

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

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



*First Sunday Advent Year B
29 November 2020*

A REVERSE ADVENT



Christmas is coming, presents are being considered and wrapped, people are gathering for parties, some of us will be rushing from shop to shop in preparation for the big day and many of us are working hard to finish our work before the big day! For Jesus' disciples, Christmas is one of the great feasts, during which we gather to celebrate the birth of Christ. Sometimes, in the rush to do make it a memorable occasion for those we love even Christians can forget what Christmas is about. God loves us so much that he sent his own Son to live among us, in order to show how to live life to its fullest. So as we get ready for this special time, I encourage you to take some time to prayerfully prepare to welcome Christ among us. .

We call this season of preparation Advent. It is a very special time of the year in which things are not quite the same. In Church the colours change from green to purple and we are hearing stories about promise, salvation and waiting. Advent calendars have changed also. Most advent calendars today no longer tell the Christmas story but have become part of the commercial preparation for Christmas. More often than not, they contain Chocolate and not the Jesus Story. In order to bring back that sense of the Sacred, Jesus who challenges us to be missionary, to reach out for others I encourage you to try a different way to count-down the days till Christmas.

Instead of the contemporary chocolate Advent Calendars, try creating your own Reverse Advent Calendar. The point of difference is for us to refocus from receiving to giving. Each day it's not you being gifted with a chocolate, but instead, you collecting gifts for those in need. One way to do this, is to get an empty box or basket and put one item for your local Food Bank into it every day. It's a great way to show children that Christmas is mostly about giving. You can also get them involved in the project by asking them to decorate the box and making their own contributions.

For some people, Christmas is a time of excess and indulgence, but for others, it is a delicate time in an on-going struggle for necessities, while trying to bring a cheer and a smile of the festive time. So, set a starting date - just allow enough time so that the Food Bank can receive your donations well before Christmas. Put a collecting basket/box somewhere visible for you/your family/school/work-place can see it and start making the 'counting the days till Christmas' meaningful. The reverse advent calendars are small acts of kindness that add up to a massive difference for vulnerable people. I stole this idea from the diocese of Auckland. 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 Josephs Tha Khu 027 232 7532

SUNDAY MASS TIMETABLE

Saturday	5/12	5.00pm	Sacred Heart Manaia
Sunday	6/12	9.30am	St Joseph's Hawera
Sunday	6/12	11.15am	Hoani Papita

WEEKDAY MASS TIMETABLE

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

SACRAMENT RECONCILIATION

Saturdays at 11.30am, or any time by appointment

Annie Brydon Mass this Wednesday 2nd December at 1.30pm.

The Parish AGM will be held on **Sunday 13th December at 11am**. Please forward your reports to the office by **Thursday 3rd December**, so they are available for the parish a week before the meeting. Please make all reports brief. One or two paragraphs will be sufficient. Thank you

Mass Coordinators We are in the process of training new Mass Coordinators. Could we please ask those who are rostered on ministries, to check in with the coordinators and wait to join in the prayer before Mass. Please arrive at least 10 minutes before Mass. Please introduce yourself as not all our coordinators know all parishioners.

Rosters for the December/January are out. To cut down on paper, we have emailed a large number, but there are also hard copies available in the church foyer.

Blue Book Advent Reflections –These books start this weekend we have 5 copies left, they run until the 10th January. They are \$6.50 each and are available after Mass from the Sacristy or the Mission Centre during the week.

Flowers & Greenery for Christmas we are looking for flowers & greenery for Christmas. Buckets will be provided in the flower room in the week heading to Christmas.

Daily Mass Calendars – These have just arrived and are available from the Mission Centre Parish Office they are \$3.50 each.

St Joseph Sunday Missal – To those who have pre ordered this Missal we have been advised that it will not be here until the end of January & the price will be adjusted accordingly.

Fr Joseph If you would like a visit from Fr Josephs you, can either contact the parish office on 278 5656 or Fr Joseph direct on 027 232 7532 to make arrangements.



Mums & Bubz Group

Held weekly Tuesdays 9.00am Church Hall.

An opportunity for you and your children to make new friends over a tea, coffee & play.

Bishop Owen Dolan Silver Jubilee of Episcopal Ordination (10/12/95-10/12/20). Everyone is invited to a celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Owen Dolan. Jubilee Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral of The Holy Spirit, Palmerston North, on Thursday December

10th at 12.05pm. Luncheon to follow in the Diocesan rooms, all welcome. No RSVP required.

Society of St Vincent de Paul Hawera Tertiary Study Grant St Vincent de Paul Society, 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. Recipients will be notified in February.

The Vincentian Foundation for the elderly Grant –Want to know more visit St Vincent de Paul Shop for further information.

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

Online Session (Evening): Christmas "Self Care Nibbles" with Clare Barnett. Tuesday, 15 December, 7.15-8.45pm. Fee: \$30. ZOOM <https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/christmas-self-care-nibbles/>

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

Pro Life Facts Abortions have increased in NZ by 9% since the radical new abortion law was enacted in March. The March for Life in Wellington on December 5th is a sign of the ongoing commitment of pro-life people to seek protection for pre-born babies in NZ. For more information on pro-life issues, visit www.voiceforlife.org.

The Archdiocese of Wellington is currently advertising two senior roles, Director, Development, Investment and Finance; and Director, Church Mission These leadership roles report to the General Manager and further details can be found on the OCG and Seek websites.

Young Catholic Leader December 14-18 2020 for those preparing for leadership role in 2020. Students from all schools throughout the Diocese of Palmerston North are welcome to attend. For more information please contact Nick Wilson on 021822814 or nwilson@pndiocese.org.nz

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 Jan Nowotarski, Hilda Holdener, Clyde Hornby, Rona Schrader, Celine England & Eric Cresswell. Mass has been requested by SVDP for Lorna Sattler, & Rosmarie Zumbuhl, Rosmarie Zumbuhl (same name but a different person), Marie Mancer, & Teresa Manser (all of Switzerland).