

## Little fanfare for Jesus' birth

When there is a major announcement of a forthcoming event, it is usually accompanied by a media statement and even a press conference. Sometimes social media influencers are also invited to create some excitement and "buzz" around the announcement. Companies like Apple, Tesla and Boeing spend millions of dollars to launch their latest products worldwide.

Similarly, when a famous celebrity couple welcomes a new addition to the family, it's all over the news services and social media, sometimes for days on end. It's like no other news is worthy of airtime.

However, when God chose human form in Bethlehem, there was no spectacular announcement. There were no bells and whistles, no fireworks. In fact, there was nothing but a bright star that attracted little attention except for a few wise men who travelled from the east. The birth of Jesus probably didn't attract much interest outside the immediate families of Joseph and Mary, perhaps to spare Mary embarrassment such was the unusual nature of the baby's arrival.

The biggest event the universe has witnessed had taken place with little fanfare. In the scheme of things, this was even bigger than the creation of the universe itself. Even the universe must have 'held its breath'.

That speaks of God preferring to work quietly, unseen and unnoticed.

Choosing to be like many of us who work quietly in our offices, schools, our homes. For many people, our lives are simple and uneventful. Nothing spectacular happens and little that would warrant much outside attention. But it is in that simple, uneventful and unspectacular 'living' that God comes as one of us in order to bring us all closer to God. That's what happened to Joseph and Mary and that same invitation is also open to everyone. That's the underlying meaning of the name Emmanuel, "God is with us". That God wants to be with us in the very ordinariness of our lives.

The world today can sometimes be loud, vulgar and crass which is opposite to God coming to us in a quiet, ordinary way as a normal man. That's why the angel said to Joseph that there is no need to be afraid because God will come to be his son like any ordinary boy.

Big announcements and even big events will come, and they will go. Prominent companies and famous people will come and eventually be confined to the history books, but God is the one constant. Perhaps it is not us who waits for God, but God with loving patience who waits for us. We need to realise that God is amongst us now in our everyday, mundane lives and will be with us for all eternity.

Mark Chia CSsR  
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**MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP  
PARISH**



*Parish Priest: Fr John Dunn*

**New Email Address: [office@easternbayscatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@easternbayscatholic.org.nz)**

**MPH Parish**

510 Riddell Rd, Glendowie

Phone: 09 - 575 9296

Dcn Mark Rivalland: 021 482 555

Website: [www.glendowiecatholic.org.nz](http://www.glendowiecatholic.org.nz)

Pastoral Assistant: Maureen Keenan,

(Home) 575 4354

*Parish Administrator: Karla Nobre Milosevic*

**St Ignatius Parish**

12 Kotiri Street, St Heliers

Phone: 09 - 575 5227

Pastoral Assistant: Maggy Hamilton,

021 562 449

Website: [www.sthelierscatholic.org.nz](http://www.sthelierscatholic.org.nz)

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 Dec 2022**

*Weekend's Mass Times:*

Dec 17 - Sat Vigil Mass  
5.15pm @ Sacred Heart

Dec 18 - Sunday Masses  
9am @ St Ignatius  
10.30am @ MPH

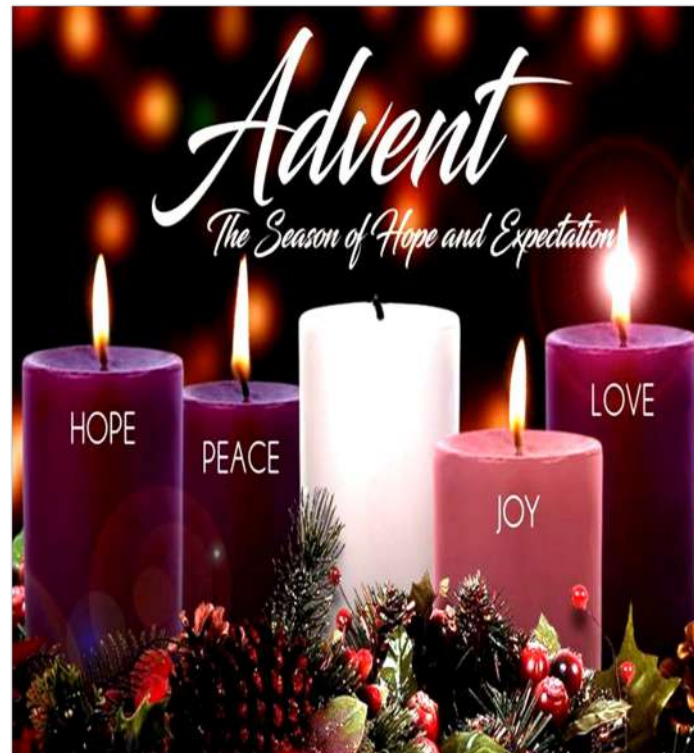
**Dec 24 & 25 -  
All Christmas Masses at  
Sacred Heart College**

*Weekday Masses:*

Monday, Tuesday:  
8.30am @ St Ignatius

Wed, Thurs & Friday:  
9am @ MPH Parish

**Rosary @ MPH before  
Mass: Every Wed, Thurs  
& Friday at 8.30am &  
Sundays at 10am**  
**Exposition: Will resume  
on 9th February 2023**



**IMPORTANT!**  
**PLEASE NOTE THAT**  
Because of the size of our  
congregations  
**ALL OUR CHRISTMAS**  
**MASSES WILL BE AT**



**SACRED HEART COLLEGE CHAPEL**

There will be **NO MASSES** in St Ignatius and  
Mother of Perpetual Help Parishes

**Christmas Mass Times**

**Christmas Eve: 5.15pm and 9.00pm**

**Christmas Day 9.00am**

Please share this information with your family  
and friends



### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

This Sunday will be the last opportunity to support our current fund raising.

Our 'Keep Christ in Christmas' theme cards, 5 Cards with envelopes are \$5.00 per pack.

The Christmas Raffle is kindly sponsored by New World Stonefields, 1<sup>st</sup> Prize is a Food Hamper, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Prizes Wine & Chocolates.

Tickets are \$5.00 each or pay \$10.00 for 3 Tickets.

See us in the entrance foyer after 10.30am Mass on Sunday morning.

### **Fr. John Dunn's 50th**

January 6th marks 50 years of ordination for Fr. John. We will be acknowledging this important date during Mass on Friday, 6th Jan. at MPH Parish. This will be a quiet event, with bigger celebrations to come at St. Ignatius Parish in February when school holidays are over. All parishioners of both Parishes are invited to come to this

Mass, and everyone who would like to attend the morning tea afterward is welcome. This falls on a first Friday, but there will be **NO Anointing of the Sick Mass** on that day.

### **MASS TIMES AFTER CHRISTMAS AND IN JANUARY**

**December 26 - 31, NO MASSES**

**Saturday 31 Vigil Mass 5.15 St Ignatius**

**Saturday 7th January 5.15 Vigil Mass will be at MPH**

**Sunday Masses as normal, 9am (St Ignatius) 10.30am (MPH)**

**Weekday Masses in January as usual.**

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

There will be **NO VIGIL MASSES** at Sacred Heart College in January.



Last Morning Tea  
for the year, made  
festive with  
Christmas Carol  
singing.

**Rejoice!**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** will resume on  
Thursday **9 February 2023**