

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

Serving the people of South Taranaki in Hawera, Normanby and Manaia



*Fourth Sunday Advent Year B
20th December 2020*

YES!



The angel Gabriel was sent by God 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.' Mary 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. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. 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. 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you 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. I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her. Luke 1:26-38

We are very close now to celebrating the great events surrounding the birth of Christ our saviour and king. What would the world be like if we were to allow Christ to *really* be our king? What would a world ruled by Jesus the Christ look like? Think, no more war. An end to all kinds of violence. A world without poverty or homelessness. An end to racism and suffering. For there to even be a king, one person had to say yes to God. In today's gospel Mary responds with great generosity and in her YES to God, she became the Mother of God and Jesus' first disciple. More than this *she gives us an example of how we are called to respond to God when we are called.* If only we could be as generous as Mary, who knows what joy the world would experience!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributes to the life of our parish community both in worship and in service to the wider community. May our good God bless you abundantly. I have one more request. I encourage you to invite your family to join you on Christmas Day and bring them to Mass with you. We really need children dressed as shepherds and angels to enhance our celebration. Whether they choose to come or not is up to them. Mary wouldn't (or couldn't) have responded if she had not been invited. It takes courage to be a disciple of Jesus. Please make use of this season of grace to take a small risk and then leave it up to God. Only ask once. Just say a prayer before you speak and then go for it. *Do not be afraid – listen* (the angel's words to Mary)

Thank you for your opportunity to serve you this year. Despite the difficulties, it has been a good year with many people showing great generosity and courage in the face of a world pandemic. May our good God bless you and your loved ones this Christmas and in the new year to come. Fr Craig

PARISH INFORMATION

St Joseph's Church 38 Victoria St Hawera
Sacred Heart Church 43 Ngatai St Manaia
Mission Centre (Parish and School office)
Little Regent St behind the church
Postal Address Box 488 Hawera 4640
Email stjoshw@xtra.co.nz

Website <https://stjosephshawera.weebly.com>

(Office Hours Mon - Fri 9.00am - 12.00noon)

Parish Secretary Patrea Clement 06 278 5656
Parish Priests Craig Butler Mob 021 272 4401 (24hrs)
Fr Joseph Tha Khu 027 232 7532

SUNDAY MASS TIMETABLE

Saturday	26/12	5.00pm	St Joseph's Hawera
Sunday	27/12	9.30am	St Joseph's Hawera

WEEKDAY MASS TIMETABLE

Monday	9.00am	Communion Service
Tuesday	9.00am	Mass
Wednesday	10.30am	Mass Trinity
Thursday	9.00am	Mass
Friday	9.00am	Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays at 11.30am, or any time by appointment

Ministries for Christmas Masses. We still require

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, & Power Point Operators, for our Christmas Vigil & Christmas Day Masses. Please leave your names on the sheets in the foyer if you are available, or email or phone the office.

Christmas Mass Times

Vigil Dec 24th Mass 9pm Carols 8.45pm

Christmas Day Dec 25th Mass 9.30am



Flowers & Greenery for Christmas we are looking for flowers & greenery for Christmas. Buckets will be provided in the flower room, please have flowers to the room by Wednesday 23rd December. Many Thanks.

Hawera Food Bank - The Hawera Foodbank would like to thank you all very much for your continued generosity and support during this very difficult year. Your support is very much appreciated. Thank you also to Eileen Martelletti who brings the groceries to the Foodbank every Monday morning. Thank you all. We wish you all a Merry and Holy Christmas and Happy New Year. Barbara Hurcomb.

Cleaning Cupboard- Due to the leaks in this area, our vacuum cleaners brooms and garden equipment can be found in the small meeting room.

Christmas Masses We would like to livestream Mass on Christmas Day for our parishioners who are homebound or in hospital. I need someone to work with who is willing to help set up the camera and operate it on the day. This is not a difficult task but will make the world of difference to those who would love to be with us on this special day, but cant. Fr Craig 021 272 4401

Thanks Thank you to all parishioners for your support, friendliness and willingness, to support our Parish this year. Special thanks To those who have fulfilled our rosters, parish councils, finance ,liturgy, floristry, gardening, musicians, hospitality, communion to the sick, & to those who have contributed to planned giving. A special thanks to Fr's Craig & Joseph for their priestly & pastoral ministry. There are a number of people who do great work without being noticed. There will be no newsletters until the end of January. May you all have a Happy & Holy Christmas. **The Parish Office will be closed from December 24th until mid January.** Messages can be left on the parish

answerphones or contact Fr's Craig or Fr Joseph cellphone on front of newsletter.

Mums & Bubz Group will resume in mid February 2021

Society of St Vincent de Paul Hawera are offering Tertiary study grant for those first year students attending University or Polytechnic in 2021. Applicants should have attended St Joseph's Primary School or are members of the St Joseph's Parish. Application forms with criteria, are available from the St Vincent de Paul Shop, 234 High Street, Hawera and close on the 31st January 2021. The Vincentian Foundation for the elderly Grant –Want to know more visit St Vincent de Paul Shop for further information.

Year of St Joseph - Prayer to St Joseph

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became a man.*

*Blessed Joseph,
show yourself to us
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen*

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

Online Session (Retreat Day): Who am I? – Reflecting on our Identity in God with Eamon Butler. Saturday, 30 January, 10.30am-4pm. Fee: \$60, ZOOM

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/virtual-retreat-day-with-eamon-butler-who-am-i/>

For more information and registration: info@studyjoy.nz

THE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ABUSE IN CARE. The Church takes all complaints of abuse seriously. We encourage anyone who has been abused by a priest or religious to contact them, for your story to be heard and your complaint to be investigated. Alternately you may choose to go directly to the Police, and the Church will support anyone who requires assistance to do this. Email: prof.standards@nzcbc.org.nz Phone: 0800 114 622

PRAYERS FOR OUR LOVED ONES WHO HAVE DIED:

We remember and pray for all those who have died recently, especially Lorna Sattler, Patricia Hickman, Rudi Milesi, and all whose anniversaries are at this time including Margaret Henry, Ethan Kowalewski, Mary Frank, Margaret Freiman, Paul Bourke, Terence Stanford, Alison Broughton, & Michael Seaver. Mass has been requested for Terry Bigham, Betty & Ken Albon.