



14 December 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This week's readings: [click here](#)

HOLY FAMILY PARISH and OUR LADY OF THE BAYS PARISH Mass Times

Tuesday: Motueka 9.30am, Nelson 12.05pm

Wednesday: Richmond - No Mass or Liturgy this week, Stoke 9.30am

Thursday: Nelson 12.05pm

Friday: Richmond 9.30am, Stoke 9.30am

Saturday Vigil: Takaka 5pm, (1st & 3rd Saturday), Wakefield 5pm (2nd Saturday), Waimea West 5.00pm (4th Saturday) and Nelson 6pm

Sunday: Stoke 8.30am, Richmond 9am, Nelson 10.30am, Motueka 11am.

Reconciliation: Offered after Mass, Holy Hour or by appointment

Adoration & Benediction: Nelson Friday's 5pm, Richmond 1st Thursday, 1pm - Benediction 5.45pm- Mass 6pm

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11: Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through Him and praises John as more than a prophet.

Background on the Gospel Reading:

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday, so named because "Rejoice" (Gaudete in Latin) is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass, taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." This is why we mark this Sunday on our Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. It is a joyful reminder that our salvation is at hand.

In this week's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if He is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In His next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Him and says all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. It reminds us that salvation is already mysteriously present, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already manifested in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our faith, words and deeds. Today's Gospel message is indeed a reason to rejoice! **LP**



Contact details: Ph 027 337 4622, Email addresses: office@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz, office.admin@parish.org.nz
Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Kim 022 301 8828, priest@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz, parish.priest.olob@parish.org.nz
Fr Cirilo Barlis, cbarlis@gmail.com; Fr Dyson Tharakan, dysonexpress@gmail.com (Assistant Priests)

On Mondays, please contact the office unless it's an emergency

priest@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz | office@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz (HFP) | office.admin@parish.org.nz (OLOB)

Communion to the Sick: St Mary's, Pete Gillin 548 8195; St Francis of Assisi, Shelley Hills 027 437 7851

Archivist:: Bernadette King-Turner, archivist@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz 021 394 516

Nelson Hospital: Sacraments of Healing contact Parish Office or ask for the Hospital Chaplain.

Websites <https://www.hollyfamilynelson.org/> and www.ourladyofthebays.org

News Deadline **Wednesday noon:** ourlady.newsletter@gmail.com (OLOB), or office@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz (HFP)

Mass Intention: John D Finnigan 18/12

Please pray for our sick in our community: Mien Cornelissen, Eric Davidsen, Maryanne Hall, Stephen McNabb, Kerry Mitchell, Shanny Schipper.

“Father, we lift up all those who are suffering. We ask that You bring healing, comfort and peace to them. May they experience the healing power of Your love. In Jesus’ name we pray.”

DATES TO REMEMBER ACROSS THE REGION

Mass time changes for OLPH this week:

The St Paul’s School End of Year Mass on

Wednesday 17 December at 10.30am will replace the usual 9.30am Mass. On **Friday 19 December**, due to Simbang Gabi, there will be no 9.30am Mass or liturgy.

Saturday 13 December

† 11-12pm, HFP carol recital, Nelson Museum

Sunday 14 December

† 4pm, Stoke, Rite II Reconciliation

Wednesday 17 December

† 10.30am, St Paul’s End of Yr School Mass, OLPH

Friday 19 December

† Last Newsletter for the 2025

Monday 15-19 December

† 7pm, Simbang Gabi, OLPH Church

Saturday 20 December

† 6pm, Simbang Gabi, St Mary’s Church

Monday 21-23 December

† 7pm, Simbang Gabi, OLPH Church

Wednesday 24 December

† 7pm, St Joseph’s Sch Hall, Parish Christmas Party

Admission to Candidacy of Holy Orders:

Archbishop Paul will be presiding at the St Mary’s Vigil Mass on Saturday 13 December for Gerson Badayos’ Candidacy to Holy Orders. Here Gerson formally declares his intention to continue discerning God’s call to ordained ministry. Let us hold him in prayer.

Reconciliation Rite II: 14 December, 4pm, SFA Church, Stoke **Reconciliation Rite I:** Available after weekday Mass, & 6pm Friday, following Adoration at St Mary’s Church, Nelson

Holiday Office hours: Closed from midday 23 December, re-opens 26 January. First newsletter 30 January 2026.



You are all invited to this year's Simbang Gabi Novena Masses in preparation for Christmas. This is a Filipino tradition which involves 9 consecutive evening Masses leading up to Christmas.

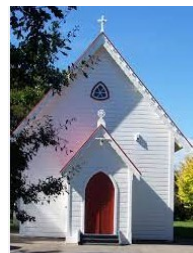
- † Mass times & locations: 15 -19 December, 21-23 December: 7pm, OLPH, Richmond
20 December, 6pm, St Mary’s Church, Nelson
- Here are some ways to support the Simbang Gabi
- † Attend the Masses
 - † Volunteer your time, talent and treasure
 - † Music/choir – Justin 022 598 2440
 - † Reader/liturgy – Camille 0211270 401 if you would like to be a reader at Mass or help out behind the scenes with the liturgy tasks.
 - † Sponsor – Cindy 021 025 86413 if you, your family, friends or community would like to sponsor the traditional supper after Mass (finger food or light meals, hot/cold drinks)
 - † Approach Jing, Gerson, Anna Mae after Mass.

Christmas Carols Recital Saturday 13 December-

Please join members of our Holy Family Parish community outside the Nelson Museum between 11-12pm for afternoon Christmas Carols as the Advent Season nears it’s joyful culmination.

Sts Peter and Paul Church, Waimea West turns

170 years! The first Waimea West Catholic Church of Sts Peter & Paul was opened on Sunday 16 December 1855, at 11am. Sadly there is no known photograph of this building. It was built with white pine and infested with borer. The second church was consecrated and dedicated 7 March, 1897 by Bishop Grimes of Christchurch.



A **malgamation Update - Our Journey Together - Amalgamation newsletter #3 (Link).** Copies are also available in our churches. As we continue this journey, we invite you to keep praying the [Amalgamation Prayer](#), trusting in the faith, history, and hope that unite us as one community.



Congratulations to Ella Farrier who has been awarded Garin College 2025 DUX. Ella was presented the Trophy by Robert Booth who is now retiring after being the Director of Boarding since 2002 when Garin College was opened.

Advent2025/26: Bringing The Word To Life: Catholic leaders and writers, including Cardinal John Dew, offer reflections for Advent and Christmas. Copies available in our churches, \$5 payment via Honesty Box and also from the HF Parish Office, Nelson.

At St Paul's Catholic School - Richmond, our focus for our Religious Education learning has been 'Hope for the Future'. This was inspired by the Jubilee of Hope as guided by Pope Francis. A celebration of our learning and student action can be found via the following link. The link leads to a publication named 'The Hopeful News' and contains inputs from each of our the learning teams across the school and has been collated by our Director of Religious Studies, Kathryn Powick."

[Our Hopeful News St Paul's School 2025](#)



Historical timeline: Click on the link below to access a historical timeline of the establishment of church communities. [Parish Timeline](#)

Columban Calendars 2026 are now available at the HF Parish office and OLPH foyer for **\$13 each**. These make a wonderful gift for family and friends.

OUR LADY OF THE BAYS

Richmond Christmas Eve Carols: Come and join us for a solemn Christmas Carols at 8.30pm before the Christmas Eve Mass at 9pm. Sing and listen with our music groups from different cultures and people.

Service and Ministry Opportunities OLPH:

Whether you are new or have been part of our parish family for years, we value you. Please take a few minutes to consider how you can add value to our community by volunteering for roster duties. Click on this QR Code and open the website to complete an enrolment form. Someone will be in touch to answer any questions you have before you are rostered.

DIGITAL SIGN UP FORM



Welcome to all St Paul's School children who have been recently baptised.

Punch bowl please! If anyone has a fruit punch bowl which they would be happy to lend for the wedding of Caleb and Eliana from SPC community on 17 January please contact Angie on 021 0220 3196. Thank you

Christmas Cards are available to purchase: \$6 for a pack of 8. They are on the table in the foyer at Richmond church. If other church communities want some, please request. 027 245 7800.

Also - Supply of Sympathy Cards: \$2 each.

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

With gratitude! A message to all involved in the baptism of Daniel Tatlock at St Francis of Assisi Church, Sunday 30 November :

"From my first contact with the parish office and the subsequent unforeseen changes that had to be accommodated, you all made it such an easy process and lessened the stress that was going on at our end. For all of that and so much more it was a truly meaningful event at St Francis of Assisi Church in Stoke with Fr Dyson leading and

RCIA : Are You Interested in Becoming a Catholic? The course will be held in Nelson, Richmond and Motueka. More information please contact : **Nelson** - Katie Rose katiemrose54@gmail.com 0212964155; **Richmond**: Greg & Maryanne Hall, 0276181421 Greg.maryanne@gmail.com or **Motueka** - Margaret Jones 0210474894 marg.t.jones.58@gmail.com

encompassed by the church community. Our family all felt very blessed.

We thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts". From Kathy Tatlock on behalf of the Tatlock and extended family.

Christmas Carols Recital Saturday 13 December-

Please join members of our Holy Family Parish community outside the Nelson Museum between 11-12pm for afternoon Christmas Carols as the Advent Season nears it's joyful culmination.

Thanks! Many thanks for the support with goods on the SFA sales table for the Takaka Church rebuild. Approximately \$600 was raised, a good effort! Anyone who would still like to buy goods please txt Joan on 027 274 0109 to arrange a time to view.

Multicultural Christmas Carols & Celebration

Gathering

We warmly invite everyone to join us after the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve in St Joseph's School Hall to celebrate the birth of our Saviour together. Let us lift our voices in joyful Christmas Carols and share in fellowship as one Parish family. We especially encourage carols in English and your native languages - a beautiful way to reflect the diversity of our community in Christ. Please bring some finger food to share and help make this a truly festive occasion!

We are also looking for volunteers to help with setup, decorating, and cleanup. If you're able to assist, please contact Przemek and Gerard. For any questions or if you need access to playback or instruments, please reach out to Przemek at 021 564 200. Come, let us adore Him!



Holy Family Parish - NATIVITY PLAY Christmas Eve, at St Mary's 24 December, 5.30pm



We are excited to announce our Christmas Eve Nativity Play and would love for you to be part of it! This is a special invitation for children of all ages to join in, and we warmly welcome adult support to help bring the story to life.

Rehearsals will be held on **Sunday 14 and Sunday 21 December** after the 10.30am Mass at St Mary's Church. We have a simple, beautiful set that will make the play seamless and joyful. Very young children are welcome too—perhaps as little angels or other seated on the altar. If your child (or you) would like to be involved, please contact **Margot on 027 4448 398**. We'd love to hear from you soon so we can make this a truly memorable celebration together.



Faith and Light: St Francis of Assisi Church became a wonderfully festive backdrop for the Faith and Light Community's Advent Season nativity play last month.

CHURCH ROSTERS - LINKS

[St Peter Chanel, Motueka](#)

[Holy Family Parish](#)

[Our Lady of Perpetual Help](#)

Catholic Christmas Mass Times 2025 Nelson and Tasman Area

24 December - Christmas Vigil Mass

- Takaka**, 94 Commercial St, 4.30pm (4pm Carols)
- Richmond**, 35 William St, 6.00pm (5.45pm Carols/Nativity)
- Nelson**, 18 Manuka St, 6.00pm (5.40pm Carols)
- Motueka**, 423 High St, 7.00pm (6.30pm Carols)
- Richmond**, 35 William St, 9.00pm (8.30pm Carols)

25 December - Christmas Day Mass

- Stoke**, 196 Songer St, 8.30am
- Richmond**, 35 William St, 9.00am
- Nelson**, 18 Manuka St, 10.30am

1 January - New Year's Day Mass

- Nelson**, 18 Manuka St, 9.30am
- Richmond**, 35 William St, 9.30am
- Motueka**, 423 High St, 9.30am

