

HOLY FAMILY PARISH MASSES and other Liturgical Celebrations:

Daily morning Masses: **9.00am Monday to Saturday**

Saturday Vigil Mass: **6.00pm**

Sunday Masses: **8.30am - St. John of the Cross**

9.30am - Holy Family

Community Masses:

Samoan Community – **1st and 3rd Sundays at 11.00am**

Cook Islands – **2nd Sunday at 11.00am**

Myanmar Community – **4th Sunday at 11.00am**

Tokelau – **4th Sunday, 11am at St. John of the Cross**

Multicultural Mass – **Every 5th Sunday at 9.30am**

Sunday Adoration – **Every Sunday at 5.00pm**

Reconciliation – **At any time before and after Mass**

Baptism – **By appointment**

HOLY FAMILY PARISH



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For Emergencies, please contact:

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

1st December 2024

Dear Parishioners: **Kia orana, Greetings, Talofa lava, Malo ni, Mingalaba, Mauri, Ola, Namaste, Malo Lelei & Nibula.**

Advent is a time of waiting for Christ, allowing Jesus to be reborn in our lives. It is also a time for purifying our hearts by repentance and for renewing our lives by reflecting on and experiencing the several comings (advents) of Christ into our lives. Besides coming into our world through birth, Jesus comes into our lives through His Church and its members, through its Sacraments (especially the Holy Eucharist), the Word of God, the worshipping community, and finally, in His Second Coming

In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah waits and hopes for an ideal descendant of King David who, as the Messiah of God, will bring security, peace, and justice to God's people. Christians believe that Jeremiah's waiting and hoping were fulfilled in Jesus. Jeremiah's prophecy assures us that *the Lord, our Justice* will fulfil His promises, and, hence, that we need not be afraid, despite frightening events and almost universal moral degradation. The Psalmist expresses the central idea of patient, vigilant, prayerful waiting for the Lord in today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 25), singing, "*Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths, guide me in your Truth and teach me for You are God, my Savior.*" In the second reading, Paul urges the Thessalonians to continue and intensify the life of holiness and mutual love he has taught them as they wait for "*the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His holy ones.*"

In today's Gospel, Jesus prophesies the signs and portents that will accompany his *Second Coming* and encourages us to be expectant, optimistic, vigilant, and well-prepared: "*When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads, because your redemption is at hand*" (Lk 21:28). Jesus wants us to face the future with confidence in God's providence.

Life message: 1) We need to prepare ourselves for Christ's second coming by allowing Jesus to be reborn daily in our lives. Advent gives us time to make this preparation — repenting of and confessing our sins, renewing our lives through prayer, penance, and sharing our blessings with others. In Advent, we also ought to check for what needs to be put right in our lives, to see how we have failed, and to assess the ways in which we can do better. Let us accept the challenge of the German mystic *Angelus Silesius* "*Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem – but all in vain until He is born in me.*"

PARISH NOTICES AND UPDATES

1. **Sunday Adoration - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**
Every Sunday at 5.00pm.
2. **The Advent and Christmas Programme is now available.**
3. **'Lights On for You'** starts Wednesday 8th December from 6pm – 7pm with the opportunity for Confession.
4. **Parish Pastoral Council:** Last meeting for the year Tues 3 Dec 6pm at the Presbytery.
5. **Anointing Mass:** Thursday, 12th December at 6.00pm.
6. **Christmas Gifts for our Children:** We appreciate you donating a wrapped gift for any child from ages 12 months to 15 years old. A box is placed in the foyer for your presents starting this weekend. Please label "Boy" or "Girl" and the 'Age'. Thank you for your generosity.
7. **Children's Ministry** will have a shared morning tea on Sunday 15 December at 9.15am before they come to Mass. Can the families of the children please bring a small plate to share. Thank you from Charity and Mary – The Children's Ministry Teachers.
8. **Readers and Extra Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist:**
New rosters are now available - check the bulletin board for updates.
9. **Parish Youth Gathering:** We invite all young people aged 13yrs and above, and young adults to join us for a two-day youth gathering on 10 & 11 January 2025 at Bishop Viard College. This special event is an opportunity for connection, faith and inspiration as we come together to establish our new Parish Youth Ministry. We encourage parents to support our children in attending this enriching experience. Thank you, Fr Nicholas.

SUNDAY READINGS – YEAR C

1 Dec. FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 1st R: Jeremiah 33: 14 - 16
- Responsorial Psalm: 24
- 2nd R: Thessalonians 3: 12 – 4: 2
- Gospel Luke 21: 25 – 28, 34 - 36

8 Dec. SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 1st R: Baruch 5: 1 - 9
- Responsorial Psalm: 125
- 2nd R: Philippians 1: 4 – 6
- Gospel Luke 3: 1 - 6

PARISH COLLECTIONS FOR SUNDAY, 24th November 2024

Parish - \$2,421.90
Building Fund - \$681.30

Generosity consists not the sum given, but the manner in which it is bestowed.

May God bless you always.

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

The Holy Family is committed to the person of Jesus in his teaching. Therefore, we are called to live justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8) so that we might become effective witnesses of the Gospel.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We will dedicate ourselves to live and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by words and actions. In following Jesus, Mary and Joseph in their love for each other, the example of their family life, we will come to true holiness. We will strive to imitate the Holy Family by:

- Being a loving, welcoming and forgiving community, fully alive in the spirit of Holy Family.
- Teaching our children, the Gospel way of life and encouraging them always to share fully in the life of our Parish.
- Celebrating the Eucharist as a joyful remembrance of our Lord's sacrifice for us.
- Being a community of prayer that reaches out and open to other faith communities.
- Being an "Oasis" of hope, love and mercy to God's children.
- Being witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus, strengthened by our cultural diversity.

Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.

Pope Francis



LIVING AND DYING:

This has been a week of contrasts - the life, hope and joy of the Viard Prizegiving and the process of dying of my dear friend and companion, Sr Trish Hanaray.

LIVING: The night before last I attended the amazingly good Viard Prizegiving. Warm congratulations to the many young Holy Family Parishioners who received awards. It was truly pleasing to see so many of you receiving awards for academic achievements but also for faith and service and for contributing to the spirit of the College. It was an evening full of spirit, life and hope and all involved deserve hearty congratulations and I wish them the very best for the future.

Bishop Viard College is in good heart, and in good hands with a faith-filled, wise and insightful Principal and a very dedicated staff. The students are tremendously talented and they use these talents for the greater glory of God. There was a great spirit of joy at the Prizegiving which is in keeping with what Pope Francis said in 2013:

“Do not be men and women of sadness: a Christian can never be sad! Never give way to discouragement! Ours is not a joy that comes from having many possessions, but from having encountered a Person, Jesus, from knowing that with him we are never alone, even at difficult moments, even when our life's journey comes up against problems and obstacles that seem insurmountable, and there are so many of them! We accompany, we follow Jesus, but above all we know that he accompanies us and carries us on his shoulders. This is our joy, this is the hope that we must bring to this world of ours. Let us bring the joy of faith to everyone!”

DYING: Sister Trish Hanaray, who was called Sr Lucille when she was Principal of Holy Family School, is dying. Sister Trish was the last Brigidine Principal of Holy Family and she greatly loved her students. In some papers she gave me she has written “Every day is a gift and I have tried to live each day the best I could. I have been very happy in all the places I was sent to, and have loved all the people I made contact with. I have loved my work and the children, and have tried to show God's love by being kind and caring.”

Sister Trish also quotes St Mechtilde of Magdeburg: “God, I still have a great fear as to the way my soul will pass from my body. Then the Lord said to me: “It shall be thus: I will draw my breath and your soul will come to me as a needle to a magnet.”

Please pray for Sr Trish as she awaits God's call and her soul flies to the Lord at his breath.

By Sr. Anne Phibbs