

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

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



4th Sunday Advent
22 December 2019
Year A

4 SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means God is with us. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home. Matthew 1:18-24

In today's Gospel, we read about the faith of Joseph. The angel who appeared to him in a dream said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid". When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel commanded him. Joseph received an explanation from the angel, but I am sure that he still had many unanswered questions. Somehow, Joseph was able to act on what he was told despite his questions. Matthew explains that this was part of the fulfilment of Isaiah's ancient prophesy, but it is not clear that Joseph acted on such knowledge. In the midst of crisis, we cannot always connect the dots, but act we must.

Like Joseph, we too are called to act in faith. This usually requires choices to be made without a complete understanding of their significance in the unfolding plan of God. Not many of us get an angel to guide or confirm our choices. Instead, we must rely on daily encounters with God that come through the Scriptures, the Sacraments, and Prayer. By listening and discerning (which requires stillness and silence) we get to share in the life of God and, at the same time, overcome our fears through our experience of God's love. Love and fear cannot coexist. Like other forms of incremental change, we may not recognize it until time has passed, but when we do, it gives us hope. Joseph is our parish patron saint. I encourage you to seek his intercession in your decision making, especially when the way ahead is unclear. St Joseph, pray for all of us!

PARISH INFORMATION

St Joseph's Church 38 Victoria St Hawera
Sacred Heart Church 43 Ngatai St Manaia
Mission Centre (parish/school) office
Postal Address Box 488 Hawera 4640
Email stjoshw@xtra.co.nz
Website www.stjoshw.co.nz

Parish Secretary Patrea Clement 06 2785656
Parish Priest Fr Craig Butler 06 2785656
a/h mobile 021 272 4401 24hrs
(Office Hours Mon – Fri 9.00am – 12.00noon)

SUNDAY MASS TIMETABLE

Saturday 5pm 28 December St Joseph's Hawera
Sunday Hoani Papita 2 February 11.15am Mass

Weekday Mass Timetable

Monday 9.00am Mass
Tuesday 9.00am Mass
Tuesday 9.00pm Mass Vigil
Wednesday 9.00am Mass
Thursday 9.00am Mass
Friday 9.00am Mass
Saturday 11.30am Rite 1 Reconciliation (or any time by appointment).

Fr Craig's Corner I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank everyone who has contributed to the building up of God's Reign on earth, here in South Taranaki. I am often inspired by the love and generosity of so many people who give of their time and resources to help in this work. I am particularly grateful to all those who quietly act without anyone knowing. I am in a privileged position to hear stories of people's kindness and my heart soars when I hear such stories. I would also like to acknowledge all who have died during the past 12 months. May they rest in peace and I pray for all who are grieving, that they are blessed with the peace of Christ. Lastly, I would like to acknowledge all who have supported myself and Fr's Anthony and Joseph in our work of serving. Sometimes, it feels the other way round. Speaking for myself, I feel very welcome and loved. Who could ask for more. As we approach the great feast of Christmas at which we celebrate the birth of our saviour Jesus the Christ, I pray that you make him the focus of your celebrations and in doing so experience the wonder and joy which only he can give. May our good God bless you and all your loved ones.
Fr Craig

Flowers for Christmas

The flower group are looking for flowers & greenery for our Christmas displays. Please leave these in the working sacristy tomorrow Monday 23rd in the buckets provided. The arranging will be done on Tuesday.



Mass Times for Christmas

Vigil Christmas Eve 24th Dec Mass begins at 9pm

Christmas Day Mass 25th Dec Mass begins at 9am.

Children are welcome to come dressed as shepherds, wise men & angels.

If you are available for a Ministry on Christmas Vigil or Christmas Day please sign up in the foyer.

Daily Mass Calendars have arrived they are \$3.50, and available from the office.

Baptisms- We welcome through Baptism Holly Durrant & her visiting cousins Troy & River van Druten.

We also welcome Louie Hebler son of Erwin & Vivien who will be baptised after Christmas.

St Vincent de Paul Society, Hawera are offering Tertiary study grant for those attending University or Polytechnic in 2020. Applicants should have attended St Joseph's Primary School or are members of the St Joseph's Parish, Hawera family. Application forms with criteria, are available from the St Vincent de Paul Shop, 234 High Street, Hawera. Applications close end January 2020 recipients notified in February.

Date for the Diary

On behalf of the PPC we invite you to join us in celebrating Fr Craig's 25th Ordination Anniversary on Sunday 15th February. There will be a shared brunch after 9.30am Mass. If you wish to contribute towards a monetary gift for Fr Craig, envelopes can be left with Patrea at the Parish Office.

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Ignatian Spirituality for Women

An 8 day silent, individually guided retreat

Given by Adriana Janus, Nicola McCarthy and Joy Cowley.

20-29 March 2020 Magnificat Retreat Centre, Featherston

Cost: \$675, includes accommodation for 9 nights, all meals

and daily spiritual direction. For further information and

registration please contact Joy Cowley,

joycowley@xtra.co.nz

PRAYER

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December: Dialogue and Reconciliation in the Near East

That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

Prayer Circle: Prayer requests can be left in the specially marked box in the foyer. This box is cleared every day. Alternatively you can contact our coordinator Sue directly on 278 4635.

Adoration Fridays at 8.15am before Mass.

Evening Prayer of the Church Sundays 5.00pm.

Prayers for the Dead: We remember and pray for all our loved ones who have died recently especially Michael Seaver. We also pray for those from our Parish whose anniversaries occur around this time in December over the last 5 years: Robert Watt, Aenid Werder, Margaret Henry, Ethan Kowalewski, Mary Frank, Margaret Freiman, Paul Bourke, Terence Stanford & Alison Broughton & in January over the last 5 years, Jez Seaver, Bernadette Salt, Martin Sidler, Mavis Schuler, Elaine Reed, Robin Sutherland, Bart Harrington, Joan Brennan & Eileen O'Keefe. Mass has been requested by SVDP for Margrit Dudli. Mass has been requested for Geoff Purser & John Schicker. May they rest in peace.

Hospitality : 29 Dec Shirley McGlinchey Ph 2785549

Sunday Morning Tea: Barbara Waite & Faith Carter

Flowers: 28 Dec Carol Mack

Greeters: 28 Dec Carroll & Janice Walsh

Greeters: 29 Dec Ann Dombroski & Trish Coleman

Power point: 28 Dec Eileen Malcolm

29 Dec Peter Orcine

During this Christmas Season

May you be blessed with the spirit of the season which is peace, The gladness of the season which is hope. And the Heart of the Season which is love.