

HOLY FAMILY PARISH MASSES and other Liturgical Celebrations:

Daily morning Masses: **9.00am Monday to Saturday**

Saturday Vigil Mass: **6.00pm**

Sunday Masses: **8.30am - St. John of the Cross**

9.30am - Holy Family

Community Masses:

Samoa Community – **1st and 3rd Sundays at 11.00am**

Cook Islands – **2nd Sunday at 11.00am**

Myanmar Community – **4th Sunday at 11.00am**

Tokelau – **4th Sunday, 11am at St. John of the Cross**

Multicultural Mass – **Every 5th Sunday at 9.30am**

Sunday Adoration – **Every Sunday at 5.00pm**

Reconciliation – **At any time before and after Mass**

Baptism – **By appointment**

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

169 Mungavin Avenue, Porirua.

PO Box 53001, Porirua 5024

Ph: 04 237-8674 E: office@holyfamilyparish.nz

W: www.holyfamilyparish.nz

For Emergencies, please contact:

Fr. Isaac Songa (Parish Priest): 021 089-05555

Fr. Nicholas Phone Myint (Assistant Priest): 021 090-62933



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

8th December 2024

Dear Parishioners: Kia orana, Greetings, Talofa lava, Malo ni, Mingalaba, Mauri, Ola, Namaste, Malo Lelei & Nibula.

The Second Sunday of Advent challenges us to prepare a royal highway in our hearts so that we may receive Jesus as our saving God on Christmas. We should also be prepared for Christ's daily coming into our lives in the Holy Eucharist, in the Holy Bible, in everyone we encounter, and in the praying community. Finally, we are asked to be ready to meet Jesus as our Judge on His *Second Coming*, at the end of our lives and at the end of the world.

In the first reading, the prophet Baruch introduces Yahweh, the God of Israel, preparing the way for, and leading the Babylonian exiles to, Jerusalem. During this Advent season, we, too, are asked to return to the Lord from our slavery to sin. Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 126) offers us a close-up of the exiles who had wept bitterly on leaving Jerusalem but are now returning home, rejoicing. In the second reading, Paul advises the Philippians to prepare themselves for Christ's Second Coming by practicing Christian love and by leading pure and blameless lives. John the Baptist, in today's Gospel, challenges the Jews to prepare their lives for receiving their long-awaited Messiah. They are to prepare a highway in their hearts for their Messiah by levelling the mountains of pride and the valleys of impurity, injustice, and neglect and straightening their crooked ways. They are to get ready by repenting of their sins, changing their lives, and expressing their repentance by receiving the baptism of repentance in River Jordan and living out the reformations they have promised.

We need to prepare our hearts and lives for Jesus our Savior to be reborn in us during this Christmas time. We have to fill in the "valleys" of our souls, formed from our shallow prayer life and a minimalist living out of our Faith. We have to straighten whatever crooked paths we've been walking, like involvement in some secret or habitual sins or in a sinful relationship. If we have been involved in some dishonest practices at work or at home, we are called to straighten them out and make restitution. If we have been harbouring grudges or hatred, or failing to be reconciled with others, now is the time to clear away all the debris. As individuals, we might have to overcome deep-seated resentment, persistent fault-finding, unwillingness to forgive, dishonesty in our dealings with others, or a bullying attitude. And we all have to level the "mountains" of our pride and egocentrism by practicing the true humility of rendering humble service to others.

We need to repent and seek forgiveness from God and those we have injured: John's message calls us to confront and confess our sins. We need to turn away from them in sincere repentance and receive God's forgiveness. Next, we need to forgive others who have offended us and ask forgiveness for our offenses. Jesus explicitly declares (Mt 6:14-15): "For if you forgive men their transgressions, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."

PARISH NOTICES AND UPDATES

1. **Sunday Adoration - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**
Every Sunday at 5.00pm.
2. **'Lights On for You'** every Wednesday during Advent from 6pm – 7pm with the opportunity for Confession.
3. **Anointing Mass:** Thursday, 12th December at 6.00pm.
4. **Christmas Gifts for our Children:** We appreciate you donating a wrapped gift for any child from ages 12 months to 13 years old. A box is placed in the foyer for your presents starting this weekend. Please label "Boy" or "Girl" and the 'Age'. Thank you. for your generosity.
5. **Children's Ministry** will have a shared morning tea on Sunday 15 December at 9.15am before they come to Mass. Can the families of the children please bring a small plate to share. Thank you from Charity and Mary – The Children's Ministry Teachers.
6. **Parish Youth Gathering:** We invite all young people aged 13yrs and above, and young adults to join us for a two-day youth gathering on 10 & 11 January 2025 at Bishop Viard College. This special event is an opportunity for connection, faith and inspiration as we come together to establish our new Parish Youth Ministry. We encourage parents to support our children in attending this enriching experience. Thank you, Fr Nicholas.



SUNDAY READINGS – YEAR C

8 Dec. SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 1st R: Baruch 5: 1 - 9
- Responsorial Psalm: 125
- 2nd R: Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11
- Gospel Luke 3: 1 - 6

15 Dec. THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 1st R: Zephaniah 3: 14 - 18
- Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12
- 2nd R: Philippians 4: 4 – 7
- Gospel Luke 3: 10 - 18

PARISH COLLECTIONS FOR SUNDAY, December 2024

Parish - \$

Building Fund - \$

Generosity consists not the sum given, but the manner in which it is bestowed.

May God bless you always.

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

The Holy Family is committed to the person of Jesus in his teaching. Therefore, we are called to live justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8) so that we might become effective witnesses of the Gospel.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We will dedicate ourselves to live and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by words and actions. In following Jesus, Mary and Joseph in their love for each other, the example of their family life, we will come to true holiness. We will strive to imitate the Holy Family by:

- Being a loving, welcoming and forgiving community, fully alive in the spirit of Holy Family.
- Teaching our children, the Gospel way of life and encouraging them always to share fully in the life of our Parish.
- Celebrating the Eucharist as a joyful remembrance of our Lord's sacrifice for us.
- Being a community of prayer that reaches out and open to other faith communities.
- Being an "Oasis" of hope, love and mercy to God's children.
- Being witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus, strengthened by our cultural diversity.

The witness of John the Baptist helps us to go forward in our witness of life. The purity of his proclamation, his courage in proclaiming the truth were able to reawaken the expectation and hope in the Messiah that had long been dormant... Jesus' disciples are called to be his humble but courageous witnesses in order to rekindle hope, to make it understood that, despite everything, the Kingdom of God continues to be built day by day.'

Pope Francis, [Angelus](#), 9 December 2018

THE DASH:

Over the past week I have been at the bedside of Sr Trish Hanaray as she made her journey to God. Sr Trish would be known to many of you as Sr Lucille. She was the last Brigidine Principal at Holy Family School and was a long-term member of the Parish Choir under the leadership of George Setefano Snr. She took the part of Mary in what I think was the first production of *The Witness* in our Parish. She was a loving and compassionate woman who did much good in her life on earth which ended at 11 30 pm on Saturday night, two days short of her 87th birthday. 2 December 1937 - 30 November 2024

The Dash

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.

He referred to the dates on her casket from the beginning to the end.

He noted that first came the date of her birth and spoke of the following date with tears

But he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time that's spent alive on earth

And now only those who loved her know what that little line is worth

For it matters not how much we own - the cars, the house, the cash,

What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard, are there things you would like to change?

For you never know how much time is left that can still be re-arranged

If we could just slow down enough to consider what is true and real

And always try to understand the way other people feel

And be less quick to anger and show appreciation more

And love the people in our lives like we have never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile,

Remembering that this special dash might only last a little while

So when your eulogy is being read with your life's actions to rehash.

Would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your dash.

By Sr. Anne Phibbs