



**MASS TIMES**

**Sunday Eucharist**

Saturday 6.00pm  
 Sunday 8:00am and 9.30am

**Weekday Eucharist**

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9.15am  
 Saturday 8:00am  
 First Friday (Mass of Healing & Anointing of the sick) 9:15am  
 First Friday Adoration followed by Mass 6:00pm

**SACRAMENTS**

Reconciliation: Every Saturday 8:30am to 9:30am  
 Baptisms: Every Saturday (by appointment) 11:00am  
 (Please see the Church noticeboard and Website as well)



**NEXT SUNDAY (24 December 2023)**

**4th Sunday Advent Year B (Scripture Readings)**

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 The Lord promises David that he will raise from his descendents a kingdom that will endure forever.  
 Psalm 89 For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord  
 Romans 16:25-27 Paul praises God for making his revelation known.  
 Luke 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.

**Rosters:** The roster for cleaning the church, various ministries and Altar servers is on the notice board and website as well. Thank you for your generosity with these ministries.  
 If you are not available, please arrange your own replacement.  
 Thank you.



**ALTAR SERVERS and OTHER MINISTRY Rosters**

**LITURGICAL MINISTRIES**  
**Sat 6:00pm** Carlos Pulini, Nithin Savio, Sean Joseph, Swinth Rodrigues  
**Sun 8:00am** Javier Soares, Eva Hu, Jessica MacKenzie  
**Sun 9:30am:** Jason Dash, Jeremy Xing, Joshua Joseph, Oliver McCrills, Braeli Faith

	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:00am</b>	<b>Sun 9:30am</b>
<b>Hospitality:</b>	Tamara Pinto	Josh Soares	Jewel Villos
<b>1st Reading:</b>	Ethan Dharmai	Donald Holder	Cath Bamber-O'Malley
<b>2nd Reading:</b>	Carol D'Souza	Irae Pule	Sr Helen Bergin
<b>Ministers of Communion:</b>	Helen Bailie	Cyril R	Lourdes Trainor
	Rex Coutinho	Valyne Koh	Paul Reddy
	Renee D'Souza	Theresa Gomes	Ursula Burgess
<b>Projectionist:</b>	Sylvester D'Souza	Rob Villos	Samoan Community
<b>Chief Collector:</b>	Allwyn Pereira	Valyne Koh	Leonard Pinto
<b>Co-Ordinator:</b>	Goretti Sheppard	Valyne Koh	Paul Reddy
<b>Music:</b>	Youth	N/A	Samoan Community

**CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER**  
 Tapanana and Tepano (23 Dec 2023)

**FLOWER ARRANGEMENT ROSTER**  
 Goretti Shepard (23 Dec 2023)

AROHA 愛 CINTA LOVE AMOR AMOR GRÁ मोहब्बत

**ST DOMINIC'S CATHOLIC PARISH**  
 Ko te Pāriha Katorika o Hāto Tominiko ki

BLOCKHOUSE BAY  
 34 Bolton Street, PO Box 48097, Blockhouse Bay, Auckland

*We, the People of God, continue Christ's Mission of Love in our Diversity.*

사랑 ALOFA LIEFDE 𑌕𑌆𑌇 PAG-IBIG SUKA 愛

**PARISH PRIEST**  
 Fr Ephrem Tigga  
 Presbytery Phone: 626 2238  
 Email: fretigga@gmail.com

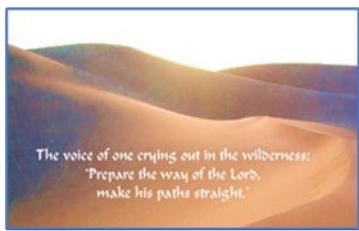
**PARISH OFFICE**  
 Office Phone 6266 207  
**email:** stdominicsparish@xtra.co.nz  
 Mon, Wed, Fri - 9:00am - 4:00 pm  
**website:** www.blockhousebaycatholic.org.nz

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11 The Lord's salvation will be made known to the poor and the oppressed.  
 Luke 1:46-50,53-54 My soul rejoices in my God  
 1 Thess 5:16-24 Paul encourages the Thessalonians to rejoice and pray always.  
 John 1:6-8,19-28 John gives testimony that he is preparing for the coming of another

**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR**

17 December 2023



Today we read a selection from the Gospel of John, where Jesus is presented as the fulfilment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is a Latin word which means "rejoice". This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

~ Loyola Press

**"My soul rejoices in my God."- Luke 1**

# Parish News

As we move into a new liturgical year may we be blessed with glimpses of the hope that is “God with us”

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION (Rite II):** will be held in the Church on Wednesday 20th Dec 2023 at 7:00pm. Fr Ephrem, and visiting priests will be present for the sacrament.

**Celebration of Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion)** We are very happy to announce that two RCIA candidates, Angela Lu and Lily Gao, were baptised and confirmed on Saturday 16 December 2023 during the 8.00 am mass. Three children were also baptised together with their parents.

## Christmas Mass Schedule

**CHRISTMAS NIGHT** (Sunday 24 December 2023)

**6:00pm:** Family, seniors and children

**9:30pm:** Christmas Carols followed by Mass at **10:00pm.**

**CHRISTMAS DAY** (Monday 25 December 2023)

**9.30am** Family Mass, Led by Children’s Liturgy and Samoan Community.

**NEW YEAR’S DAY:** Mass at 9:15am

**THANK YOU:** On behalf of Father Ephrem and the Pastoral care team, we would like to thank our Parish community, who donated toys and food, for the Monte Cecilia housing trust and the Mother of Divine Mercy refuge. We thank you for your generosity. May God bless you and your families, with hope, peace, joy and love during this Christmas season.

**CHRISTMAS EVE POST-MASS CELEBRATION:** There will be Christmas cake and drinks after the 10pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Please donate a Christmas cake for all parishioners to share and inform Anne Sia or anyone from the Hospitality group (for catering purposes).

**Children's Liturgy Ministers:** The parish is looking for volunteers to run and assist with the Children's Liturgy at the 9:30am weekend Masses. All persons who are happy to volunteer for this Ministry are welcome to contact Clinton Mob: 021769135 or contact the parish office.

**Collectors at the 6:00pm Mass:** The parish is looking for volunteers to be "Collection In-charge" for the 6:00pm weekend Masses. All those happy to volunteer may please contact Graham or Clinton.

**FLOWER ARRANGERS TEAM:** Require volunteers to assist with Weekly Flower Arrangements in the church. Please contact Clinton or the Parish Office

**NZ CATHOLIC:** NZ Catholic for sale in the church foyer, price is \$4 per copy. Some headlines for this issue: Joy as fourth Bishop of Hamilton ordained. Don't forget suffering Church. Pope receives new NZ ambassador. South Korea pilgrimage was a real blessing.

**PARISH REGISTRATION:** please register yourselves and your families directly on our website: <https://blockhousebaycatholic.org.nz/registration/>

**COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2024:** are available for sale at \$15 each, after each Mass. The sale of the calendars is a main source of income for the missionary work of the Columban Fathers.

**CUT OFF Times for items in the newsletter is 3:00pm THURSDAY. THANK YOU**

**“REQUESTS FOR MASS”** Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

**DONATIONS / PLANNED GIVING:** To join our Planned Giving scheme please send an email to: [stdomspgc@gmail.com](mailto:stdomspgc@gmail.com) or contact the Parish office. For online contributions please use the following details:

Account Name : RC Bishop of Auckland Blockhouse Bay Parish

Account No. : 02-0108-0707980-00

Ref : Your name and planned giving number

**LEGION OF MARY:** The parish Legion of Mary 'Our Lady of Grace' praesidium welcomes new members to join and serve the parish community. Meetings are held every Wednesday at 7pm, in the Church foyer or Parish Centre. You are welcome to attend to find out more about this ministry.

**CHURCH RENOVATION:** As announced by Fr Ephrem and presented at the parish AGM in April, the refurbishment of our church has now been approved by the Bishop’s office and work will commence from 3rd January 2024 to 2nd March 2024.

**Holiday & Renovation Period Masses** (Tue. 2nd January 2024 – Sat 2nd March 2024): All Masses will be celebrated in the School Hall. All Weekend Masses will be at usual timings.

- Weekday Masses **2nd to 28th January at 9.15am,**

- Weekday Masses **29th January to 2nd March at 7pm;**

- Shrove Tuesday 13th February: Burning of Ashes followed by Mass at 7pm;

- Ash Wednesday 14th February 2024 Mass at 6:00pm and the Ecumenical service at 7:30pm (TBC)

**PLEASE ALSO SEE OUR WEBSITE & NOTICE BOARD IN THE CHURCH FOYER**

## St Dominic's School News

**End of Term** School closed for the year at 12:00pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December and will re-open on Thursday 1st February 2024.

**St Dominic's Catholic Primary School Foundation** One of the key aspects of the Foundation was to support children as they left St Dominic's and went off to a Catholic college. We are very excited to again be able to support two students (one boy and one girl) with their uniform and stationery costs as they start their first year of college next year.

We encourage you to support the Foundation. The Donation account number is: **12-3034-0276615-00**

*Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hou!*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

—Daniel

## Notices from the Diocese

**Upcoming Retreats & Events at St Francis Retreat Centre:** Time Out Days – For those who seek a day retreat - 9:30am – 2:30pm (\$30 includes lunch)

**Prepare the Way of the Lord:** Advent is a special time to reflect, to ponder the Word, and to ‘Be still’ and silent in the presence of God. Please join a community on Zoom this Advent from the holiness of your home - Saturday evenings to ponder the Advent Sunday Gospels; Wednesday mornings in silent Meditation; Wednesday evenings to reflect on Pope Francis message for us that ‘it is confidence that must lead to love’. We ask Mary, our Mother, to open our hearts to the presence of her Son this Advent. God bless. Register with [diannaf@cda.org.nz](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)

**The Christmas 2023 Mass Times across Auckland,** have been published on the CDA website. Here is the link <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/christmas-masses-2023/>

**PLEASE ALSO SEE OUR WEBSITE & NOTICE BOARD IN THE CHURCH FOYER**

*Please remember the following in the Eucharist and your personal prayer:*

**Recently Deceased/Anniversaries:** Yvonne Ryan, Shirley Namhauser, Joseph Steuart, Anthony Bakarich, Fr Mario Dorado OFM Cap, Conrad Rasch, Cedric Watt, Sr Mary Mackie op, Margaret Baptista, Bernard Singh, Sr Mary Leonie, Patras Tigga, Margaret Rasch, Sr Dominic op

**For the Sick:** John and Dolores Webb, Peter Mun, Bozena Bakarich

*Please call the parish office if you need to place a name on this list.*