



HOLY FAMILY PARISH NELSON-STOKE
 St Francis of Assisi Church, Songer Street, Stoke
 St Mary's Church, Manuka Street, Nelson



A Catholic Parish of
 The Archdiocese of Wellington
Tu Teina Whānui O Ngā Whangape Parahi Kaitiaki
OUR LADY OF THE BAYS
 MOTUEKA • RICHMOND • TAKAKA • WAIMEA WEST • WAKEFIELD

7 December 2025

SECOND WEEK 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 9.30am, 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 3:1-12

John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching a message of repentance.

Background on the Gospel Reading:

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. The description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance which is in anticipation of Christian baptism. He alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

John makes it very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11).

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord. **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.lob@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)

Recently Deceased: Betty Glover; Tania Bowden

Mass Intention: Cataldo Romano 4/12; John Hawthorn 2/12, Norma Webb 19/12, Patricia Barry 21/12, John McBride 22/12

Please pray for our sick in our community: Mien Cornelissen, Eric Davidsen, Maryanne Hall, Trevor Menzies, 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

Wednesday - Weekly

† 6pm, Intercessory Prayer Grp, SPC Day Chapel

Saturday 6 December

† 9am, Advent Retreat , Fr Dyson, HFP Mtg Rm

† 11am, Requiem Mass for Betty Glover, OLPH

† 3pm, EMHC meeting, Fr Dyson, OLPH

Sunday 7 December

† 4pm, Richmond, Rite II Reconciliation

Monday 8 December

† 9.30am, Mass for The Immaculate Conception, St Mary’s Church

† 12pm, Women’s Luncheon, SFA

Wednesday 10 December

† 10am, SPC Church, School Nativity Play

Sunday 14 December

† 4pm, Stoke, Rite II Reconciliation

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

Friday 19 December

† Last Newsletter for the 2025

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.

FUNDRAISING SALES TABLE Sunday 7 December

- Following the 8.30am Mass at SFA. Hand-made Christmas decorations, soft toys and also a small selection of Rosary Beads will be available for sale. These are a great way to help a worthy cause and get a lovely gift. All proceeds will go toward the rebuild of our sister church, Sacred Heart, in Takaka. Monetary donations welcome. Contact: Judy Burke 027 3690 115 burkejudy86@gmail.com



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. Good to have one ready for when needed.



Wet Weather didn’t dampen the spirits of those attending the annual Nelson Christmas Parade which our parishioners embraced with great enthusiasm!

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.

Reconciliation Rite II:

† 3 Dec 7pm St Peter Chanel, Motueka
† 7 Dec 4pm OLPH Church, Richmond
† 14 Dec 4pm SFA Church, Stoke

Reconciliation Rite I:

Available after weekday Mass, and 6pm Friday, following Adoration at St Mary’s Church, Nelson

Amalgamation 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.

SIMBANG GABI 2025

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.



† Masses will be held at the following times and churches. 15 -19 December, 21-23 December: 7pm, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 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, your group of friends or community would like to sponsor the traditional supper after Mass (finger food or light meals, hot/cold drinks)

† Or approach Jing, Gerson, or Anna Mae after Mass.

Join us for an Advent Retreat in this Jubilee Year 2025, led by Father Dyson - Saturday 6

December 9:00am to 12:00pm, with Adoration at 11:30am. Come reflect on the blessings of the Jubilee pilgrimage, the moments of grace God has shown and the hope Advent brings. A quiet time of prayer, reflection, and Eucharistic encounter awaits. All are welcome.



Historical timeline: Click on the link below for access to a historical timeline of the establishment of our parishes communities.

[Parish Timeline](#)

2026 Claretian Bible diaries now available - these contain prayers, daily readings, reflections, Saints of the day and more. They are a great resource and so supportive to our faith! The cost is **\$25**, which includes a contribution towards postage and to support this mission. If you prefer to pay in cash, please put money in a labelled envelope and hand it in to the Parish Office or to a priest. **Internet payment details are: J. Somu. Account number 38-9019-0834575-00.**

Reference: Bible121. Diaries will be available in the Nelson, Stoke, Richmond and Motueka churches. If you would like copies at Takaka, Waimea West, Wakefield, please email requests to safeguardingolob@gmail.com

ADVENT 2025/26: Bringing The Word To Life:

MORE AVAILABLE: 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.



The Faith & Light Community celebrated 30 years together last week with over 40 people attending a beautiful celebration at St Francis of Assisi Church featuring a uniquely Korean Santa Claus! Guess who?

Called and Equipped Formation Programme -

Applications for 2026: JOIN US on an exciting journey that offers personal faith formation and equips you for ministry and service. For more contact Lucienne Hensel at 04 496 1715 or l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz.

The **Nelson Hospital Chaplaincy team** sends its grateful thanks for all the support we received for our very successful fundraising stall late November. We were truly blessed with all the donations of goods to sell, (many of them

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

representing hours of work), the people who came to buy, donate, and offer words of support. Thank you all so much.

OUR LADY OF THE BAYS

Reminder Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Review (EMHC) Meeting: Saturday 6 December, 3pm, in OLPH Church, Richmond. Fr Dyson invites you to a special time of renewal and reflection for your ministry.

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. We need support due to dwindling numbers on some of our rosters. If you took a form home from Mass last week please consider how you can help and return it this week. Alternatively (if you're forgetful like me), just click on this QR Code and open the website that pops up and you can complete it there. Someone will be in touch to answer any questions you have before you are rostered.

DIGITAL SIGN UP FORM



St Peter Chanel Christmas Morning Tea/School Nativity Play, 10am Wednesday 10 December: Join us for a festive nativity and morning tea celebration SPC Church. If you need transport to/from this event, please let Robyn O'Gorman, or any other St Vincent de Paul member know.



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.

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Women's Luncheon: All women are invited to a friendly Christmas-themed luncheon at noon on **Monday 8 December** in the SFA meeting room. Please bring a plate of finger food to share and a story or memory of a Christmas past! Contact Frances on 027 646 4529.

Stamps: All donations of postage stamps, and associated items are gratefully received. These

are on sold and the proceeds given to worthy causes within the Parish. They can be left at the Parish Office, or in the marked boxes in the foyers at St Francis of Assisi and Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Thank you.

Please pray for our Nelson Catechumens who have begun their journey of inquiry into the Catholic Faith.



Funeral Preparedness: While not something we put on the top of our to-do list, it is a gift we can give our families. Putting on paper some of the things we love (favourite verses, hymns) and some of the answers to required questions, (Funeral Directors) can ease the hearts of grieving loved ones. Please text or email me and I can send you the planning forms. If you would like some assistance or see some resources, I would be honoured to help. Shelley Hills Ph 0274 377 851, thehillsclan@xtra.co.nz

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