We might think of ways that we can bring some joy to someone else who might be sick or lonely at this time.

Today's readings establish God's promise in a particular time and place and reflect it as a time of wonderful transformation. It helps to imagine the Jewish people in captivity with little hope of seeing their homeland again. The promise is that the people in exile in Babylon will return to Jerusalem. In the gospel of Luke the word of God comes to John and defines his mission. It is John's voice which calls the people of his time to a change of heart; to a new understanding of who they are and who God is. The road being made straight and smooth is an important image. Jesus is often found on the road and the journey he makes to Jerusalem is at the heart of the Gospel.

Like Jesus on his journey, we are encouraged to stay close to God in our lives. Among all the things clamouring for our attention, Advent is a time of seeking transformation, and preparing for its arrival. It is a time to open ourselves so that God can accomplish much through ordinary human vessels. The Gospel speaks of filling in valleys, smoothing hills, straightening the paths of the Lord. We can lean on God to do this in our lives - building relationships, easing social pressures, overcoming difficulties – things that block the path of God in our own life? What voice is leading us to a change of heart?

"If we keep our eyes on the light, we need never feel afraid. Jesus will walk before us, guiding us through life towards the kingdom of heaven. Amen."

Markelle Ward - ADRS - Garin College
Adapted from www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz

OUR LADY OF THE BAYS

Quote Pope Francis: [Angelus 28 November 2021](#)

During Advent, we could make a habit of saying, "Come, Lord Jesus." Only these words, but repeating them: "Come, Lord Jesus". This time of preparation leading to Christmas is beautiful: we think of the nativity scene and Christmas, so let us say from the heart: "Come, Lord Jesus".

ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLETS – six-minute daily reflections based on the Sunday Gospels during Advent. Available in church foyers \$7.50 each

"**Next weeks newsletter** (Sunday 19 December) will be the last one for 2021. Please ensure you have any notices sent to ourlady.newsletter@gmail.com by 12 noon Wednesday 15 December. The first newsletter for 2022 will be for Sunday 16 January. All notices to the same email address by 12 noon Wednesday 12 January. Thank you."

The Team at Catholic Social Services

Dear Friends and Supporters

As we move through Advent towards Christmas and the end of the year, I want to

thank you all for the support you have given our organization.

It has been another really, difficult year for many and in spite of that you have continued to support us in many different ways. We are most grateful for that.

The team here at CSS have prepared a little something for you all by way of a 'thank you'. It is a resource we hope you will find useful in our on-going response to Covid-19. It contains ideas and recommendations if you are supporting people who are isolating at home, plus a list of items for you, should you also need to isolate at home.

There are some hyperlinks as well that will take you to sites that specialise in wellbeing. Feel free to use this for yourself or share this link with friends, whānau or anyone in your community who might find it helpful.

<https://cdn.fld.nz/uploads/sites/wn-catholicsocialservices/files/PDFs/2021/A Resource in these times of Covid Dec21.pdf>

If you would like to discuss this resource in anyway, please contact us on 04 385 8642. We hope you all have a safe and blessed Christmas and look forward to reconnecting again in 2022.

"Meri Kirihimete me te tau hou"

Parish to Parish for BnB changes

From 1st September this year For one guest \$50/night, each additional guest, \$30 each, e.g.two guests would be \$80 for one night. Due to COVID-19 some hosts may not be available for guests, please respect their wishes, books are available \$15.



Contact Marie Anderson, phone 03 3595 541, email: Marie.ian@xtra.co.nz

FOOD FOR FAITH offers brief daily reflections for Advent. Sign up at www.foodforfaith.org.nz

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP, RICHMOND

Our Lady of the Bays 2021 Pastoral Plan

The 2021 version of our Pastoral Plan is available on our website for comment. This document is shorter and simpler than the 2018 version and emphasizes what we are actually doing well already as well as some suggestions for improvement. Input has been requested from all the leadership teams in the Parish and their feedback has been included.

You are invited to make comments on the document as well as point out any omissions or corrections. All comments are to be sent to mhca53@xtra.co.nz before Friday 17 December when the final document will be finalized. Thank you.

Reconciliation is available after the weekday Masses (Wednesday and Friday) or by appointment with Fr Seph.

Morning Tea Next Week

After Sunday Mass next week we will be having our first morning tea for some time. There will be Christmas cake. See you there.



SVdP Christmas Hampers

This year, due to Covid restrictions, the Society has not been able to gather and pack goods for Christmas hampers. In place of the food hampers, we are presenting redeemable food Vouchers to families in need of assistance at Christmas.



While not requiring the normal donations of goods for hampers, a collection box is in the Church foyer for items that parishioners may wish to donate including non-perishable food, small gifts, product or shop vouchers to be included as 'extras' in the voucher packs.

Thank you for your assistance

ST PETER CHANEL, MOTUEKA

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will be held every Thursday from 9am to 9.30am and then followed by Holy Mass.

Reconciliation Come and experience the healing and loving power of Jesus through this wonderful sacrament. Apart from making an appointment to meet with Fr Paul for reconciliation, we are trialing a permanent time on Saturdays at 4.15 before the 5pm Mass. Fr Paul is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in our chapel every Saturday 4.15 to 4.45pm.

PLEASE REMEMBER in your prayers the elderly, lonely and sick in our community. Peter Goodman, Bryan Hamilton, Maureen Fon, Marie Douglas, Ron Sharp, Shirley Cooper, Janet Price and John Clifford.

