The Pastor's Pen

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings! We are now in the second week of Advent. Central to the readings of this second Sunday of Advent is John the Baptist – a daunting figure to say the least. If you or I met him, we might be forgiven for being startled at the sight of this wild, uncompromising man, dressed in rough garments, living off the land. But he's also compelling and in the safety of numbers, people flock to see him. Part of John's attraction must be that he can dare to speak the truth. He also challenges his audience's belief and their ways of life.

For us, how do we let John challenge us? We hear again his call for us to take full responsibility for our thoughts, words, and deeds; for God judges us on our own merits. May we take this Advent time to make some radical changes of our minds and hearts, and be prepared for the coming of the Lord.

Advent blessings,

Fr Anthony Tran CSsR

On Sale at the parish office.
Columban Calendar $12 &
2023 Diary $20

Sacrament of Penance
Book an appointment with any of the priests after Mass or use phone numbers listed below.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Contact Fr Anthony Tran OR Fr Rivan Narang. Private Baptism until further notice.

Marriages
Require at least six months' notice. Contact Fr Anthony Tran OR Fr Rivan Narang.
Booking St. Anthony OR St. Therese Church for Wedding 275 5401

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS
RCIA/RCIC Contact Hila Tuli 02102233342. First Reconciliation, Confirmation & First

Mangere Catholic Parishes
Pastoral Team
Parish Priest: Anthony Tran, C.Ss.R. ☏0226543680
Assistant Priest : Nathanael Rivandi Narang, C.Ss.R. ☏ 02108154804
Presbytery ☏ 275 3559 Parishes' Office: Parishes' Secretary ☏ 275 5401

REDEMPTORISTS

The Mangere Catholic

880

Diocese of Auckland

Bulletin of the Parishes of

St.Anthony 20 Kirkbride Road, Mangere Bridge
www.mangerebridgecatholic.org.nz

St. Thérèse 10 Wickman Way, Mangere East
www.mangereeastcatholic.org.nz

Parish Office 10 Wickman Way · Mangere East · ☏ 275 5401 ·
PO Box 59027 · Mangere Bridge · Auckland 2022 · office@mangerecatholic.org.nz
Presbytery · 20 Kirkbride Road · Mangere Bridge · ☏ 2753559
St Anthony Family Support Trust 0272533537 & 09 2750357

SCHOOLS IN THE PARISHES
St Mary MacKillop Primary Years 1-8 · McNaughton Avenue ☏ 257 1435 🖷 257 1436
St Joseph's Catholic School Years 0-8 125 Church Street Onehunga ☏ 6368102
De La Salle College · Years 7-13 · Gray Avenue ☏ 276 4319 🖷 276 7992

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY 5th December.

Advent Week 2 Year A
Isaiah 35:1.10 Psalm 85
Luke 5:17-26
St. Anthony Mass 9am

TUESDAY 6th December.

Advent Week 2 Year A
Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 96
Matthew 18:12-14
St. Therese Mass 9am.

WEDNESDAY 7th December.

St. Ambrose, B.D (m)
Isaiah 40:25-31 Psalm 103
Matthew 11:28-30
St. Anthony Mass 9am.

THURSDAY 8th December.

Immaculate Conception BVM. (s)
Genesis 3:9-15,20 Psalm 98
Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12 Luke 1:26-38
St. Therese Mass 9.15am.
St. MMK school will be joining & leading for their end of year school Mass.

FRIDAY 9th December

Advent Week 2 Year A
Isaiah 48: 17-19 Psalm 1
Matthew 11: 16-19
St. Anthony Mass 9am

SATURDAY 10th December

Advent Week 2 Year A
Ecclesiasticus 48:1-4,9-11 Psalm 80
Matthew 17:10-13
St. Therese Mass 9am.

Sunday 11th December

NEXT WEEK
(3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A)
Psalter W.3)
Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; Psalm 146; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Weekend Masses.

St Anthony : Mass Saturday 5pm, Sunday 9am and Third Sunday Samoan Mass 10:30am.

St Therese: Mass 8am, 10am & 6pm. Fourth Sunday Samoan Mass 12pm.

CHURCH AND GROUNDS CLEANING IN BOTH PARISHES.

St. Anthony's.

Thank you to all the volunteers for looking after the Church grounds. Thank you to the Divine Mercy and the Legion of Mary prayer groups for looking after the church cleaning this weekend. Tongan community's turn for Church cleaning on Saturday the 10th of December.

St. Therese CHURCH & GROUNDS.

Thank you to the other ethnic groups for looking after the Church grounds and the Legion of Mary for Church cleaning this weekend. Tongan community's turn on Saturday 10th of December.

Columban Calendar on Sale

Calendar Sale $12 per calendar after Mass or parish office during office hours.

Daily Mass Prayer Book 2023

Prayer book Sale after Mass or parish office during office hours. $20 per copy.

PRIVATE BAPTISM.

Private baptism continues until further notices. Please contact the priests for booking a private baptism. Your child's birth certificate is required for completing the enrolment form when meeting the priest. Priests' numbers are on page 4 of the bulletin.

PRESENTS FOR THE CHRISTMAS TREE BOTH PARISHES.

Last Sunday we blessed the advent wreath and this weekend we bless the Christmas tree. It has been 3 Christmas since covid19 that we have missed giving out presents to the lest fortunate in our local community. This year asking each family to please bring a present for our Christmas trees this Sunday. Recommended presents for the trees are doll, action figure dolls, educational, soft toys, cars, trucks and etc.. for the ages from 0 to 9years old. Please no toy guns.

Marriage & Family Life.

would like to invite to you consider becoming Marriage Educators. If you have 2 hours a fortnight and are passionate about helping engaged couples prepare for marriage and have been married for 5 years or more, please contact Gerry on 021 02247442.

ST. THERESE MONEY DONATION.

Fundraising donation day new and final amount is $34,830.00 Once again thank you to all parishioners for your contributions and continuous support towards our parish this year.

ST. THERESE LOAN.

As per request at parish AGM an update balance for St. Therese parish loan as at the 31st October, 2022 is $243,322.76

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Starts in February 2023. Enrolments starts in December. Baptism certificate is required for enrolment. Forms are available at the parish office. Please contact Talei Solomon Mua for more details.

POLICE VETTING RENEWAL.

Attention all volunteers, before you go away on holiday this Christmas, please collect a copy of the police vetting application from the parish office or after Mass on Sunday in the foyer to complete and drop it back to the parish office. All applications submitted in 2020 is due to expire on January, 2023. Please bring driver's license or passport for verification with you when you drop off your form. For more information, please contact Teresa Ah Wa, Safeguarding liaise person.

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY ST. THERESE PARISH.

All parishioners are invited to celebrate this year's success and your hard work in our church community. Christmas party on Saturday the 10thof December 6pm-12 midnight. Please BYO. Dinner will be provided.

SOCIETY of ST VINCENT DE PAUL. SOUTH AUCKLAND

A Situations Vacant is available at the Mangere Bridge Op Shop, as Shop Manager32 Coronation Rd, Mangere Bridge. To view the Position Description and make an application. Please view on the following link https://www.seek.co.nz/job/59335792type=standard#sol=178bba2f6630950798bcd6f542dedd1cc1608ac2

WE HELP PEOPLE

3rd December, 2022. Advent 2 Year A. [Psalter W2]

TODAY'S READINGS Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

Serving the poor with love.

John the Baptist was quite a celebrity around Jerusalem. People came from everywhere to see this strange man who lived on locusts and wild honey, dressed in camel hair, and preached the need for repentance. He even instituted a new ritual of baptism – pouring water on people's heads – as a sign of forgiveness for those who confess their sins and genuinely seek a new way of life.

But John remained ever suspicious of people's motives. So, on seeing a number of Sadducees and Pharisees coming for baptism, he questioned their motivation calling them a "brood of vipers"! John never attended that class on "How to win friends and influence people"! He was more interested in confronting people with their sins so they may change their ways. The fact that people continued to come to the river Jordan to hear John preach, they knew his message to be true.

While John did not tire from preaching his message of repentance, he was equally insistent on announcing the coming of the Messiah – the one who will "baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire" and pronounce judgment upon the world – separating the 'good wheat' from the 'evil chaff'. As John insisted, he was not worthy to carry the sandals of this promised messenger of God.

This promise of a coming divine messenger is also expressed in the prophecy of Isaiah who envisages a new beginning with a ruler-king blessed with wisdom, insight, compassion and fear of the Lord. He will inaugurate God's reign by bringing judgment on the wicked and justice for the poor. The whole of creation will be transformed so that violence is replaced by harmony as in images of the wolf and lamb or calf and lion living and playing together!

In the real world where you and I live, God's reign of justice, peace and harmony is evidently far from reality. So, how are we Christians to judge Jesus as the promised Messiah? Evidently, we need to concede that his ministry is incomplete. Furthermore, it is you and I, the disciples of Jesus, who are called upon to continue his ministry as we await the messianic completion of creation at the end-of-time.

Sometimes problems facing us and our world appear so big, we can easily despair. In today's Letter to the Romans, we are told everything written in the scriptures teaches us "something about hope" so that, whatever life's challenges, we know we will be "helped by God".

In the words of Pope Francis: "Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God". Let us then heed the message of today's readings by seeking God's love and forgiveness as we prepare to celebrate the Christ-coming. And let us put this message into action through our loving service of the poor.

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