

St Pius X Parish, Glen Innes Summer Food Fair It's that time of the year again, and we invite you to come along to our Summer Food Fair Saturday **8 December**, St Pius X Parish grounds. Featuring a variety of cultural foods, entertainment, prizes to be won and much more. Bring your families and friends and we look forward to seeing you there. For more information or if you wish to make a donation please contact office@gleninnescatholic.org.nz or see the poster on your noticeboard for details.

Masses for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary at the Cathedral: Saturday 8 December 8.30am and a **Choral Mass 7.30pm** with the Cathedral Vocal Ensemble directed by James Tibbles. Validated parking will be available for both Masses.

Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand AGM will be held at 2F 22 Emily Place, Auckland Central, **5.30pm, Wednesday 12 December**. All welcome.

Family Faith: The Diocese has a number of ideas and resources concerning advent for families at <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/re/family-faith/learn-together/advent/>

Next Week: Second Sunday of Advent 08 & 09 December 18

1. Baruch 5:1-9 2. Philippians 1:3-6,8-11 3. Luke 3:1-6

ROSTERS	5.30pm	8.00am	10.00am
Welcomer	Shona Gardner	Loyola Correa	Sina Pailate
Greeters	Everitt Family Morton Family	Sue Rivalland Nola Gardner	Val Wallace Anthony Balazo
Musicians	MPH Filipinos		Parish Singers
PowerPoint	MPH Filipinos	Fiona Wilson	Parish Singers
Children's Liturgy	'2nd Sunday of Advent' Make decorations for the crib		
Prayers of the Faithful	Lorraine Free		
Ministers of Communion	David Manickum Erine Blackburn	Mary Thornton Gerard Murphy	Mary Osborne Kathleen Ward
Readers	Anna Mortiaux Tony Verner	Helen Wright Catherine Lipski	Jeremy O'Brien Siobhan Sims
Cleaners	Odelia and Steve d'Souza		
Grace Joel	Liturgy of the Word and Communion:10.30am Heather/Gerard		



Masses:

Saturday Vigil:

5.30pm

Sunday: 8.00am &

10.00am

Monday-Saturday:

9.00am

Saturday: 8.45am

Prayer of the Church

Novena at 9am Mass

Reconciliation:

Saturday morning after 9am Mass & Sat afternoon 4pm

Exposition: Thursday, 9.30am - 7pm with Benediction at 6.45pm

Saints' Feast Days this week

Mon 3 December
St Francis Xavier

Fri 7 December
St Ambrose, Bishop, Dr

Sat 8 December
Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary

Mother of Perpetual Help Parish

510 Riddell Road, Glendowie 1071

Parish Office: 575 9296

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Tran CSsR 0226543680

Office Hours: Mon - Wed: 1.30 - 5pm

Friday: 9.30am - 11.30

E-Mail: glendowiemph@xtra.co.nz

Parish Website: www.glendowiecatholic.org.nz

Parish Assistant: Ingrid Coakley 575 9296

Pastoral Worker: Maureen Keenan 575 4354(Home)

**First Sunday of Advent
Saturday 01 & Sunday 02 December 18**

Dear Parishioners,

First of all congratulations to our five newly ordained Redemptorist Priests. They were ordained to the priesthood last Saturday in Melbourne by our own Redemptorist Bishop Paul Bird, Bishop of Ballarat (see the photo in the bulletin). Please continue to keep them in your prayers for their future ministry. This Sunday is the beginning of a new liturgical year (year C), and as usual it begins with **Advent** and introduces the cycle of feasts around Christmas. It also ushers in a new 'main' gospel as resource for most of the Sunday readings, and this year it is the gospel of Luke. **Advent** is often called the mini-Lent. Like Lent it is a time for reflection, renewal and rededication. Year by year we celebrate anew the mysteries of our faith in our liturgy. It is never just the same old thing again. Our faith in the Good news of Christ enables us to stand up in a world of unbelief to give witness to goodness, integrity and truth.

Advent is a time to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord into our hearts. The word "Advent" means "coming". During this season we celebrate in a special way three "comings" of Christ. We recall his first coming at Christmas; his present coming in prayer and the sacraments by which he is continually active in the church; and his final coming when he will complete his work of redemption. We recall these aspects of Christ's coming at the most solemn moment in the Mass when we proclaim: "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again." These comings are not viewed as historical events, but as the celebration of their present saving reality. It is a season which emphasizes the perpetual prayer of the Christian: "Come, Lord Jesus."

We remember in prayer our parishioners whose anniversaries occur during December:

Sheridan O'Rourke, Rosenary MacDonald 1st; Elizabeth Slyfield 2nd; Margaret Dunning, John Dunningham 3rd; Fr James McCormack CSsR, Mary Clark, Annie Williams, Emile St Redwick 5th

Parish Notices & Coming Events



Congratulations to our five newly ordained Redemptorists

from left: Fr Doan Nguyen CSsR Fr Timoteus Terong Tapoona CSsR
Fr Son Nguyen CSsR Fr Vinsensius Lolo CSsR Fr Mark Chia CSsR

Glendowie Parish Sacramental Programme 2019

Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion

This parish based programme is for **Year 4** Children. If your child will be **Year 4** in **2019** please email Parish Office: glendowiemph@xtra.co.nz to apply.

APPLY NOW Spaces will be limited **APPLICATIONS CLOSE 20 DECEMBER**

Appeal for Redemptorist Students in Indonesia - next weekend

Please help our students financially during their time of preparation for priesthood. You have been so generous in the past and the students are truly grateful. Thank you. It is a privilege to help these young men reach their goal.

The collection box will be in the foyer for each Mass next Sunday.

St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Cards

Our 'Keep Christ in Christmas' theme cards are available to purchase at the weekend masses.



**Exposition
of the Blessed Sacrament**
will finish for the year
Thursday 6 December
and resume in 2019
Thursday 14 February

Redemptorist Youth Mission Team

Our mission is to support young people in their roles as youth members within their own parishes.

Our next event is Christmas Jesse Tree ornaments and decoration making.

Sunday 2nd December at Glendowie Parish centre 5 - 7pm

We would like to extend an invitation to all Glendowie members of the youth group to come along.
Redemptorists Youth Mission Team

Taking up a challenge

Many generations have experienced terrible disasters that seemed like signs of the apocalyptic end times. There was the Black Death in the 14th century that killed 50 million people in Europe or some 60 per cent of the population; the First World War followed by the influenza epidemic; and the destruction wrought by the Second World War.

When we hear Our Lord in Luke's Gospel warning of "signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony ... people dying of fear as they await what menaces the world," we may think of the threat of nuclear war, followed by a long nuclear winter destroying most life on earth.

Or perhaps we recall the warnings of scientists, echoed by Pope Francis in his document *Laudato Si'*, about the imminent catastrophe from global warming and climate change. This is no longer science fiction. As many farmers know, we are facing longer droughts, more severe flooding, more extreme weather events and fiercer storms. Rising sea levels will displace hundreds of millions of people from low-lying areas, including the major river deltas which produce much of the world's food.

Jesus knew nothing about these frightening new threats to life on earth. But he knew a lot about the trauma and tragedy that had occurred in Jewish history over hundreds of years, and he knew what his followers would encounter.

Despite all this anguish, curiously Jesus' message is one of incredible hope, not of despair. Jesus says to stand tall and be confident when the Son of Man comes "with power and great majesty", since our "liberation is near at hand." We can barely imagine what this mysterious "liberation"

implies as the Reign of God transforms the universe.

Neither Jesus nor Luke are claiming to be futurologists, forecasting the future.

Rather, they are affirming hope in the promises of God to guide our lives. We have here no lasting home; our lives are preparing us to be welcomed into our home in heaven, delighting in the intimacy of God's presence.

Jesus urges his disciples to stay awake and pray "for the strength to survive all that is going to happen." Jesus is not handing out free tickets for an easy ride to heaven. He is warning of the need for courage when his followers face threats of death and persecution, as do Christians in parts of the world today.

While warning the disciples against backsliding, Jesus is not telling them to withdraw from the challenges of life. He urges them not to let "your hearts be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life."

As St Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, may the Lord increase "your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you." Today the words "the whole human race" take on new meaning as we face great and new challenges.

Bruce Duncan CSsR
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