



And is it true ...
 And is it true,
 the most tremendous tale of all,
 seen in stained glass window hue:
 a baby in an ox's stall,
 The Maker of the stars and sea
 became a child on earth—**for me?**
 And is it true?
THAT GOD WAS MAN in Palestine
 and lives today in Bread and Wine.
(John Betjeman)

As we celebrate Christmas 2018 may you know in your heart
 the peace and joy of Christ.

Feast of the Holy Family
 Sunday 30 December



We remember in prayer our parishioners whose anniversaries occur during the month of
 DECEMBER: Celine Farrell, Dorothy Cloher 25th; Molly Gillett, Peter Alder 26th; Susan Hall
 28th; Gill Coleman, Elizabeth Portegys 29th; Dorita Hannah 30th.
 JANUARY: Mary Schnackenberg 1st; Alison Stenhouse, Peter Alder 2nd; Paul Eller 3rd;
 Tess Murphy 4th; Samuel Dunningham, Win Squirrel 9th; Clare Taylor 10th; Tom
 Armstrong, Donald Moir, Frank Hall 11th; Lyndsay Culpan, Rhonda Johnstone, Candelaria
 Calumpong 12th; Edward Helmling-Harder 13th; Pio Leafa 15th; Cyril Snedden 16th; Jack
 Shields, Len Schollum 20th; Francis McTaggart 22nd; Darinka Boric, Catrina Moody 23rd;
 Kevin Kelly, Br Michael Vickers C.Ss.R, Mary Burton 24th; Alexander Marshall 26th; Leo
 Bell, Rob Foote 28th; Ola Ragg, Basil Whitaker, Betty Phillips 29th;



Mother of Perpetual Help Parish

510 Riddell Road, St Heliers Bay 1071

Parish Office: 575 9296

Parish Priest:

Fr Anthony Tran CSsR 022 654 3680

Office Hours:

Mon - Wed: 1.30 - 5pm

Fri: 9.30-11:30am.

Email:

glendowiemph@xtra.co.nz

Website:

www.glendowiecatholic.org.nz

Parish Assistant:

Ingrid Coakley 575 9296

Pastoral Worker:

Maureen Keenan 575 4354

Redemptorist Website: www.cssr.org.au

The Redemptorists: 575 8767

Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

Sunday: 8am & 10am

Monday-Saturday: 9am

Saturday: 8.45am

Prayers of the Church

Novena: at 9am Mass

Reconciliation:

Saturday: 4pm

Or by appointment.

Christmas Day
 2018

The Pastor's Pen

Dear Parishioners,

Merry Christmas! Peace and Joy of the Lord be with you all!

It is such a joyful season to celebrate "God-with-us". People around us are saying 'Happy Christmas'. Being happy at Christmas means contemplating the mystery of the Word made flesh and dwelling among us - happy in the sense of recognizing an aura of truth and goodness in all that there is.

In the good news of Christmas I am happy to announce a new appointment from the Redemptorists for the next term starting in January 2019. After thoroughly consulting with the Redemptorists of the Province of Oceania, Bishop Patrick Dunn has appointed Fr Alfonsus Roynaldo (Roy) Parish Priest of Mother of Perpetual Help Parish (his photo is in the bulletin). Fr Roy comes from Indonesia. He has been assistant priest in Mangere during the last three years. The farewell and hand-over will be celebrated in all weekend masses on 29/30 December. Fr Roy will officially take up his position on 6 January 2019. I hope that you will love and support him in his leadership and service. May God bless him with wisdom and pastoral zeal to serve worthily the parish community.

I will be leaving on 4th January and taking up my new appointment on 6th January 2019. This is my last time writing to you. I would like to take I have been very much enjoying working in this lovely parish community.

It is the sense of belonging that keeps you together. May this spirit to be continued with goodwill.

Fr Anthony Tran CSsR

Best Gift of All

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Raffle Results

The winners are: 1st Prize Helen Wright
2nd Prize Mary Evans
3rd Prize Sarah Butel

Our sincere thanks for your support which raised \$415.



**Exposition
of the
Blessed Sacrament**
will resume on 14 February 2019.

Our Rosters
will recommence on weekend
9/10 February 2019.

Glen Innes Community Meals

We sincerely thank all those involved, coordinators & servers that come to the G I Community Hall to prepare, serve and clean up. We also thank our rostered cooks for preparing/funding meals and delivering them hot to the Hall in time for the meal at 5.30pm. Many thanks to those parishioners who gave us financial support. This is a very worth while hands on project and we ask that the Parish continues to support us into 2019 and years to come. Brian Houston (Co-ordinator)

Glen Innes Christmas Party Thank you

On Tuesday 4 December we held the G I Cooks Christmas Dinner and Children's Party. We had over 60 gifts kindly donated by our parishioners for the children. This was much appreciated. Thanks for your efforts in this Christian Outreach. We wish you a safe and happy holiday season. Brian Houston

St Vincent de Paul Society

The Vinnies would like to thank everyone for your ongoing support. Whether it has been a weekly food donation, a contribution for our meat packs, or the breakfast programme, our annual hot meals, raffle tickets, children's presents, or our keep Christ in Christmas cards, you have supported us all the way.

I like the Christmas Carol *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. It is a carol about a series of increasingly grand gifts that are presented during the lead up to Christmas. There's 'a partridge in a pear tree', French hens, turtle doves, swans, golden rings, and so on. But the order in which they are sung escapes me!

When children talk about Christmas they talk about presents. They can't wait to rush to the Christmas tree in the morning and unwrap their presents. Today, we celebrate Christmas and, of course, gift giving is part of the celebration. Yes, gifts are wonderful and it's important to take the time and effort to give gifts and to bring joy to others. Part of the joy of giving and receiving gifts is the mixture of wonder, curiosity, anticipation, surprise and delight.

This is Christmas, with all its wonder and mystery: the mystery of the Incarnation that is revealed to us in all its splendor. Jesus is truly God's gift to the world. He is the best gift of all.

God also wants you to give the world the best gift of all, and that is *you*. It is all God asks at Christmas and at every other time of the year. Why? Because God loves us unconditionally. The only thing we need do in return is to love God with all our hearts and to love others.

This Christmas may the Incarnate Jesus inspire us to gift the best of all gifts – oneself!

Merry Christmas and every blessing to you and your families.

Anthony Tran CSsR



Welcome
to
our New Parish Priest
who will take over
on 6 January
Fr Alphonso Roynaldo CSsR
known as
Fr Roy