

Prayers for the Sick

Each week a Mass will be offered for the sick, including those mentioned below. If you would like a name added to the list, please email details to the office.

Please pray for the sick and retired Priests of St John Vianney and Little Sisters of the Poor, Bishop Patrick Dunn, Tracey & Max Stacey, Peter Sugden, Mary Nevin, Louis & Lucie Morello, Michaela Schmidt, Louana Schmidt, Sinili Chan Ting, Mele Moataane, Fa'avai Vasau, Lucky Savelio, Vivien, Michael Wong, Stephanie Vilich, Maria Fatima Tunai, Kathleen & Doreen Follas, Patrick & John Meleisea, Barbara Stacey, Colleen Wright, Shaye Stowers-Tualega, Patricia Jelas, Adrien Lunai, Lesley Moore, Katrina Cole, Patea Niupopo, Sam Kenny, Helen Sloan, John Gavin, Ally's Mum, Nick Nestoriwsky, Pauline Senn, Matilda Low, Paull Grasby, Lisa Finucane, Phyllis Petricevich, Theresa Bercades, Diane Young, Sylvia Kok, Anne Riseborough, Jane Cavanagh-Eyre, Allie Blucher, Ally, Chris Speight, Garth Stewart, Anna Tan, Juliet Eyre and her baby twins Amalia and Madeleine

We also pray for those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Coming up in the Parish...

- * **Christmas Midnight Mass @ Sacred Heart** Carols begin at 11pm
- * **New Year's Eve Mass @ OLPH**—9pm Adoration, 11.15pm Mass
- * **Parish Retreat**—26-29 Jan 2024. Details to come
- * **Parish Family Mass**—5pm Vigil Mass, 10 Feb 2024 followed by fellowship. More details to come.
- * The **Agape Community**, every Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm at Sacred Heart Hall, fellowship and pizza at the Ponsonby Food Court to follow.

Today's Theme:

My brothers and sisters, God our Father is always faithful to his promises, and he has promised us through Jesus Christ, that there will be a new kingdom. Let us pray in this season of preparation, to make ourselves ready for that kingdom.

Feast Days and Memorials this Week

26 December—St Stephen, the first martyr

27 December—St John, apostle, evangelist

28 November—The Holy Innocents, martyrs

Christmas is a time of joy and thanksgiving that Christ Jesus was born. What you can do: Over this Christmas season think of ways you could bring joy and thanksgiving to others.

Courses at Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College

Enrolment for the Bachelor of Divinity and Graduate Diploma in Theology is on-going until the end of January 2024. The Certificate and Diploma in Christian Studies are also accepting enrolment for 2024. Semester starts on 19 February 2024. For courses offered on campus, online and each diocese, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/timetables. To enrol, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/apply

Zoom Community: Prepare the Way of the Lord

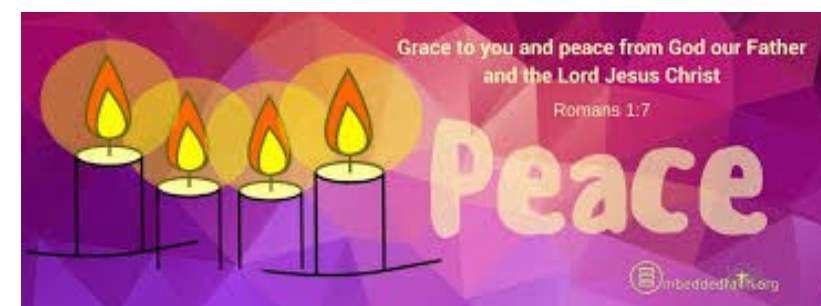
Advent is a special time to reflect, to ponder the Word, and to 'Be still' and silent in the presence of God. You are welcome join a community on Zoom this Advent from the holiness of your home - **Saturday evenings** to ponder the Advent Sunday Gospels; **Wednesday mornings** in silent Meditation; **Wednesday evenings** to reflect on Pope Francis message for us that 'it is confidence that must lead to love'. Register with diannaf@cda.org.nz

Friendship Club

St Joseph's Home, Little Sisters of the Poor, who care for the aged, are inviting senior members of the wider community for a time of friendship and prayer on a week day basis. For more info, contact the Home (9 Tweed Street, Herne Bay), 09 361 4600

Ngā Tapuwae – A Self Directed Pilgrimage 2024

Registrations are now open! Our Northland pilgrimage sites will be attended by CDA staff to welcome you and share the stories at specific times on 12 and 13 January 2024, but you will travel independently having organised your transport, accommodation, and food. Your pilgrimage will end with the anniversary Mass at Totara Point on 14 January. All are welcome to participate and learn more of our Catholic heritage. You can experience the sacred places of Kupe, Bishop Pompallier and the early missionaries. To register email, Dcn Steve Fraser on stephenf@cda.org.nz or phone 021439407.



Welcome to Mass please take the opportunity to introduce yourself or say hello to someone before or after Mass.

The Christmas season is a reminder to Christians that despite hardships, God chose to join himself to humanity and still remains by its side, Pope Francis said. "Christmas is a reminder that God loves us and wants to be with us," the pope told a group of children at the Vatican Dec 15 during a meeting with representatives from the Italian Catholic Action movement.

The Incarnation, he said, "is a stupendous gift, and it brings with it another: that we may also love one another as brothers and sisters."

"How much we need this today," he added, "so many people, so many children suffer because of war." Pope Francis recalled that more than 3,000 children have died in Gaza since the outbreak of war in the Holy Land, as well as the more than 500 children that have died in Ukraine and the thousands that died during the years of war in Yemen.

"Their memory, in turn, invites us to be lights for the world, to touch the hearts of many people, especially those who can stop the whirlwind of violence," the pope said.

He added that only by loving God and loving one another "can the world rediscover the light and the peace that it needs" and which was proclaimed by the angels who announced Jesus' birth.

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

Parish Office Closed

The parish office is closed and will reopen on Wednesday, 31 January 2024. We wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a joyous 2024!

Nativity Play @ 10.30 Mass on Christmas Day

This year, the family Christmas Mass will be held at 10.30am Mass at Sacred Heart on Christmas Day. We would love to see our little parishioners dressed up as angels or shepherds and join in the nativity play.



Parish Sacramental Programme 2024

Our parish Sacramental programme will begin in February with all sessions held at 3pm on Sundays. If your child will be 8 years and over by February 2024, we invite you to register them as the spaces are limited. **Download your form at** ponsonbyhernebayparish.org.nz **or pick-up a** registration sheet from the foyer. *Registration closes 5 February 2024.*



God's Word 2024

Get your copy from the parish office and start the new year right! At \$25 each, it's a wonderful way to make sure you get your daily dose of Scripture and reflection. *You can pay by cash or bank transfer to 02-0108-0707673-000 and reference your name and the book title.*



How You Can Help...

- * **Donate a prepaid supermarket or petrol card (please attach the receipt).**
- * **Take** any clothing or household items to charity shops, please do not leave them in the church, outside the office or outside CSS. You can contact Vinnies Auckland Centre at 0800 680 090.
- * **Be involved** in a Ministry in the parish, see Fr Rory or May
- * **Donate** non-perishable food items to the **food box** in the foyer

Parish Finances

Last week's Gifting: **\$1409**

Planned Giving: Thank you for your generous support. If you wish to donate to the parish by internet banking, details for your bank are:

Ponsonby HB Parish
02-0108-0707673-000

If you are contributing by automatic payment please ensure that your name is on the 'payee' section of the bank form. Please contact the office with your details so we can issue a tax receipt. Thank you.

Please remember the parish of Ponsonby Herne Bay in your Will.

The Sacrament of Baptism

If you require the Sacrament of Baptism for yourself or a family member please contact Fr Rory: priest@phbcatholic.org.nz or 021 0394 980.

Catholic School Preference Forms

Dear Parents, if you wish for me to sign a Preference Form for Catholic schools, please either leave the form in the letterbox at Sacred Heart 16 Vermont Street, or the "leave and collect" board at 84 Kelmarna Ave. Please leave your contact phone number and I will be in touch with you. Fr Rory.



Holy Cross Seminary

Please pray for vocations, for those in discernment and for this year's seminarians, teachers and support staff.
www.holycross.org.nz

MARIST
Herne Bay



Marist Catholic School, Herne Bay

Encouraging the pursuit & celebration of excellence.

Come and visit us; we are a values driven central city Integrated Catholic Primary School. We strive for academic excellence in our warm and friendly environment with plenty of green open space.

We are an un-zoned local school serving our surrounding areas. However, many children travel to join us. We have families that have been with us for generations.

Address: 82 Kelmarna Avenue, Herne Bay, Auckland 1011
Phone: 09 376 7173
or email Sarah Gleeson principal@maristschool.co.nz

Website: maristhernebay.school.nz



Need more Scripture in your life?

Laudate app—A free Catholic app that has daily readings and reflections, Liturgy of the Hours, prayers, the Rosary, chaplets and so much more!
Ascension app—Ever wanted to read the whole Bible? Listen along to Fr Mike Schmitz as he guides us through it in 365 episodes. The Catechism in a Year is also available on this free app.
Foodforfaith.org.nz with Fr John O'Connor, lively podcasts and Lectio Divina.

Sunday 24 December 2023

Readings at Mass

First reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.’ Nathan said to the king, ‘Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.’

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

‘Go and tell my servant David, “Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.”’

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 88(89):2-5,27,29

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

‘He will say to me: “You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.”
I will keep my love for him always;
with him my covenant shall last.’

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second reading Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

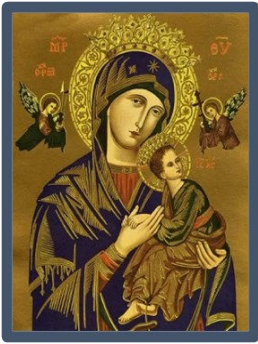
The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. He went in and said to her, ‘Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.’ She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, ‘Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?’ ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you’ the angel answered ‘and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.’ ‘I am the handmaid of the Lord,’ said Mary ‘let what you have said be done to me.’ And the angel left her.

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PONSONBY HERNE BAY PARISH



Fourth Sunday of Advent
24 December 2023



CHRISTMAS EVE

NO VIGIL MASS

Midnight Mass (Carols at 11pm) Sacred Heart

NEW YEAR’S EVE

11.15pm Mass (9pm Adoration) OLPH

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.30am Mass OLPH
10.30am Mass (Family Mass) Sacred Heart

NEW YEAR’S DAY

NO 7AM MASS AT OLPH
8am Mass Sacred Heart

PONSONBY HERNE BAY PARISH SUMMER MASS TIMETABLE (26 Dec ‘23 - 14 Jan ‘24)

Sacred Heart Church: 16 Vermont St, Ponsonby Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 84 Kelmarna Ave, Herne Bay

SUNDAYS

Vigil Mass 5.00pm Sacred Heart, Ponsonby
Sunday 8.30am Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Herne Bay
10.30am Sacred Heart, Ponsonby

WEEKDAYS

Monday	7.00am	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Herne Bay	Exposition 6.00am
Tuesday	8.00am	Sacred Heart, Ponsonby	Exposition 7.00am
Wednesday	7.00am	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Herne Bay	Exposition 6.00am
Thursday	8.00am	Sacred Heart, Ponsonby	Exposition 7.00am
Friday	7.00am	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Herne Bay	Exposition 7.00am
	12.10pm	Sacred Heart, Ponsonby	Exposition 11.00am
Saturday	8.00am	Sacred Heart, Ponsonby	

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Friday 11.30am Sacred Heart, Ponsonby

Sacred Heart

5pm Vigil Mass 23 December
Word: Mary-Anne, Owen
POF: Bridget
Gifts: Lloyd family
EMOE: Karen, Michael, Cecilia
Servers: Ranen, Finn, Eula

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

8.30am Sunday 24 December
Word: Brian, Helen
POF: Philip
Gifts: Tofaeono family
EMOE: Regina, Tangi, Louana

Sacred Heart

10.30am Sunday 24 December
Word: Tongan
POF:
Gifts:
EMOE:
Servers:

Parish Priest: Fr Rory Morrissey
Office: 09 376-4303
Website: www.ponsonbyhernebayparish.org.nz
Parish Administrator May
Going into hospital? Call 358 0825 ext 4000 and ask for a visit from a priest

Mobile: 021 0394 980 Email: priest@phbcatholic.org.nz
Email: office@phbcatholic.org.nz
Facebook: ponsonbyhernebayparish Auckland