

CATHEDRAL OF ST PATRICK & ST JOSEPH NEWSLETTER



CHRISTMAS 2021



Pastor's Note

“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.” At last, the journeys’ end. For there have been different paths. Mary and Joseph, having travelled down from Galilee, at last arrive weary into Bethlehem. The shepherds, making their way down from the hills in the surrounding countryside, will soon reach the stable. A few more days and the magi will have crossed far greater distances, followed the star to this same end. And at the end of these three journeys, the child who is the glory of God and peace to men and women.

Each of these journeys captures or reflects something of even longer, harder, travels. In Mary and Joseph we see something of Israel’s journey towards the Promised Land. This was the exodus journey out of slavery through a wilderness beset with trials, the darkness of infidelity to the covenant, the persecution of the prophets, dark days of foreign invasion and the desecration of God’s holy nation. Encapsulated in the magi’s pilgrimage, lies the gentiles’ long search for God, the darkness of idolatry, and perhaps the guiding light of reason. And, then, the shepherds who live in the fields, a journey made by the homeless and migrant labourers, by the marginalised outsiders who contend against the darkness of both material deprivation and social exclusion. We might see within them also a reflection of our own journey through the difficulties of the pandemic.

All find their journey’s end in the Christ child. It isn’t simply that each of these travels finish at the same point, but in this common ending the travellers themselves find a new commonality. What does the angel say? ‘I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people.’ That joy can be summed up in Shakespeare’s line from Twelfth Night: “Journeys end in lovers meeting.” In the Incarnation we see the One who loves us above all others come to meet us – as he continues to do each day of our lives, most especially in the sacraments we once again will be able to share. So we can share the amazement of the poet Sir John Betjeman:

And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window’s hue,
A Baby in an ox’s stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me ?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare –
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

Amid the joys and struggles of this Christmas let us remember to give thanks for that great truth,
God is with us, not just on this Christmas Day, but to the end of our lives and beyond.

*Fr Chris Denham, Dean
Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph*

**The Cathedral Staff pray that you have a happy and holy Christmas
and we look forward to seeing you all at the Cathedral in 2022.**

Liturgy of the Word

~ **Isaiah 52:7-10** This great hymn of exultation at the return of the exiles from Babylon is also a poem of joy at our redemption.

~ **Psalm 89** All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

~ **Hebrews 1:1-6** The whole history of God’s dealings with his people in the past was a preparation for the coming of his Son at a particular moment in history.

~ **Luke 2:1-14** This is a great hymn of the Word of God, the source of all life, whose coming among us makes us children of God.

Readings for the Feast of the Holy Family: 1 Samuel 1:20-22.24-28; Psalm 89; 1 John 3:1-2.21-24; Gospel: Luke 2:41-52
For Sunday and weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.com AND www.livingtheword.org.nz

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COVID19 FRAMEWORK RED AT THE CATHEDRAL

Mass Monday 27th to Friday 31st December- 8.30 am

- You must have a valid Vaccine Pass – this will be checked before entering the Cathedral outside the main doors
- Entry will be through the main Cathedral doors only
- You will need to either check in using the Covid App or sign in using the register available at the entrance
- You are encouraged to wear a mask
- Seating is in the Nave only.
- Once we reach the capacity limit of 100 persons allowed under Covid Framework level Red we cannot admit any further people.
- Please do not enter the Cathedral if you are feeling unwell.

COVID19 FRAMEWORK ORANGE AT THE CATHEDRAL

We will recommence our Sunday Masses once we are in **Orange on Sunday 2nd January 2022**. In Orange we will be having Masses for Vaccinated people only.

- You must have a valid Vaccine Pass – this will be checked before entering the Cathedral outside the main doors
- Entry will be through the main Cathedral doors only
- You will need to either check in using the Covid App or sign in using the register available at the entrance
- You are encouraged to wear a mask
- There is no requirement for physical distancing under the Orange setting if you are vaccinated.

Our intended timetable at **Orange** is:

1st January 2022 – the Solemnity of Mary

Mass at 8.30 am only (there will be no Vigil on 31st December due to security concerns)

2nd January 2022—Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Mass will be at 8 am, 11 am & 4.30 pm (please note that there will be no 7 pm Masses for the month of January.)

Mass Monday 3rd to Friday 7th January—8.30 am

The Cathedral Office—The Cathedral office will be closed from 1 pm 24th December. During the period of 26th December to 5th January the office email will be monitored intermittently. For any urgent matters or concerns you may contact Fr Chris directly on 021 932 366.

NZ Catholic - the Christmas digital edition is now available for everyone at: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/7cf1046d-de15-49c7-9232-0e8ea6146abf>

Please pray for those who are sick, recovering from surgery or needing our prayers, especially:

Victoria Wallace, Barbara McCormick, Barbara Davies, Corazon Villanueva Misa, Angela Robinson, Maurice Robinson, Maura Just, Alissa Neal, Malu Beltran, Frank Guzzo, Avelino Tibudan, Natalie Keane, Aaron Ablan, Jenny Fewtrell, Teresa Gudex, Lucas Arnet, Annabel Kalin, Dennis Matthew, Marlee Owens, Samira & Raj, John Sullivan, James L. Cu, Sepi Fe'ao, Ben Hunt, Ana Laura Robles, Ana Denisse Manjarrez, Brian Murphy, Sue Bedford, Emy Calma, Christopher Hughes, Alberto Olarte, Joe Raymond, Ambi Joseph, Ivy Hi, Chris Dwyer, Royston Beckham, Margaret Everett, Alice Swann, John & Rosa Williams, Ann Sayegh, Marie Mole, Linda Mole, Fr Andrei Centeno, Mary Bratton, Kirei Tua, Elizabeth Beckham, Alana North, AS, Michael Wong, Yaroslav Khmel, Maree C, Kanawhat Cheevachit, Anne Telles, Linus Broughton, Sue Wynne Davis, Rosily Chacko, Thilsi Vern, Joy Agon, Patricia Wright, Luigi & Dawn Rocca, Bonifacio Sanches, Neira, Gavin Alexander, Chonusi William, Rosa Santos, Teana Jones, Judy Hanna, Maria Martho, Eric & Rachel Smith, Jon Manson, Francisco Billinilanz, BC, Benny Clynes, Lynn Barnett Welsh, Christopher Browne, Barry Spooner, Nicholas James, Pamela Vincent, Shane McGruddy, Rosita Galarg, Michelle Bergin, J. Harrington, Rodolfo Paragas, Serena Coughey, Martin Harriman, Ann Gordon, Adelaida Sison, John Kainuku, Noeline Levick, Jin Shu Qin, Jill Hopgood-Luypers, Virgilia Velasquez, Wilfred Mansoor, Baden McPherson, Shannon Kavanagh, Gloria Gillespie.

We remember those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time . . .

Fr Martin Bugler, Rogelio Antolin, Victorino Antolin, Sr Valerie Gunnion rsm Fr Frank Roach, June Yuong, Olga Wolk, Marge Rameka, Josephine Aitchison, Vilma Adique, Santos Adique, Karen McDonald, Chris Hughes, Aileen Fitzpatrick, Consolotrix Redillos-Ageas, Baby Eli, Elizabeth Hood, John Body, Catriona Jackson, Ivan Selak, Wim Van Het Bolscher, Jude Fernandes, Murray Tanner, Adrian de la Santos, Lance Christian, Mary Kearns, Rosemary Weatherstone, Br Sean Hanaray FMS, John Fabling, Msgr Paul Cronin, Mary Henley, Janine Haywood, Peggy Griffiths, Cornelius Bakker, Frederick (Buster) Bell-Booth, Julita Binuya, Milagros Logarta, Doris Mary Myers, John Shea, Ella Swanson, Don Thompson, Betty White . . . *Eternal rest grant to them.*

CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Mass Live-streamed from the Cathedral

Christmas Eve Friday 24th December

Mass will be live streamed at 8 pm from the Cathedral on YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCclxpinSVIWrvXYN7u5-ksg/featured>

You can download the **hymn sheet** to sing along with the choir at <https://www.stpatricks.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Christmas-Eve-2021.pdf>

Mass for Sunday 26 December, the Feast of the Holy Family

Will be live streamed from the Cathedral Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/stpatricksnz/?ref=settings>

Cathedral Spotify Page—Music for Christmas. Our Director of Music, Nicholas Forbes creates a weekly Spotify Music list for each of our Sunday Masses. Listen for free at

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1pEgBqBjVfzhEBebpQsi7g?si=07ce612389ad45fb>

~ ~ ~ **Christmas Mass on Shine TV**—will be available from the

Diocesan YouTube channel Christmas Eve from 5.30pm <https://youtu.be/ErWJvtL75MA>. To join in with full voice with the singing you can download the Hymn Sheet <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Christmas-2021-Shine-TV.pdf>

This Mass will also be available on free to air TV on Shine TV Christmas Day at 1 pm & Free-to-air TV Channel 25, Sky TV Channel 201.

Santo Nino 2022 at the Cathedral

Nine Days of Novena Masses in devotion to the Holy Child Jesus (Senor Santo Nino). 6th—15th January 2022 at the Cathedral.

Rosary at 6.45 pm Novena at 7 pm and Mass at 7.30 pm. Sunday 9th January Rosary will be at 6 pm followed by 7 pm Mass.

Validated parking will be available at the Wilson's car parks on Hobson Street and Durham Lane.

All are welcome! For more information phone Oscar 027 5701139 or Miriam 027 4875 428.

Children's Sacramental Programme at the Cathedral 2022

Enquiry forms will be available in the Cathedral by the notice board from 2 January. Enrolments close 31 January 2022. Contact anita@stpatricks.org.nz for more information.

SYNOD For a Synodal Church—get involved

To find out about the Synod, what consider signing up for Synod Snapshot a fortnightly newsletter that will be published fortnightly from 26 of January. To find out more visit <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/synod/>.