

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 website: 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

24th December 2017

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Behold, the Handmaid of the Lord”

On this last Sunday of Advent, the Church places before us the shining response of faith given by Mary which we need to imitate to prepare ourselves for Christmas. In order to let Jesus be born anew in our hearts, families and society at Christmas, like Mary we have to receive the word of God in faith and unwavering trust in God. As she did, we need to surrender ourselves fully into God's hands and venture into unknown future by relying solely on God's assurance and word. Faith, as exemplified by Mary, involves a total surrender to God in obedience to his word. By her faithfulness to God she proves that nothing is impossible for a person of total faith and trust in God. Considering ourselves God's humble servants, like her, we are called to freely respond to God's will with total trust in his Word. Like her we are called to offer our entire life to God, give up all our securities with an unconditional “yes” to do his will, and venture into an unknown future. Mary submits herself to God's designs by saying “Behold, the Handmaid of the Lord”. She considers herself as the humble handmaid of the Lord ready and willing to do her Masters will. Thus, she freely responds to God's designs with an unconditional “yes” to do according to his word. As a handmaid of the Lord, she puts herself at the service of the Almighty, to be at his disposal, and to do what he commands her. Like Mary we too are called to freely submit ourselves to God's designs with an unconditional “yes” to do his will, in order to let Christ be born in our hearts and in our word today.
(Fr Manoj Mathew IC)

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 Tippet, 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.



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

*Bishop Charles will be celebrating
Mass at St Mary's
on Christmas Day.
Please enjoy this occasion
to meet the Bishop
at the Mass.*

*This week's Readings –
Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38
Next week's Readings –
Genesis 15:1-6, 17:3-5, 15-16, 21:1-7
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19*



MASS TIMETABLE : 25 December – 1 January

Monday	Christmas Day Mass	9:00am
	Mass @ St Columba's	9:00am
	Latin Mass @ St Columba's	10:30am
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
Monday	New Year's Day Mass	9:00am

**Reconciliation is available after Saturday morning
Mass and on request.**



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please note there will be No Adoration in January – to restart on 6th February.

PARISH OFFICE

The office will be closed for 3 weeks after Christmas. Reopen on 16th 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. Thank you to everyone who assists in the efficient running of the Parish, we couldn't do it without you all. I look forward to seeing you all again in the new year and take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas and festive season with your family and friends. *(Susan)*

ST MARY'S SCHOOL

The School Opening Mass will be at 12 noon on Monday 29th January 2018. There will be no 9am Mass.

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER

31st December

Mass Co-ordinator: S.Autagavaia

Sacristan: T.Lafai

Greeters: P.Sojan & family

Altar Servers: M.Sae, A.Joseph-Shijo, J.Wayodi

Readers: S.Autagavaia, P.Sojan, M.Sutton

Offertory: S.Mao & family

Eucharistic Ministers:

A.Kriechbaum, L.Tavake, I.Tavake, S.Xavier, T.Kigufi, J.Muwunganirwa, I.Bailey, J.Bailey

Counters: E.Drury & P.Widdup

Collectors: A.Pabellon, P.Gildea, J.Marsh

Hospitality: M.Price & helpers

Altar Linen (Jan): E.Legg

Floral Arrangers: P.Hayes

Cleaners week beginning 31st December: Kapatiran group

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 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.

1st: G.Shanks; 2nd: Angela Ryan; 3rd: Kit Gray. The raffle made \$914.00 in total and would not be possible without Merylyn 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

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

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 Parish mailbox.

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](tel:021822814) or [Kathleen 021 509 436](tel:021509436).

MARCELLIN COLLEGE 60th

Jubilee

23 – 25 March 2018

Registrations open at

www.marcellin.school.nz

ACROSS

Counselling, Family Support and Parenting Programmes

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

COLUMBAN CALENDARS \$12.00

Can be purchased from the Parish office which opens on 16th January .

HOLY CROSS SEMINARY

www.holycross.org.nz

CATHOLIC RADIO

Sundays 9am on

Access Radio Manawatu

999kHz AM

