

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Zephaniah 3:14-18; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18
15th December 2024

	Saturday 5:00 pm	Sunday 8:30 am	Sunday 10:30 am
Welcome /Intercessions	Georgina Lautua	Mavicle Auva'a	Rowena Hernandez
Ministers of the Word	Lisa Gurney Mavicle Auva'a	Jennifer Fyn Mahonri Auva'a	Ofu Schmidt Cyrila Asseervatham
Extra-Ordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion	Kumi Kaloni Dennis Sanga Apaula Lautua Martin Lautua Jovita Parker	Falaniko Malaki Polly Ortiz Atelina Hunt Fakalelu Paseka James Obeng	Geraldine Cuya Christopher Cuya Filimoni Feagaiga Fuli Vaasili Ana Silva Telesia Tuala Tea Sharp
Altar Servers	Frankie Aita Edith Aita Nitya Roshin	Sheshan Krone Jeevani Krone James Soo Choon	Oliver Kiutau John Paul Feagaiga Luke Kiutau

PARISH SITE DEVELOPMENT

"Building A Vibrant Faith Community"



Online Donations:

PAPAKURA CAPITAL PRO ACCOUNT 02-0108-0707147-004

REF: Build Fund

For automatic pledge giving:

PAPAKURA PARISH ACCOUNT 02-0108-0707147-000

REF: Pledge Number or Name

Your support is most appreciated!

Please contact Parish office for receipts.

Please Note
 (Email or call parish office to include the names for the item below)

SICK PARISHIONERS
We pray for those who are sick, especially;

Audrea Warner, Tony Starbuck, Arthur Solomon,
 Terry Brunton, Lisa Matt, Judge Carpio, Bryan Wannell,
 Brian O'Leary, Rosario Tamin, John Ram Krishna,
 Rodolfo Tolentino and Graham Reed

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES
We pray for our dearly departed with anniversaries of death

Lesley Frances Peace, Ignatius Giborees, Winifred Pollard,
 John Joyce, Megan Jefferies, Angela Alcano Adsett, Charles
 Alfred Sims, Kevin James Ross, John Blinkhorn,
 Leonardus Koppens & John Kevin O'Reilly

May they rest in peace. Amen



New to the Parish? Welcome to St. Mary's Catholic Church. Please visit our website at www.papakuracatholic.org.nz and register online or you are very welcome to visit us at the parish office. (Office hours 9am- 3pm, Mon-Fri) Thank you

Locals Supporting Locals

HARVEYS REAL ESTATE EST. 1918

Thinking about selling?

We can help you get your home sold or rented!

Kelly, Darren and their family have been part of our parish and the school for over 20 years.

We offer a full real estate service to our fellow parishioners and when successful not only do you get rewarded, so does the parish. We look forward to being of service to you.



Newsletter proudly sponsored by Harveys Papakura

Kelly & Darren Brady, Harveys Papakura

021 635 583 | 09 298 4000 | darren@myharveys.co.nz | Southern Suburbs Realty Limited - Licensed Agent REAA 2008

St Mary's Catholic Church

A listening, praying, servant community

46 East Street, Papakura 2110

www.papakuracatholic.org.nz

Facebook: **St Mary's Parish Catholic Church Papakura**

Parish Priest: Fr Mathew Vadakkevettuvazhiyil
 Email: parishpriest@stmaryspapakura.org.nz
 Presbytery: 09 298 5134
 Fr. Mathew: 021 2090210 (Preferably text messages)
Parish Secretary: Roleta Aranda 09 299 6056
 Email: office@stmaryspapakura.org.nz
Pastoral Associate: Benita Kiutau 09 2996056
 Email: pastoral@stmaryspapakura.org.nz



St Mary's Catholic School
 Principal: Audrey Kippen
 Ph 09 298 4450

Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School
 Principal: Peta Lindstrom
 Ph 09 296 9039

St Ignatius of Loyola Catholic College
 Principal: Dean Wearmouth

8TH DECEMBER - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:3-6.8-11; Luke 3:1-6

Know our Parishioners

My Faith Journey Story

by Kiddiokalani Laupepa

God is Good!

Every day, I'm reminded of how far I've come and how God's love and grace have brought me back to Him. This journey hasn't been easy, but I'm grateful to share how God restored my faith. I was born and raised in Samoa, where faith in Christ was at the heart of our family. Church was central to my life from an early age—attending Mass, praying the Rosary, and participating in youth group activities. For the first 15 years, my life revolved around faith, community, and service.



Then, my family moved to New Zealand for my mother's medical care. It was a happy time, as we were reunited, and everything seemed to be going well. In 2016, I lost my father. Though I knew he was in a better place, his passing deeply affected me. He was the head of our family, and his loss felt like the foundation of everything we knew had been shaken. Evening prayers that once brought us together became silent, and we each dealt with the grief in our own way. I turned to distractions—weekends filled with alcohol and temporary escapes—while still attending Mass on Sundays. But inside, I was struggling. I questioned my faith, wondered where God was in my pain, and felt myself drifting away from the foundation I had known.

Then in 2020, I gave birth to my daughter, and the pandemic hit. The lockdowns kept me at home, and I realized I needed to make the most of this time. During this period, my partner, who is Muslim, began praying five times a day. His discipline and devotion inspired me. If he could commit to his faith, why couldn't I?

One day, we had a conversation about faith. He asked me questions about the Bible—basic things I should have known as a Christian. I realized I didn't have the answers. I knew about the Bible, but I didn't truly know it. That moment was a wake-up call.

In 2021, I made the decision to deepen my relationship with God. I understood that following Jesus didn't mean life would be perfect. It still had its challenges, but now I had the strength of faith to face them. When I let God take the lead in my life, I encountered struggles, especially in my marriage. But through it all, I clung to Jesus, trusting that He would guide me. Now, my partner and I have found mutual respect for each other's faith. While we may not agree on

MASS TIMES

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday
 8:30am & Vigil 5:00pm

Sunday
 8:30am & 10:30am

Second Sunday of the month
 Baptism during 10:30am mass

WEEKDAY MASS

Monday - 9:00am
 Tuesday - 6:30pm
 Wednesday - 6:30pm
 Thursday - 9:30am
 Friday - 9:00am

First Fridays of month 10:00am

First Saturdays of the month
 Anointings of the Sick - 8:30am

ETHNIC MASSES

Filipino language 1st Sunday
 2:00pm
Tongan Language 2nd Sunday
 2:00pm
Samoan Language 3rd Sunday
 12:00pm

RECONCILIATION

9:00 - 10:00am, Saturdays

Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament

Fridays 9:30am - 12:00pm

First Friday of month

10:00am - Mass
 10:30am - 12:00pm and
 6:30 - 7:30pm - Adoration &
 Benediction

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Tuesday & Wednesday - 6:00pm
 Evening Prayer (VESPER)

Sunday - 8:00am
 Morning Prayer (LAUDS)

RETIREMENT VILLAGE MASS

Longford - 2nd Tuesday, 11:00am
 Summerset - 3rd Tue, 10:30am

PTO

Welcome to St Mary's Parish

Holy Rosary: 8:30, 5:30p.m. Monday to Friday
Stations of the Cross: 5pm Fridays. Michael 298 9295
The statue of Our Lady is available for families, add your name to the list in the foyer or ph Jean 027 2982327
SMYFs (St Mary's Youth Family)- Bringing Youth Closer to Christ. We welcome all youth aged 10 & up to join us for our monthly youth sessions. We delve into scripture while growing closer with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Contact 021 084 04602, smarysyoungfamily@gmail.com for more info, or check out our Facebook Smyfs Papakura and Instagram @smyfs_.
 Next youth session is: **13 December, 7-9pm Hall.** All welcome
Legion of Mary Senior Presidium: Mondays 6:15pm, hall committee room.
Legion of Mary Junior Presidium: Fridays 5-6pm, Ryder room. Celerina 298 4080
Medjugorje prayer meetings: Mondays, @ 2/1 Clark Rd, Joseph 298 2297
Meditation Groups: Tuesdays 9.40am Fr Ryder Rm. (St Anne's Manurewa every Monday 5-6pm in the Chapel.)
Knitting group: each 2nd & 4th Tuesday: 1- 3 pm Ryder Rm. Jenny 297 7292
St Vincent de Paul Foodbank Office: Food parcels please phone for an appointment. Mob: 021 026 71430
St Vincent de Paul Shop: Mon—Fri 10:00-3:00pm Sat 10:00-1:00pm 275 Great South Rd, 296 5052
The Knights Of The Southern Cross—Richard Power
Lay Camillian Family NZ Ministry to the sick—Dennis Sanga dtbsanga@gmail.com
Music Ministry Team - Singing and music practice for our Sunday Masses - Wednesday at 7:15pm. All welcome.
St. Mary's Women's Group - Friday, 1:00-3:30pm, Ryder room - Brigid 021 02345439 or Jackie 021 02358939. No meeting during school holidays. All welcome

Continued from Page 1.

everything, we both acknowledge that there is a higher power, and we were created with purpose. It's through God's plan that we find meaning in life.

It took me five years to open my Bible again, but I'm so grateful that I did. Never doubt the work God is doing in your life. Whether it takes five years or five minutes, He is always there, waiting for you to ask, seek, and knock. In Matthew (7:7), Jesus says: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." If you want to know God more deeply, you have to ask, seek, and knock. He will not turn you away.

Your journey with God may be different from mine, but remember, we are all striving toward the same goal: to walk rightly with Christ. Don't envy others on their path; we are all working toward the same ultimate aim—to be saved and to fulfill God's will. By His grace, we will all reach His Kingdom.

To the youth and anyone struggling with their faith, I say: Live your life in Christ. There is so much beauty to be found in Him. Don't give up, even when life is hard. God is always with you, and His plan for you is greater than anything you can imagine. Trust in His timing, trust in His love, and never let go of your faith.

Amen.

We ask parishioners of all ages, background and talents to write the stories of their faith journey. What does faith mean to you? How does your faith help you to live your life with its promises and hopes? What does your prayer life mean to you? It is for faith sharing and encouraging one another and to get to know the members of our parish family. The stories can be a maximum of 500 words. Please email it with a passport size photograph to office@stmaryspapakura.org.nz



Christmas Crib / Nativity

Parish is looking for families to volunteer to prepare the crib in the Church Foyer. Please contact parish office.

Year of Jubilee Pope Francis has proclaimed 2025 as a Year of Jubilee – Pilgrims of Hope. As well as local initiatives the diocese has a calendar of **Jubilee Events**. At this stage they are presented as date claimers so that you can put them in your diaries so that when notification of registrations been opened your calendars are free. Explore and return regular to <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/jubilee2025/jubilee-calendar/>

A STALL next Sunday **15th Dec** with ROSARIES, crucifixes, other Catholic and Christian to be held after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses. Most items from \$3 to \$20. cash or Internet payment. for info contact Fran letspraymore112@gmail.com

Signing of School Preference form

Every Wednesday between 8:00 - 9:00 am and 1:00 - 4:00pm Please call parish office to book an appointment or walk in are all welcome.

Parish News and Updates



Christmas & New year Masses

Tuesday, 24th December
 6:30 pm - Christmas Carols
 7:00 pm - Vigil Mass
 10:00 pm - Christmas Carols
 11:00 pm - Christmas Mass at Night
Wednesday, 25th December
 9:00 am - Christmas Mass
 No Evening Mass
Tuesday, 31st December
 6:30 pm - New Year's Eve Mass
Wednesday, 1st January 2025
 9:00am - Mary, the Holy Mother of God
 No evening Mass at 6:30pm

Dates for your Diary	
Sun, 8 Dec	Ecumenical Advent Celebration, 7:00pm, St Marys Parish. Shared supper after the service in the hall.
Fri, 13 Dec	Parish Advent Reconciliation Rite II, 7:00 pm, Church.
Sat / Sun 14 & 15 Dec	Interview of the children on Sacramental Programme, 1:00 to 4:00 pm
Thu, 19 Dec	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting, 7:00 pm, Ryder room
	No Baptismal Preparation Course this month. Next Preparation Schedule will be on January 2025
Tue, 31 Dec	Mass at the Cathedral—Opening of the Jubilee Year, 11:00 pm
11 & 12 Jan'25	National Pilgrimage & Mass at Totara Point, Hokianga

Sacramental Programme 2025

Registration form is available on our website. Parents are requested to submit the forms with Baptismal Certificate not later than **17 January 2025**.

Baptism for children aged 7—12 yrs old

We are happy to invite Catholic parent(s) who have children not yet baptized, but open to baptism in the Catholic Church. We shall enter into a process of discernment and faith formation before baptizing them. Contact the parish office.

Catholics Returning Home

You may know someone in your circle of friends who left our worshipping community. As God is always searching and waiting for us patiently, we are happy to visit them and begin a process of dialogue. Contact the parish office.



Host for next weekend:
14th & 15th Dec
 5:00 pm? 8:30 ? 10:30am ?
 To support please call parish office
 Columban Calendar 2025 - \$ 13
 Bible Diary 2025 - \$ 20
 Available at the parish office.

Weekday Readings, 9th – 14th December

Monday	Immaculate Conception Genesis 3:9-15.20; Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12; Ps.98; Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday	Isaiah 40:1-11; Ps.96; Matthew 18:12-14
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:25-31; Ps.103; Matthew 11:28-30
Thursday	Isaiah 41:13-20; Ps.145; Matthew 11:11-15
Friday	Isaiah 48:17-19; Ps.1; Matthew 11:16-19
Saturday	Ecclesiasticus 48:1-4.9-11; Ps.80; Matthew 17:10-13

THE PARISH NEEDS YOUR TIME

- ONE HOUR a week as Power point operator for each mass
- ONE HOUR a week as Eftpos operator for each mass
- ONE HOUR per week to count the mass collections
- TWO HOURS a month to be minute takers of the meeting for Parish Pastoral Council Committee and Liturgy Committee (choose only one)
- ONE HOUR OR TWO to clean the Church, Hall or Ryder room (choose only one per group or family)
- ONE HOUR a week to take Holy Communion to the homebound.
- You may have talents which you want make known to parish.

Building Inspection

The Finance Committee is seeking a volunteer(s) to inspect all the parish buildings and to submit a report. The report will enable the Finance Committee to budget and prioritize maintenance of all buildings. Kindly contact the parish office.

Presentation of Gifts during Masses

We encourage families to volunteer to take the gifts of bread and wine to the priest at the offertory. Please contact parish office to book your time.

Catechists needed for Children's Liturgy of the Word

We earnestly seek parishioners to help the Children with the Liturgy of the Word. It is a ministry to proclaim the Word of God to the children and help them understand the Word at their level. Those who come forward will be given help to get trained in this wonderful ministry. Kindly contact the parish office.



Parish Needs You - Car Park Attendant

The parish is looking for volunteers to help out in managing our car parks for each Mass on the weekends. You will be delighted to see many smiling faces and greet and receive them as they drive to church. Please contact the parish office for details.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY PAPA KURA

Food bank



Will be open on Thursday mornings by appointment for clients to pick up their pre-booked parcels. To request food assistance please phone **021 02671430** to give your details and you will be given an appointment time for collecting a food parcel.

St Mary's Parish Women's Group

John 18.33-37
 Pilot asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus witnessed the truth, His kingdom is not of this world, Not a king with prestige, privilege and power but a servant king. Jesus comes into our world quietly and silently and puts an invitation before us to follow him, live by his values of truth and compassion. Make Jesus Lord of our lives..

Free adult & children's Clothing TODAY after 10.30 Mass

St Mary's Women's Group will be offering second-hand clothing free of charge after 10.30am Mass today.

Please come and help yourself!
 Enquiries phone:
Brigid 021.0254.5439
 or
Jackie 021.025.58939