

Here are the Mass times for next week for both Parishes.

| | St Ignatius Parish | Mother of Perpetual Help Parish |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Saturday 11 Dec | NO Vigil Mass | 5.30pm Vigil Mass (up to 100) |
| Sunday 12 Dec | 9.30am Sunday Mass (up to 100) | 10.00am Mass (up to 100) |
| Monday/ Tuesday 13 & 14 Dec | 9.00am Mass at St Ignatius | — |
| Thursday/Friday 16 & 17 Dec | — | 9.00am Mass at MPH |
| Wednesday 15 Dec | 7.00pm Mass - disclosure of vaccination status not required (max. 25 persons at the Mass) | — |
| Saturday 18 Dec morning | — | 9am Morning Mass or Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion |



May God bless us all!

Fr John Dunn

The Novena to Mary will resume on Saturday mornings at 9am, followed by Liturgy of the Word led by Deacon Mark.

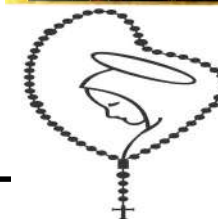
You are invited also to Adoration on Thursdays with Benediction at 6:45pm.

During weekday our Church will be open for private prayer from 9am to 12pm.

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

510 Riddell Road, Glendowie 1071

Parish Office: 575 9296
 Parish Priest: Fr John Dunn
 Dcn Mark Rivalland: 021 482 555
 Office Hours: Mon - Fri: 9.30am-12pm
 Wednesday: 1.30-5pm
 E-Mail: office@glendowiecatholic.org.nz
 Parish Website: www.glendowiecatholic.org.nz
 Parish Administrator: Karla Nobre Milosevic
 Pastoral Worker: Maureen Keenan (Home)5754354
 Redemptorist Website: www.cssr.org.au



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 December 2021

Dear Parishioners,

I am sure you are all busy, either preparing for Christmas, preparing to go away, or wondering what to do about Christmas. I send you, as always, lots of encouragement in these strange times.

This is a practical letter concerning our Parishes' preparation for Christmas. In the light of Covid, what is the prudent thing to do?

Last Sunday, our Parishes opened for Mass for the first time in over 100 days. It was a joy for all of us to be back, and to see our fellow parishioners after such a long time. However, the numbers of those attending give us pause for thought.

Glendowie Vigil Mass had 54 people, of whom 19 were St Heliers Parishioners. The Sunday 10am Mass had 56, of whom 7 were children. St Heliers had no Vigil Mass. Sunday morning 9.30am had 32, or about 15% of its pre-Covid numbers.

Meetings I attended with priests this week saw a similar drop in numbers in their Parishes, but not as drastic as at St Ignatius.

Our two Parish Councils will meet by Zoom on Monday evening - after the Government's latest announcement - to weigh up the issues and to make some final decisions about whether and how we will celebrate this Christmas.

Whatever the choice we make, I invite you to pause and think about the deeper reality we celebrate.

In the face of a struggling global economy, poverty and hunger, continued political unrest and war in many countries, and a planet facing a future of its own making, we celebrate the love of God.

Advent people are people who are realistic AND who look on our world with hope.

While Santas abound, while bargains are to be had, while winter Christmas trees are bought and decorated, and our children are initiated into this merry-go-round of consumer expectation, we see in this humble child the love of God entering into this suffering world, and bringing, through us, real peace, hope and salvation.

In the birth of Jesus Christ, we celebrate the very incarnation of God in our midst. To hold onto this, in the midst of our struggles, is to know that Christmas peace is within our reach, a peace we can share with those around us in this season.

Remember too, that Christmas is a season - not a day - we can celebrate Christmas for 2 days through to the Epiphany. Maybe we can come to a Mass after the 25th and make that our own "Christmas Mass."

I also encourage you to come to Reconciliation before Christmas. Peace in your heart, reconciliation in your family is probably your best Christmas gift.

It seems that many people are not signed up for the newsletter, and thus have been hearing nothing from the Parish.

Please encourage those you know to go on the website and sign up. The newsletter is always available there as well.



Next week we will let you know how Christmas will be in our Parishes.



Here is the timetable for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for both Parishes.

| SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION TIMES DURING ADVENT | | | |
|---|------------|---|---|
| Date | Time | St Ignatius | Mother of Perpetual Help |
| Weekdays December 4-11 | After Mass | Monday Tuesday | Thursday Friday |
| Saturday 11 Dec | | | 4.30pm onward |
| Sunday 12 Dec | | 4.30pm - 5.30pm | |
| Weekdays 13-17 Dec | After Mass | Monday Tuesday | Thursday Friday |
| Saturday 18 Dec | After Mass | | 6.30pm onward |
| Sunday 19 Dec | | 7.00pm Communal Rite of Reconciliation. Please bring your Covid Pass. | |
| Monday 20 Dec | | | 7.00pm Communal Rite of Reconciliation. Please bring your Covid Pass. |
| Tuesday 21 Dec | After Mass | St Ignatius | |
| Thursday 23 Dec | | | Thursday after Mass |

This Sunday's readings are available at

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/121221.cfm>

and my homily is available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3kpLkTRTIY>

