

# St Mary's Parish



**Ko Hehu Te Kaiwhakatipu - In Christ We Live and Grow**

69 Ruahine Street, Palmerston North. Phone. 358 5614;  
email: [stmaryspalmy@inspire.net.nz](mailto:stmaryspalmy@inspire.net.nz) website: [www.stmaryschurchpn.org.nz](http://www.stmaryschurchpn.org.nz)  
Office hours Monday – Friday 9am - 1pm, Parish Secretary: Susan Learmonth  
Parish Priest: Fr Manoj Mathew IC, Assistant Priest: Fr Robin Kurian IC,  
Special Ministry to the Elderly: Fr Thomas Sherry - Ph. 353 6955  
Parish School: St Mary's, Principal: Suneal Singh, Ph. 357 5015

**17th December 2017**

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



**"I exult for joy in the Lord"**

Christmas is a feast of joy and light. We celebrate God who comes to dwell among us and save us. This Sunday's readings remind us that true joy and happiness is to be found only in God. Isaiah says, "I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul. Only in God can we find true joy and happiness. There is so much unhappiness in the world and in our own personal lives. But when we surrender to God and God's will when we live according to God commandments we experience true joy in our lives. Mary also questioned the message of the angel. Caught unaware, she was a long way from joy as she put her care before God: "How can this be?" Yet despite their doubts and insecurities, Mary gradually complied to God, and in that surrender, she found joy.

Advent reminds us that the joyful answer to our problems lies in God. So when Jesus summarised the first three commandments as loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength he was really giving us a prescription for deep and permanent joy and happiness. Any unhappiness we experience is really an experience of the lack of God. God is the fulfillment of our anxieties and worries, of our needs, of our greed. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas and the coming of God into our lives through Jesus we need also to remind ourselves that we have been called to be the means to bring Jesus into other people's lives. (Fr Robin Kurian IC)

*St Mary's  
Christmas Day Mass - 9.00am  
New Year's Day Mass - 9.00am*

**HOLY HOUR  
TODAY  
2pm  
At St Mary's**

*This week's Readings –  
Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28  
Next week's Readings –  
Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16  
Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38*

## MASS TIMETABLE : 18 - 24 December

Monday	Mass	9:00am
Tuesday	Mass	12:00pm
Wednesday	Mass	9:00am
Thursday	Mass	9:00am
Friday	Mass	9:00am
Saturday	Mass	9:00am
	Vigil Mass @ St Columba's	5:00pm
Sunday	Mass	10:30am
	Latin Mass @ St Columba's	11:00am
	Vigil Mass	7:00pm
	Mass – Syro Malabar Rite	9:00pm

Reconciliation is available after Saturday morning Mass and on request.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Jacinta Chapman, Marzia, Carmel Walton, Vinnie Carroll, Edwin Evans, Kath O'Hagan, Shane Hoy, Vincent Chan, Jan Rodgers, Clare McCartney, Trish Collis, Sue Fryer, Laura Roberts, Neil Burton, Wiki & Delastro Maniapoto, Marie Hubbard and all in rest homes and hospital care.  
Prayer Chain - please phone Sally: 326 9209.

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Janet Quinn, Fr Patrick Cumiskey, Barry Nolan, Claire Tippett, Annette Bristow, Gregory Wright, Fr Des Moosman, Lila Smith, Paul Andrew, Valerie Russell, Sr Noreen Murphy OP (Dunedin), Frank Rochecouste.

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

Pat Tuohy 3, Maureen Ryan 6, Elaine Pearce 17, Anna Liao 31.

## RITE II RECONCILIATION

There will be a combined Rite II Reconciliation for the city wide parishes on 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. This will be held at the Cathedral.

### St Brigid's Rite II Reconciliation

This will be held on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm, not Thursday as shown incorrectly in the combined bulletin.

## THANK YOU

Thanks to Fr Bryan Buenger for giving a Retreat to our youth on Saturday.

## HOLY ROSARY

All parishioners are encouraged to recite the Holy Rosary every Saturday at 8.30am before the 9am Mass.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

10am on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
Followed by Mass

This will be the last Adoration for the year. No Adoration in January – to restart on 6<sup>th</sup> February.

## PARISH OFFICE

The office will be closed for 3 weeks after Christmas. Reopen on 16<sup>th</sup> January. Please note the change of parish office times. Working days: Tuesday to Friday, 9am – 2pm. The office will be closed on Mondays in 2018.

## ST MARY'S SCHOOL

The School Opening Mass will be at 12 noon on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018. There will be no 9am Mass.

## NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER

24th December

**Mass Co-ordinator:** M.Dongon

**Sacristan:** A. Dongon

**Greeters:** L. Pactores, A.Villocido

**Altar Servers:** J.Pabellon,

V.Cabasag, M.Codeniera

**Readers:** R.Bennett, K.Laylo,

M.Dongon

**Offertory:** Kapatirans

**Eucharistic Ministers:** E.Cabasag,

A.Pabellon, C.Herrera, M.Codeniera,

A.Eugenio, A.Carambas, I.Bailey,

J.Bailey

**Counters:** R. & R.Brooks

**Collectors:** K.Tavake, I.Tavake

**Hospitality:** Kapatirans

**Altar Linen (Dec):** S.Learmonth

**Floral Arrangers:** P.Hayes

**Cleaners week beginning 24th December:** Sae family

## CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

There is to be music practice for the Christmas Eve 7pm Vigil Mass this Tuesday at 6.30pm in the Church.

## RCIA

The last session will be on 20<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm – 9pm at the Cathedral.

## DOIDGE PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP

Shared dessert and pre-Christmas gathering. Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 7pm at Gretchen and Dan's, 30 East Street, please bring dessert to share and BYO drink. Please confirm attendance with Jenny 027 4187 906.

## BISHOP CHARLES

Have you seen Bishop Charles' facebook page? For some great reflections and photos of his time in India and Laos check out his facebook page: facebook.com/BishopCharlesDrennan

## MARIAN EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY

Kerala Catholic Prayer Community prayer meeting, every Monday 4.15pm – 7pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL

A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported the St Vinnies shop Christmas Raffle. This was won by three of their loyal customers.

1<sup>st</sup>: G.Shanks; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Angela Ryan; 3<sup>rd</sup>: Kit Gray. The raffle made \$914.00 in total and would not be possible without Marilyn Savimaki's hard work, thanks to her.

## EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE UPDATE

David Seymour's 'End of Life Choice' bill is imminently due its first vote in Parliament. This will likely happen on the first private members day in 2018 – either 31 January or 14 February. The bill seeks to legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide in New Zealand for those over 18 years with a terminal illness or an irremediable condition. The Health Select Committee released their report on "Ending One's Life in New Zealand" in August 2017. With over 21,000 unique submissions, 80% of those were opposed to the legalisation of euthanasia and assisted suicide. Legalising euthanasia or assisted suicide would endanger the lives and wellbeing of people who are vulnerable, including those suffering from mental health issues, our elders, and the disabled. There will be more information on this issue provided in January. You can also check out [www.nathaniel.org.nz](http://www.nathaniel.org.nz)

## HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

29 April – 19 May 2018.

For more info please contact Pukekohe Travel phone: (09) 237 0013 or 0800 785 386, email: [tours@pukekohetravel.co.nz](mailto:tours@pukekohetravel.co.nz)

## CENSUS FORMS

Census forms are available from the table in the foyer. Please can you complete this form with all your information and drop into the office next week. Thanks.

## CDC PHILOSOPHY CAMP

Join Fr Dominique Faure and CDC students to Search for the Truth, ask the Big Questions, go deeper, have fun! Aimed at 16-19 year olds. 3pm - 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2pm - 28<sup>th</sup> December. Cost \$60 includes two nights marae style accommodation, all meals. Email [cameron@cdc.ac.nz](mailto:cameron@cdc.ac.nz) facebook.com/cdcnz ph 09 489 8197 CDC, 1 Fred Thomas Drive, Takapuna.

## Te Ahi Kaa – The Hearth-Place

Applications are open for our young adult community house situated at 25 Amesbury Street. Te Ahi Kaa has room for 4 young adults (19 years plus) to spend a year in guided community living, focused on prayer, hospitality, formation and service. For More Information contact Georgia 0226704422; [Nick 021 822 814](mailto:Nick.021.822.814) or [Kathleen 021 509 436](mailto:Kathleen.021.509.436).

## MARCELLIN COLLEGE 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee

23 – 25 March 2018

Registrations open at

[www.marcellin.school.nz](http://www.marcellin.school.nz)

## FOOD FOR FAITH ADVENT 2017

ONLINE RETREAT

Fr John O'Connor has for many years gifted the New Zealand Church with his website Food for Faith. He is offering a wonderful gift to us all this Advent, like an Advent Calendar it will have an offering every day, leading and preparing us for Christmas. You can have it arrive every day by email by signing up at his site, or you could visit his site each day: <http://foodforfaith.org.nz/>

## HEARTS AFLAME 2018

SUMMER SCHOOL

For young adults 18-35 years old. The school runs for 10 days. December 29, 2017 @ 4:00 pm - January 7, 2018 @ 12:00pm

[www.heartsaflame.org.nz](http://www.heartsaflame.org.nz)

## ACROSS

Counselling, Family Support and Parenting Programmes

[www.across.org.nz](http://www.across.org.nz)

Sign up for next year's programmes – Anxiety for children 8-12, Triple P Parenting Programme, Postnatal Depression programme. 294a Church St, Phone 356 7486.

## ON SALE

CHRISTMAS CARDS

\$2.50 pack of 5

and COLUMBAN CALENDARS

\$12.00

purchase from the Parish office.

## HOLY CROSS SEMINARY

[www.holycross.org.nz](http://www.holycross.org.nz)

## CATHOLIC RADIO

Sundays 9am on

Access Radio Manawatu 999kHz AM