

Welcome to St Mary's Parish

Holy Hour: Each first Sunday of the month at 5pm.
Children's Liturgy: 10.30 Sunday (Term time/not run on Public Holiday weekends) for children aged 4-8 years.
Holy Rosary: 8.30am weekdays
Divine Office: Morning Prayer of the Church, Tuesdays 8.10am
Stations of the Cross: 5pm Fridays. **Resuming 1st Feb 2018**
 Michael 298 9295
The statue of Our Lady is available for families, add your name to the list in the foyer or ph Jean 296 5486
Legion of Mary: Tuesdays 5pm, hall committee room. Celerina 2984080
Medjugorje prayer meetings:
 Mondays, @ 2/1 Clark Rd, Joseph 298 2297.
Mothers Prayers: 1st & 3rd Mondays 1-3pm – Ryder Rm, Jean Keown 298 4502.
Meditation Groups: Tuesdays 9.40am Fr Ryder Rm. Tuesdays 5pm - 8A Ashdown Place, Bev 298 9943 Thursdays 7.30pm
(St Anne's Manurewa every Monday 5-6pm in the Chapel.)
Music for Mass: Choir practice Wednesdays 7pm, come along or contact Judith ph 268 1884, newcomers welcome.
Playgroup: Wednesday mornings 9.30 - 11.30am, hall.
Knitting group: each 2nd & 4th Tuesday – 1- 3 pm Ryder Rm. Jenny 297 7292 - resumes 2018
English classes: Thursdays, Ryder Rm at 10am—12noon. Parish Office 299 6056 - resumes 2018
St Vincent de Paul Food Bank Office:
 Tuesday/Thursday 10-12noon ph 299 6056
St Vincent de Paul Shop: 10-3pm weekdays, 9-12noon Saturdays 275 Great Sth Rd, 296 5052
Catholic Social Services: A professional service available in this parish - Tuesdays 10am- 3-30pm. ph 022 6579789.

We pray for those who have died

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time including: Margaret Whitham, Eric Kozanic, Helen Kidd, Anne Barron, Mary Benson, Herman Kroef, ...
 We also pray for Ann Surgenor, Joanne Pudifoot, Robert Shearman and all sick parishioners and friends, and those recently bereaved.
 May they be comforted through prayer, care and visits.

Baptisms During December: Sophia Bradley
 Archer Bernauer, Charlotte Bernauer

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2018

Reconciliation, Confirmation & First Holy Communion

Please enroll or atleast provide childs name BEFORE end of this year as sessions start in February.

Enrollment forms at the doors, please place in box provided in foyer.
 Or for more information and to enroll your child
 Ph Helen Moverley 2986156
 Email: hmoverley@gmail.com

Diary note:

"Who then is this?"

Reflections on the person of Jesus by Dr Tony Molloy, to be held in St Mary's Church during Lent.

Tuesdays, Feb 20 to March 27, 7.30pm - 9.00pm.

Not to be missed

PARISH SITE DEVELOPMENT "Building A Vibrant Faith Community"

Thank you to everyone who organised and to those who supported the Site Development Fundraisers during this year:

Quilt Raffle 880.00
 Ryder Café 2170.84
 Operatunity 1698.17
 Grandstand dinners 585.00
 Rock n Roll 3476.51
 Jazz 3563.25
 Cultural night 3916.30
 Garden Ramble 3435.52
 Online - AP, donations, office 3054.00
 Second Mass Collections Build Fund 9580.50
 Mass Collections 6440.51
 One off 1200.00

TOTAL \$40,000.60

Online Donations:

Acc. 02-0100-0120982-10 REF:BuildFund

Also, Include your pledge number or contact parish office for receipt.

CHRISTMAS MASS New Year and January 2018

CHRISTMAS:

Sunday 24th December

6.30pm Carols

7.00pm Vigil Family MASS- In the Garden

Seating provided in hall foyer and Ryder Rm for elder parishioners and those with babies. Other seating is provided outdoors or you may bring a chair/rug, and bring warm clothing depending on weather.

10.00pm Carols

11.00pm MASS of the Night

Monday 25th December 9.00am MASS of the Day

New Year:

Saturday 30th December 2017 5.00pm

Sunday 31st December 2017 9.00am

Monday 1st January 2018 9.00am

PILGRIMAGE - MARDSDEN CROSS & MOTUTI 2018

- REGISTER INTEREST ... Father Peter Murphy will be taking a van to attend the Special Mass celebrating the 179th anniversary of the first Mass celebrated at Totara Point 13th January 1838. Visiting Marsden Cross & Motuti on Friday 13th – Sunday 15th of January 2018. This is an extended invitation for those interested to register their interest. There may be a small fee however further details will follow in due course. Please note due to the short trip away this invitation is for adults only this year. The full Parish Pilgrimage which includes all our Youth and Families is scheduled to take place the same weekend as Auckland Anniversary Day in 2019 - contact Fr Peter ph 2985134 for more details.

Living the bread of justice with Suzanne Aubert:

A Day of Retreat, Reflection & Refreshment for all who journey for justice and peace. *Led by Sr Sue Cosgrove* of the Sisters of Compassion. Saturday 24 February 9am-4pm Mary McKillop Centre 30 Holgate Rd Mission Bay. Lunch supplied. koha Peter Garrick peterg@cda.org.nz or ph 022 1300 730 to register.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL PAKAKURA

office@stmaryspapakura.school.nz
 Website: www.stmaryspapakura.school.nz

Enrolment queries:

David Tennent, Principal Ph. (09) 298 4450
davidt@stmaryspapakura.school.nz Latest news in foyer.

APRIL 8TH 2018



Thanks to all for support to Gala preparations during the year.



St Vincent de Paul:

Thank you everyone for the gifts and donations that were given towards the Christmas hampers this year. And to those who helped prepare and distribute them. Many hampers went out into the community on Tuesday supporting local families and individuals at this time.

Papakura Community Dinners

An ecumenical group has been preparing and serving a dinner on Tuesday nights since 2013. Last Tuesday night volunteers helped provide a lovely Christmas dinner to all who attended. The number of volunteers has dwindled and as 2018 begins new helpers will be needed. This could be joining an existing group who prepare the dinners to helping on the night serving and washing dishes. If you can consider a position on the roster it could be part of your New Years resolution.

Start date: Tuesday 23rd January 6.00pm

Please phone Rosanne 2996056.

For I was hungry, and you fed me. Matthew 25:35-45

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Update

David Seymour's 'End of Life Choice' bill had its first reading and vote in Parliament (Wednesday 13 December). The bill seeks to legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide in New Zealand for those over 18 years with a terminal illness or an irremediable condition. By the time this notice appears in your parish newsletter, the result will be known.

The majority of MPs voted 'yes', and now the bill will go to Select Committee where the public can submit their views on it. This Select Committee process will be specifically about Seymour's bill.

The Health Select Committee conducted an inquiry last year about the issues of euthanasia and assisted suicide, releasing their report in August 2017. With over 21,000 unique submissions, 80% of those were opposed to the legalisation of euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Legalising euthanasia or assisted suicide would endanger the lives and wellbeing of people who are vulnerable, including those suffering from mental health issues, our elders, and the disabled.

Regardless of the outcome of Wednesday's vote, this issue is important and will continue to be a topic of public debate.

More information and resources on this issue will be provided in January. Go to: www.nathaniel.org.nz/euthanasia.

New to the Parish

Welcome

Contact form P.T.O
 and foyer
 (blue box)
 or Parish Office
 ph 299 6056

Bequests: Have you remembered St Mary's in your Will.

St Mary's Youth Group - back after holidays !

Join us Fridays 7pm - 8:30pm in the Hall - 8yrs and over

'You are the Church of today'

Spiritual Advisor:

Father Maliu 09 2985134/0272496738

Co-ordinators: Evangeline, Olivia, Brittany

email: stmarysyouthfamily@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook: St Marys Catholic Youth



St Mary's Parish Office Administrator.

We are currently seeking a highly capable and motivated Parish Administrator for 25 hours per week commencing early in 2018.

We are seeking a talented and versatile person to ensure the effective and efficient day to day running of our Parish office and to support the Parish Priest.

This is a varied role and the core responsibilities are:

Secretarial services, processing parish accounts, maintaining parish records and compiling parish communications.

Applicants should have excellent administration and communication skills – both written and oral, strong interpersonal skills and sound computing skills in a Windows environment.

Good time management skills and capability to prioritise competing time demands are required for this role.

To view the full position description or to make an enquiry please email Evan Fitzpatrick at efitz21@outlook.com

Mercy Spirituality Centre

104 The Drive, Epsom. Ph. 638 6238 or

info@mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz or

www.mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz

- **Pondering St John's Gospel:**
- **Five weekly presentations** with Fr Stuart Sellar, first session Thurs 22 Feb 7-9pm. \$15 (\$60 all 5 sessions)
- **Introduction to Dreamwork 101** with Margaret Bowater Fri 23/Sat 24 Feb. \$130

The Healing Power of Singing with Trio A Due at St Mary's

Historic Chapel, Sat 24 Feb. \$60 (\$110 for 2 pers)

See our booklet for more details. Bookings essential.

Our office reopens on 15 Jan 2018.

We wish you many blessings for Christmas and a Happy New Year!

NZ Catholic available today for \$4.

Some headlines: Parishes to get euthanasia bill letter from bishops. NZ abuse inquiry likely to include churches. 'Our Father' translation not on ICEL agenda yet. Clergy appointments in four NZ dioceses. *The next issue published on January 28.*

Last of the 2018 Columban Calendar:
 \$12 in the foyer today.



	St Stephen	St John	Holy Innocents, Mm		
	Tues	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Psalm	31	97	124	96	96
Reading	Acts 6:8-10 7:54-60	1John 1:1-4	1 John 1:5-2:2	1John 2:3-11	1John 2:12-17
Gospel	Matthew 10:17-22	John 20:2-8	Matthew 2:3-18	Luke 2:22-35	Luke 2:36-40

Parish Office:

Reopening January 22nd

Phone messages will be cleared during Jan.

Roster for holiday timetable as below:		
Dec 31st: Holy Family		
Jan 7th: Epiphany		
Jan 14th: 2nd Sunday OT		
Jan 21st: 3rd Sunday OT		

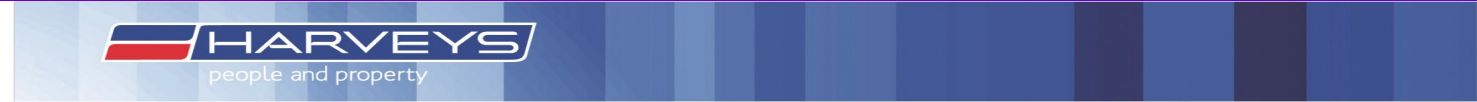
	5.00 pm	9 am
Ministers of the Word	As per roster for 5pm	As per roster for 10.30am
Extra-Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	As per roster for 5pm	As per roster for 10.30am
Altar Servers	As available please	As available please

Back to normal roster for 3 Masses on:
January 27/28th: 4th Sunday OT — Fourth Sunday of the Month

Coordinator Liturgy Centre - Vacancy Pompallier Diocesan Centre - seeking a multi talented, dedicated and efficient person with a good knowledge and love of the Church's liturgy to co-ordinate the work of the Liturgy Centre. The Centre resources the parishes, schools and communities in the diocese for liturgical ministry. For the full position description and to download an application form, please visit www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz under quick links and staff vacancies. Please send cover letter, application form and CV to Leanne Killgour, HR Manager, leannek@cda.org.nz. Applications close 26 January 2018

Marcellin College's 60th Jubilee
 - is coming up next year - 23-25 March 2018. Registrations now open at www.marcellin.school.nz

Thank you ...
 To Wendy Peoples of Harveys for sponsoring printing of the weekly parish newsletter and several other publications for the parish during the year.



Thinking about selling? I can help you get your home sold!

My family and I enjoy being a part of our parish and the school community. I would like to give something back to the community, when you successfully use my services I will make a donation to the parish. I look forward to being of service to you or anyone you may know.

*Wendy Peoples, with pride in
 property & passionate about our people.*

Wendy Peoples
 021 644 645 | 09 298 4000 | wendy@myharveys.co.nz | Southern Suburbs Realty Ltd - Licensed Agent REAA 2008

Newsletter proudly sponsored by Wendy Peoples

Pastoral Associate: Rosanne Wills Ph 299 6056 weekdays or 021 0738236 **Parish Office:** Marie Bridge Ph 299 6056
Sacramental Programme: Parish Office
Parish Office/Library: Tuesday to Friday: 9.30 am – 3.00 pm **Parish Hall Hirage:** Parish Office Ph 299 6056

St Mary's Catholic School: Ph 298 4450 **web site:** www.stmaryspapakura.school.nz

Welcome to any new parishioners! Please complete the form put in blue box in foyer or hand it in to the parish office, thank you.

Mr/Mrs/Ms Family Name..... First Name.....

Address..... Postcode.....

Phone..... Email.....



HOLY FAMILY
Sunday 31st December

Readings:
Ecclesiasticus 3:2... 14
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:22-40



St Mary's Catholic Church

– A listening, praying, servant community –

52 East Street, Papakura 2110
 Parish Priest: Fr Peter Murphy | Assistant Priest: Fr Maliumoeao Otutaha
 Phone 09 298 5134 | Office 09 299 6056
 Email: st.marys.papakura@xtra.co.nz | www.papakuracatholic.org.nz
 Facebook –search: St Mary's Parish Catholic Church Papakura

REFLECTION ...

When you come to St Mary's over the Christmas season you may notice the crib in a new place this year. The crib has an interesting history going back to St Francis of Assisi in the 12th century. What stands out in this scene is its simplicity. This year we have placed the crib by the tabernacle. What does this say? It says that the crib is an object of devotion, not just something to be looked at. Its placement by the tabernacle suggests that you pray before the crib just as you pray before the tabernacle.

There are other aspects to the nativity story that speak to our time. He was born in a stable, in the town of Bethlehem, which links him to King David to which line his parents belonged and he was born there for there was no room in the inn. Was he illegitimate? We know his parents were betrothed when Mary became pregnant. Joseph was for divorcing her informally till the angel revealed to him in a dream that he was to take Mary as his wife. Betrothal was the second stage of marriage in Jewish society. The first was engagement. Betrothal was a formal sealing of the relationship prior to marriage but still there were to be no sexual relations in this period. This was Joseph's dilemma. Mary's condition was punishable by stoning under Jewish law if it became known. There is no reference to any marriage ceremony in the Gospel accounts but we can presume it took place.

What stands out though is the simplicity of the setting. God is simple, it is we who are complicated and make God complicated. Why is God so remote, so distant? That is not the case for to find God is to find oneself in God. We come to know ourselves in God and we can only truly know ourselves in God.

Teachers frequently remark how they are not equipped to deal with the complications that they find in children nowadays. Many schools in the low decile range are feeding their children breakfast and often lunch. That just concerns the body. It is the increasingly complex psychological complications that confounds them and these are often the result of increasingly dysfunctional family situations that impact upon children. All our backgrounds are dysfunctional in one way or another. What we all need to learn is to let the light of God's love shine on those weaknesses then we can say with St Paul, "When I am weak, I am strong." He can say this because he knows that his new life is in Christ, which transforms our weaknesses for we are able to see them in a new light. That is the gift that Christ gives us, and which the simplicity of the crib speaks to us.

How does one find simplicity in the complexity of this age? At the risk of sounding like a worn-out record I can say meditate. This practice is becoming more recognised in the wider society as a human necessity. This to me says that the people from the east and west are closer to the kingdom of heaven than the children of Abraham. The growth in the pharmaceutical and counselling industries dealing with the many psychological disorders show further how complex the situation has become, but they overlook what is often at the core of the problem which is spiritual. So let the crib this Christmas speak to your heart.

On behalf of Fr Maliu and myself I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and God's blessings for the New Year as well my gratefulness to the many who contribute to the vitality of St Mary's Parish.

Peter Murphy



Year of Grace

Holiday Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 5.00 pm

Sunday Morning 9.00am

Filipino Mass 1st Sunday 12.30 (Jan 2018)

Tongan Mass 2nd Sunday 5pm (Jan 2018)

Samoan Mass 3rd Sunday 12noon
 (March 2018)

Clevedon Community 8.15 am
 1st Sunday of month - (Feb 2018)
 St Andrews Main Rd Clevedon

RECONCILIATION 9—10am Saturdays

Weekday Mass:

Monday to Thursday 9.00 am

Fridays 9.00 am

Saturdays 8.30 am

Longford Park Chapel
 Tuesday 9th January, 10.30 am.
Somerset — to be confirmed.

Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament
 Fridays 9.30am - 12.00 noon

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Samuel 7:1...16

Psalms 89

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38



CHRISTMAS

Day:
Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalms 98
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18