

For the month of January, the Mass times will be:

### MASS TIMES FOR JANUARY 2022

St Ignatius	Mother of Perpetual Help
<b>NO</b> Saturday Vigil Mass	5.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass
9.30am Sunday Mass	10.00am Sunday Mass
Monday 9.00am Mass	
Tuesday 9.00am Mass	
Wednesday 7.00pm Mass for those with <b>no</b> Vaccination Pass	
	Thursday 9.00am Mass at MOPH
	Friday 9.00am Mass
	Saturday 9.00 Morning Mass or Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

**Please remember : "MASK, SCAN, PASS".**

**Vaccine Passes will be checked at Masses for the vaccinated.**

*I wish you a blessed Christmas and a blessed, Covid-free, 'normal' New Year! And safe and happy holiday season.*



**Fr John Dunn**



## MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 December

*Dear Parishioners,*

Last Wednesday Aucklanders were free to travel. I watched as the news covered the event at Auckland airport. It was wonderful to see the embraces, the tears of joy, the holding of newborn babies for the first time. Others were leaving Auckland. I saw a young girl so looking forward to seeing her grandparents. It was all wonderful to see.

Does this moment have any similarities with Advent? This Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and the Gospel sees a similar joyful encounter: two pregnant women, Mary and Elizabeth, greet each other, and rejoice in the babies they are carrying in their wombs.

(See <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/121921.cfm>). Elizabeth is the first prophet of the New Testament. She is the first to greet the Messiah and to honour his pregnant Mother. It gives us a moment of joy as we look forward to a very different Christmas.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have made our communities such wonderful faith communities that they are. We are truly blessed. Thank you too, to all those who have offered their gifts in all sorts of ministries through the year. Thank you to Deacon Mark for his love and service. A special thank you to all those who have worked outside of our faith community for Christ, in building up our society, for healing, and for hope.

This year we could not distribute food hampers, but we did distribute food vouchers to the value of many thousands of dollars.

Thank you too, to Karla and Maureen and their families. Their love and service is beyond words. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

I want to offer a special thank you on behalf of us all to Fr Bernard, who has given us such a gift of love and service by his ministry. Thank you too to the Redemptorist Community for their ongoing presence and support. They have kindly offered to look after all Christmas Masses at Mother of Perpetual Help this year.

To all those who have suffered greatly during the lockdown, I offer the support of our Parishes and our prayers for a better Christmas. This Christmas has many challenges for us as Catholics. We are still under Traffic Light Red, where we can have only 100 fully vaccinated people in Church — and that includes our children.

How many people will come to Church in these circumstances? It is the great unknown. Traditionally we welcome large crowds, including those who come to church only at Christmas, family members who have travelled to join families, our regular parishioners, and a host of others. Our two Parish Councils have decided we should go ahead and have Christmas Masses.

So that leaves us, the active parishioners, with some difficult choices. You know as well as I the dangers of the virus, be it Delta which continues to circulate in Auckland, or Omicron.

I want to ask you to reflect well on how you will celebrate Christmas this year. We have a number of choices:

- **We can choose to come and take our chances. We will try to provide limited 'overflow' opportunities.**
- **We can choose not to come.**
- **We can choose to come on the next day, Sunday, or to a weekday Mass in the Christmas season, either for personal reasons, or out of love — by which I mean that I offer my space to another person at a Christmas Mass.**
- **We can continue to celebrate Christmas online, or through watching Shine TV.**

The situation makes us reflect that Christmas is not just a day in the year; it is a season of faith which goes through to the Epiphany.

It is also an ongoing celebration of the fact that we celebrate Christ's birth in view of his life, death and resurrection. I would encourage families in particular, to make prayer a part of Christmas for our children, and to create a little liturgy which celebrates the religious meaning of Christmas. A crib can be brought into this. And please explain the true religious meaning of why we celebrate Saint Nicholas — santa (holy, or saint) Claus (an abbreviation of Nicholas), and replace commercialism as the religious feast of the year with a genuine love of the poor.

Below I attach our timetable through to the Epiphany.

Date / Feast	Mother of Perpetual Help	St Ignatius
December 24 Christmas Eve	Christmas Eve 5.30pm	Christmas Eve 5.30pm
Dec 24 Christmas Eve	Christmas Eve 9.00pm	Christmas Eve 9.00pm
		Christmas Day Mass for those <b>WITHOUT</b> a vaccine pass. 8.00am
December 25 Christmas Day	Christmas Day 9.00am	Christmas Day 9.30am
Sunday December 26	Feast of the Holy Family 9.00am	Feast of the Holy Family 9.00am
Monday December 27		9.00am
Tuesday 28		9.00am
Wednesday 29		7.00pm. Mass for those with <b>NO</b> vaccination pass
Thursday 30	9.00am	
Friday 31	9.00am	
Saturday January 1	Feast of Mary Mother of God. 9.00am	Feast of Mary Mother of God. 9.30am
Sunday January 2	Feast of the Epiphany 9.00am	Feast of the Epiphany 9.30am

Reconciliation times between now and Christmas. There is a communal Rite of Reconciliation at St Ignatius on Sunday 19 December at 7.00pm, and a second one at Mother of Perpetual Help on Monday 20 December at 7.00pm.

Also there will be an opportunity after our Masses.