



Holy Family Parish

3rd Sunday of Advent (Year A)
Sunday 15th December 2019

FIRST READING : Isaiah 35:1-6,10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : Psalm 145:6-10

R. Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever, who is just to those who are oppressed, It is He who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets prisoners free. R.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger, and upholds the widow and orphan. R.

It is the Lord who loves the just, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign forever, Zion's God from age to age. R.

SECOND READING : James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL : Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: 'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. 'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Come along to Advent Reconciliation at
Holy Family, Dec 20th, Friday, 7pm.
Prepare your soul spiritually for Christmas
by going to Confession.

Other options:

Avondale, Wednesday, Dec 18, 7pm
Henderson, Saturdays, Dec 21, 11:30am-12:30pm
Massey, Tuesday, Dec 17, 7pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday 24th December
9:00am Mass (**No 7:00pm Mass**)
Midnight Mass
12:00am
Carols from 11:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday 25th December
8:00am (Latin)
10:00am (English)

BOXING DAY

Thursday 26th December
9:00am

Please note: After Boxing Day - All Weekday and Sunday Masses are as usual unless stated otherwise.

“Because Mary is what God wanted us all to be, she speaks of herself as the eternal blueprint in the mind of God, the one whom God loved before she was a creature. She is even pictured as being with Him not only at creation, but before creation. She existed in the Divine Mind as an Eternal Thought before there were any mothers. She is the Mother of mothers. The closer one is to God, the greater the purity. But since no one was ever closer to God than the woman whose human portals he threw open to walk this earth, then no one could have been more pure than she. This special purity of hers we call the Immaculate Conception. The word ‘immaculate’ is taken from two Latin words meaning ‘not stained.’ Conception means that at the first moment of her conception, the Blessed Mother in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne, and in virtue of the anticipated merits of the Redemption of her Son was preserved free from the stains of original sin.” Archbishop Fulton Sheen



ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS:
**PARTRIDGE IN
A PEAR TREE**



The "True Love" one hears in the song is not a smitten boy or girlfriend but Jesus Christ, because truly Love was born on Christmas day. The partridge in the pear tree likewise represents Christ because that bird is willing to sacrifice itself if necessary to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators.

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ON THE FOURTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS:
**FOUR
CALLING BIRDS**



The 'Four Calling Birds' represent the four evangelists:

- 1) St. Matthew
- 2) St. Mark
- 3) St. Luke
- 4) St. John

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ON THE SECOND DAY OF CHRISTMAS:
TWO TURTLE DOVES



The "two turtle doves" may represent:

- 1) The Two Natures of Christ: a) Human and b) Divine
- 2) The Two Testaments of the Bible: a) Old & b) New



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ON THE FIFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS:
**FIVE
GOLDEN RINGS**



The 'Five Golden Rings' are the first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.

- 1) Genesis
- 2) Exodus
- 3) Leviticus
- 4) Numbers
- 5) Deuteronomy

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ON THE THIRD DAY OF CHRISTMAS:
**THREE
FRENCH HENS**



The 'Three French Hens' symbolise the 3 Theological Virtues:

- 1) Faith
- 2) Hope
- 3) Love

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ON THE SIXTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS:
SIX GEESE A-LAYING

The 'Six Geese A-laying' represent the 6 days of creation:

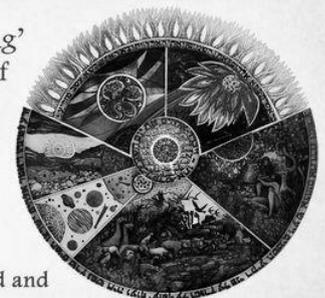
1st: Heaven and Earth an Separation of Light (Day) & Darkness (Night)

2nd: Separation of the Firmament and the Waters

3rd: Separation of Dry Land and Seas; Vegetations

4th: Sun, Moon and Stars

5th: Creeping creatures, Birds and Fishes



6th: Beasts, cattle and finally, "God created man to His own image" (Gn 1:27).

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ON THE SEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS:
SEVEN SWANS A-SWIMMING



The 'Seven Swans a-swimming' represents the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

Wisdom (Sapientia)	Understanding (Intellectus)	Counsel (Consilium)	Fortitude (Fortitudo)
Knowledge (Scientia)	Piety (Pietas)	Fear of the Lord (Timor domini)	

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ON THE TENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS:

10 TEN LORDS
A-LEAPING



The ten lords a-leaping symbolize the Law of God; the Ten Commandments.

ON THE EIGHTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS:
EIGHT MAIDS A-MILKING



The 'Eight Maids A-Milking' represent the Eight Beatitudes taught by Jesus. These are:

Blessed are the:

- 1) poor in spirit
- 2) those who mourn
- 3) the meek
- 4) those who hunger and thirst for righteousness
- 5) the merciful
- 6) the pure in heart
- 7) the peacemakers
- 8) the persecuted

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ON THE ELEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS:

11 ELEVEN PIPERS PIPING



The eleven pipers piping stood for the Eleven Faithful Apostles who stuck with Jesus when seemingly all others had abandoned Him. They were referred to as "pipers" for they indeed were sent out to all corners to spread the Gospel as Our Lord had commanded.

ON THE NINTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS:
NINE LADIES DANCING



The 'Nine Ladies Dancing' represent the Nine Orders (or Choirs) of Angels. These are:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1) Angels | 6) Dominions |
| 2) Principalities | 7) Thrones |
| 3) Archangels | 8) Cherubims |
| 4) Powers | 9) Seraphims |
| 5) Virtues | |

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ON THE TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS:

12 TWELVE DRUMMERS
DRUMMING

These are the twelve basic beliefs of the Catholic Church as outlined in the Apostles Creed:

- 1) I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth;
- 2) And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;
- 3) Who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
- 4) Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
- 5) He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead;
- 6) He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;
- 7) From thence He shall come again to judge the living and the dead.
- 8) I believe in the Holy Spirit,
- 9) the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints,
- 10) the forgiveness of sins,
- 11) the resurrection of the body,
- 12) and life everlasting.



PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

O Come, O come, Emmanuel
 Redeem thy captive Israel,
 That doth in exile homeless mourn
 Until her Saviour Christ be born.

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel is born to save thee Israel.

O come thou day star seen on high
 with healing for our hearts draw nigh:
 Do thou the mists of night dispel and
 death's forboding darkness quell.

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel is born to save thee Israel.

O come of Gentile hearts, the King.
 A world that needs thee ransoming
 And save thy Servants who confess
 with humbled hearts their faithlessness.

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel is born to save thee Israel.

OFFERTORY HYMN:

*Alma Redemptoris Mater
 quae pervia caeli porta manes
 et stella maris, succurre cadenti,
 surgere qui curat populo:
 tu quae genuisti, natura mirante,
 tuum sanctum genitorem:
 Virgo prius ac posterius,
 Gabrielis ab ore sumens illud ave,
 peccatorum miserere.*

COMMUNION HYMN:

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
 Born to set thy people free;
 From our fears and sins release us,
 Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
 hope of all the earth thou art:
 Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
 joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
 Born a child, and yet a king,
 Born to reign in us forever,
 Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
 Rule in all our hearts alone;
 By thine all sufficient merit
 Raise us to thy glorious throne.

RECESSIONAL HYMN:

O come, divine Messiah;
 The world in silence waits the day
 When hope shall sing its triumph
 And sadness flee away.

Dear Saviour, haste!

Come, come to earth.

*dispel the night and show your face,
 and bid us hail the dawn of grace.*

*O come, divine Messiah; the world in
 silence waits the day when hope shall
 sing its triumph and sadness flee away.*

O Christ, whom nations sign for,
 Whom priest and prophet long foretold,
 Come break the captive's fetters,
 Redeem the long lost fold.

Dear Saviour, haste!

Come, come to earth.

*dispel the night and show your face,
 and bid us hail the dawn of grace.*

*O come, divine Messiah; the world in
 silence waits the day when hope shall
 sing its triumph and sadness flee away.*

You come in peace and meekness
 And lowly will your cradle be;
 All clothed in human weakness
 Shall we your Godhead see.

**FAMILY PRAYERS FOR ADVENT
 (Advent Wreath)**
What to do?

1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross
2. Light Candle
3. Say Antiphon of the Day
4. Say the Advent Prayer of that week
5. say Gospel of the Week
6. Finish with Grace before Meals.

3rd Week Prayer: We humbly beg you,
 O Lord, to listen to our prayers; and by
 the grace of your coming bring light
 into our darkened minds. Who lives
 and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

3rd Week Gospel Luke 3:10-18 "I am
 baptizing you with water, but one
 mightier than I is coming.... He will
 baptize you with the Holy Spirit and
 fire."

Third Candle and Week 3 of Advent

Monday: "O Wisdom, you come forth
 from the mouth of the Most High. You
 fill the universe and hold all things
 together in a strong yet gentle manner.
 O come to teach us the way of truth."

Tuesday: "O Adonai and leader of
 Israel, you appeared to Moses in a
 burning bush and you gave him the
 Law on Sinai. O come and save us with
 your mighty power."

Wednesday: "O stock of Jesse, you
 stand as a signal for the nations; kings
 fall silent before you whom the peoples
 acclaim. O come to deliver us, and do
 not delay."

Thursday: "O key of David and sceptre
 of Israel, what you open no one else
 can close again; what you close no one
 can open. O come to lead the captive
 from prison; free those who sit in
 darkness and in the shadow of death."

Friday: "O Rising Sun, you are the
 splendour of eternal light and the sun
 of justice. O come and enlighten those
 who sit in darkness and in the shadow
 of death."

Saturday: "O King whom all the
 peoples desire, you are the cornerstone
 which makes all one. O come and save
 man whom you made from clay."

Sunday: "O Emmanuel, you are our
 king and judge, the One whom the
 peoples await and their Saviour. O
 come and save us. Lord, our God."

NEXT SUNDAY:

22 December 2019

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Yr A)

Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24;

LITURGY ROSTER

Readers: R. Hall, R. Cardoza

Prayers of the Faithful: F. Xavier

Offertory: D' Lima Family

Special Ministers: P. Vernon

CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER

Tagiilima Family

SUNDAY CUP OF TEA ROSTER

Hall/Bright Community

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

15 Dec: Marjory Moore

16 Dec: Josephine Hill, Drina Letica

17 Dec: Nathaniel Pierce

18 Dec: Mary Scanlon, Myrtle Goudie,
 Oliver Bray - Taylor

19 Dec: Fonofale Endemang

20 Dec: Peter Somerville

21 Dec: Ronald Gander

Holy Family Parish Notices

- **CONGRATULATIONS** to Sa, Ludwig Kastler, Mike Fox, Bernadette Chand for winning prizes in the Christmas Flower Raffle, Thank you so much to all who donated to the flowers. Thanks also to Selefina, Marietta and Petela for the prizes and for the flowers each week.
- **FLI.** A three bedroomed house or flat urgently required in the parish area. Please contact Colleen Bayer (Family Life International) on 0274488061

Diocesan Notices

- **CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK.** At St Mary's Avondale, 2134 Great North Road, 21 December 2019, 7pm - 9:30pm after mass at 6pm. With live entertainment, food stalls, carols and choirs.
- **HOLY CROSS CHURCH HENDERSON SOLEMN INAUGURATION OPENING & BLESSING** on Sunday 22nd December 2019. Bishop Patrick Dunn will officiate the first Mass in the new Church at 10.30am. All are welcome!
- **PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE** - Join Mir Pilgrimages on a group pilgrimage to Medjugorje 17 June - 2 July 2020. For further details and to request a brochure, contact Patricia Parsons. info@mirpilgrimages.co.nz | 0274 219 064 | www.pilgrimage.nz

Gaudete Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of Advent. Gaudete meaning to rejoice in the Lord always. We light the third candle in our wreath which is rose (pink) coloured. The change in colour provides us with encouragement to continue our spiritual preparation, especially prayer and fasting, for Christmas.