



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

22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2024

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Issue 351

Micah 5: 1-4a; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45

### MASS TIME Sunday Mass

#### RICHMOND

Sunday 9.00am

#### MOTUEKA

Sunday 11.00am

#### WAKEFIELD

Vigil Mass 5pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat each month

#### WAIMEA WEST

Vigil Mass 5pm, 4<sup>th</sup> Sat each month

#### TAKAKA

Saturday 5pm, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> each month  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month at 9.30am

Liturgy of the Word with Communion

### Weekdays Mass

#### MOTUEKA

Tuesday 9.30am

Friday, 9am Exposition of the Blessed  
Sacrament, 9.15am Rosary

Friday, 9.30am Liturgy of the Word

#### RICHMOND

Wednesday and Friday, 9.30am  
Reconciliation after weekday Mass or  
by Appointment

#### CONTACT

Fr Ron Bennett – acting Parish Priest

#### Parish Office

Era Creevey, Admin 9.00-14.00

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

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#### Website

[www.ourladyofthebays.org](http://www.ourladyofthebays.org)

#### Newsletter

[ourlady.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ourlady.newsletter@gmail.com)

**Deadline Wednesday Noon**

When my brother and sister in law had twins (for the 2nd time) I wanted to give them Christmas presents benefitting the occasion. Money was no object! The salesperson gently explained to me that little babies/children do not want very much, but are captivated by simple things like coloured blocks!

That got me thinking. We often think more is better; it will make us happier, more satisfied, more able to cope. But the reverse is often true. We cannot measure success by externals.

Often people who are poor externally are infinitely rich in other ways.

Christmas is about the small things. Little Bethlehem, once famous for David becoming king there, is a forgotten place. Mary and Joseph have no where to stay, and finish up in a stable, the only audience being shepherds and cattle. Jesus is born in poverty, and will die in poverty.

The truth is, we need to be rich in the things that matter. An inner richness that no one can take from us. That is the message of the Gospel. Jesus came to show us the richness of love - God's love for you and me, a love that will never die.

Christmas begins the journey. It never ends. We welcome Jesus into our hearts again, determined that we will follow his way throughout our lives. Like Mary, Christ can be born in us through the lives we lead. Then, we can be a real Christmas present to each other!

Fr Ron Bennett



**Christmas Mass Times at Our Lady of The Bays and Holy Family**



*Merry Christmas*

<b>24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Vigils</b>	
Sacred Heart, Takaka	Carols 4pm, Mass 4.30pm
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Carols 4.45pm, Mass 5pm
St Peter Chanel, Motueka	Carols 6.30pm, Mass 7pm
St Mary, Nelson	Carols 6.45pm, Mass 7pm
<b>25<sup>th</sup> Dec- Christmas Day</b>	
St Francis of Assisi, Stoke	8.30am
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Richmond	9.30am
St Mary’s, Nelson	10.30am

**Reconciliation During Advent**

During Advent there are opportunities for reconciliation. Due to the small number of priests in our Region there will not be an additional evening event, so please avail yourselves of one of the following:

St Peter Chanel - High St, Motueka  
After Tuesday 9.30am and Sunday 11.00am Masses, or by appointment

Sacred Heart - Commercial St, Takaka  
By appointment before the 5.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass

**Holy Family Parish (St Mary and St Francis of Assisi)**

15-20 December: 30 minutes prior to, and after, the Simbang Gabi (Novena) Masses.  
23 December: 30 minutes prior to, and after, the final Simbang Gabi (Novena) Mass.



'After receiving the annunciation of the angel, Mary does not stay at home, thinking over what has happened and considering the problems and pitfalls, which were certainly not lacking, with the culture of that age... She did not understand.... On the contrary, she first thinks of someone in need; instead of being absorbed in her own problems, she thinks about someone in need, she thinks about Elizabeth, her relative, who was advanced in years and with child, something strange and miraculous. Mary sets out with generosity, without letting herself be daunted by the discomforts of the journey, responding to an inner impulse that called her to be close and to help.'

Pope Francis, [Angelus](#), 19 December 2021.

**Parish Office Closure over Christmas/New Year**

Office will be closed from 23 Dec and will re open on 6 Jan. It could be at shorter hour depend on how busy it is. I will monitor the email and phone remotely as well. Wish you all a blessed Christmas & Happy New Year.



Congratulations Ellen Theobald, the 2024 Dux winner at Garin College. All the best for your bright future

**OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP, RICHMOND**

**NEW YEARS DAY MASS**

There will be a 9.30 Mass on New Years Day at OLPH. This will be a wonderful way to start the New Year.

**HALLELUJAH! IT'S A BOY, BORN TO A STABLE FAMILY!**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF OUR PARISHIONERS, AND TO YOUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS**

**NEW PRIESTS COMING**

From early February Fr Andrew Kim, Parish Priest of the Holy Family Parish Nelson, will be the Administrator for Our Lady of the Bays. That is because we will not have an appointed Parish Priest. But there will be two assistant Priests based in Richmond.

Fr Cirilo Barlis returns, and Fr Dyson Tharakan, who is currently serving in Blenheim will join our Parish. Gerson Badavos, a 5<sup>th</sup> year seminarian will be based in Nelson

**NEW DEACON LEAVING**

Congratulations to our current Seminarian Emilio Capin who was Admitted to Candidacy as a Deacon last Sunday. Emilio leaves our Parish this week and we wish him well as he begins his final studies before Ordination into the Priesthood. His gentle manner and thoughtful homilies have been enjoyed by the congregation, and he surely has a great future ahead of him in his chosen vocation. Thank you for your contributions Emilio, and best wishes for the year ahead from all of us here in Motueka.

**PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK.**

Please keep those who are facing health issues at this time in your prayers. Remember especially Joan Curtain, Sandra Rayen (nee McIver) and Elaine Taggert.

And remember those struggling with other issues in an expensive world, especially at this Joyous time of the year. Think about the least, the lost, and the last, and how we can help them in some way

**NEXT YEAR'S HEADLINES**

- A Seminar on End of Life including a document with End of Life Wishes. eg, Not having a hymn that you hate sung at your funeral.
- The return of GOMFADS – the Men's Social group
- The formation of a 'Dovecote' in Motueka, an initiative of Dove, the Women's devotional Group
- The planting of our raised vegetable beds.
- Hopefully, a return to 'Normal' mass times with our two new Priests
- The formation of a Pastoral Council for Our Lady of the Bays, to support our Priests and share our skills.

**MISSING BOOK**

The copy of Jo Fon's book 'The Red and Green Rooves' seems to have been in the care of a slow reader for a while. If you have the book and have finished reading it, could you please return it to the table in the foyer. Many thanks!

**OUR SCHOOL.**

St Peter Chanel School closed today for the year, and re-opens February 4<sup>th</sup> 2025. Thanks to the Teachers for the efforts they have put into the pupils during the past year. Along with the students, enjoy your holidays! Most kids will be returning, but some will be leaving St Peter Chanel School and moving on to Secondary School next year. Good luck and enjoy your new Schools.

Minister	22/12/2024	<b>24/12/2024</b>
Greeter	V & S Cameron	S & J Collins
Morning Tea	V & S Cameron	No morning tea today
Music	Helena Han	Josie & Scott
Prayers Faithful	Marg Jones	Judy Kenter
Readers	S & V Cameron	Cath & Mhairi Campbell
Eucharistic	K O'Gorman & V Dugdale	T Donaldson E Taggart
Cleaning	W. & M Frondariine	
Lawns	Maurice Roche	
Flowers		
		Judy Roper