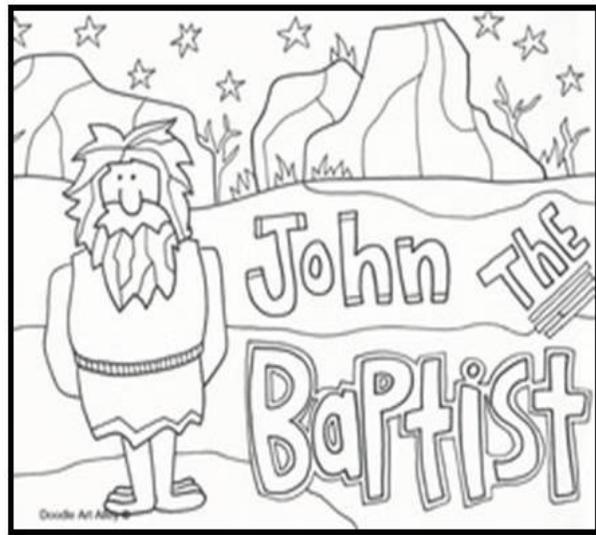


Third Sunday of Advent - Joy

"Jesus is the Promised One" – Gaudete Sunday

B	Y	D	P	R	O	E	P	H	S	PRISON
L	P	N	O	S	I	R	P	E	O	BLIND
I	P	I	T	L	O	U	H	P	C	LAME
D	A	L	A	P	E	T	I	P	L	LEPERS
N	H	B	H	A	O	P	P	Y	E	CLEANSED
P	W	E	H	L	L	I	E	P	A	LIFE
A	T	O	C	A	Y	R	F	R	N	HAPPY
L	S	I	M	C	P	C	I	I	S	CLOTHES
A	E	E	T	E	P	S	L	S	E	PALACES
C	L	E	A	S	N	E	D	E	D	PROPHET
										SCRIPTURE
										WOMEN

Read Matthew 11:2-11 as you light the 3rd (rose) candle on your Advent wreath and learn why John the Baptist sent his followers to find Jesus.



Happenings

Our Lady of Hope Parish, Tawa-Titahi Bay
OUR LADY OF FATIMA CHURCH - 169 Main Road, TAWA
ST PIUS X CHURCH - 64 Te Pene Avenue, TITAHI BAY

✉ mail: PO Box 51029, Tawa 5249 | ☎ phone: 04 232 5611

✉ email: ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz | 🌐 website: www.ourladyofhope.org.nz

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A - 11 DECEMBER 2022

Gaudete! Rejoice!

IT WAS CUSTOMARY in ancient times for kings and rulers or their representatives to visit their territories and vassal states. In the Greco-Roman world, they even have a term for that. *Parousia* refers to the official presence or arrival of a person of rank or authority.

As Christ's representative, St Paul also used the same word in his Letter to the Philippians, as he encouraged them to be obedient to the faith while preparing for his coming pastoral visit.

Over time, Christians have come to associate "Parousia" with the Second Coming of Christ, at the end of time when there will be a new heaven and a new earth (Rev 21:1). While Christ will surely come at the End of Time, we should also remember that our Faith "*repeatedly affirms that each will be rewarded immediately after death in accordance with his works and faith ... in a particular judgment that refers his life to Christ: either entrance into the blessedness of heaven—through a purification or immediately—or immediate and everlasting damnation.*" (CCC 1021-1022)

Therefore, while the season of Advent prepares us for the celebration of the coming of the Messiah 2,000 years ago, it also prepares us to meet Christ at the end of our life. Saint James, in our **Second Reading**, suggests that as we prepare for the Parousia, it helps to emulate the lives of the holy people who have gone ahead of us. Our **First Reading** paints a joyful picture of the eschatological time when we shall meet our Redeemer. That is what our liturgy this Sunday bids us to look forward to, and therefore asks us: **Gaudete (Rejoice!)**

The Spanish mystic and great reformer, St Teresa of Avila, if she is around today, might once more repeat what she said centuries before, "*From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!*"



Blessings,
Rico Angelo

EVER ANCIENT, EVER NEW

(Quotes from the past)

Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another? (Mt 11:3)



THE GOSPEL NARRATIVE tells of a question which John the Baptist, who was in prison, put to the Lord through his disciples. "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to look for someone else?"

John himself was in no doubt about the matter. Even from his mother's womb he had recognized Jesus, and at the Jordan he had borne his testimony; but he sent this embassy for two reasons.

John knew that the Lord's reply was bound to be very fruitful, and events proved him right.

In the first place, John wished to instruct his disciples. He knew that his own death was imminent and, like the good leader and teacher he was, he made provision for his disciples, to ensure that they would have a teacher and protector. He wanted to see them safe under Christ's wing and in his care.

John's second and paramount motive, however, was to draw attention to Christ. He knew that he had been sent to bear witness to Christ, and although he had given his testimony at the Jordan, few had accepted it. - *Commentary by Thomas of Villanova*



PARKING AT OUR LADY OF FATIMA CHURCH

Please remember to park legally!!
Illegally parked vehicles will be towed at owner's expense



Reconciliation is available before Vigil and Sunday Masses or by appointment - please phone (04) 232 5611 or text 021 205 6476.

12-18 December

Monday: Matthew 21:23-27; *Tuesday:* Matthew 21:28-32; *Wednesday:* Luke 7:19-23; *Thursday:* Luke 7:24-30; *Friday:* John 5:33-36; *Saturday:* Matthew 1:1-17; **4th Sunday of Advent, Year A:** Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

MASSES:



ANNIVERSARIES: John Caskey (11); Nora Randall (16).

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK: Gina Toscano (13); John Santos, Edward Foley, Gemma Rattigan, William Falvey (14); Henry Wilkinson (15); Mary Sievers, Joseph Habersatter, Jane Greally, Gwendolen Sievers (16); Frederick Thompson, George Hagan, Raymond Johnston, Joana Kelly, Robert (Bobby) Mahoney (18).

R.I.P. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen

12-18 DECEMBER: MASS & SERVICE TIMES

	OUR LADY OF FATIMA CHURCH TAWA	ST PIUS X CHURCH, TITAHI BAY
Monday	9am Mass	
Tuesday	9am Mass	
Wednesday	9am Mass 9am-9pm Adoration	
Thursday	9am Mass, 7pm Simbang Gabi	10am Mass
Friday	9am Mass, 7pm Simbang Gabi	
Saturday	9am Mass, 7pm Simbang Gabi	5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	8.30 & 10.30am Mass, 7pm Simbang Gabi	

Weekday Masses may be replaced by a Funeral Mass

Parish Priest:	Fr Rico de la Torre	Ph: 021 205 6476
Parish Secretary:	Jane Lee	Ph: 232 5611 169 Main Road, Tawa
	Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9.30am-12 noon	
Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson:	Marie Prescott	Ph: 232 7679
Parish Finance Committee Chairperson:	Graeme Hansen	Ph: 232 4360
Marist Sisters:	Srs Francine McGovern & Margaret Vaney	Ph: 232 5151
St Francis Xavier School:	Joan Woods, Principal	Ph: 232 8927
St Pius X School:	Philippa Matla, Acting Principal	Ph: 236 7006
Bishop Viard College:	Chris Theobald, Principal	Ph: 237 5248
Samoan Chaplaincy	Mikaele Teofilo	Ph: 021 0818 5037
Filipino Chaplaincy	Web: www.filipinochaplaincy-wellington.org.nz	

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS/WEEKLY COLLECTION 4 December 2022 - \$2,089.30

This amount does not include Bank Automatic payments or direct debit payments.



BROTHER PETER BRAY FSC - Speaking Tour

Brother Peter Bray FSC, the Kiwi Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University, will make a NZ speaking tour on behalf of the bishops to all our Catholic Dioceses early next year, to talk about the Holy Land, his work with his students, and the lives of other ordinary Palestinians. In preparation for the tour, he is making three videos; the second has just been issued. It is very powerful. View it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R17kia53-GY>

Go here for more information about the videos and Br Peter's speaking tour: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/brpeter-video2/>

Wellington Venue: *St Thomas More (Wilton) Monday 30 January 2023, 7pm start.* Tea and coffee available from 6.30pm.

Please register with Christine at c.walkerdine@wn.catholic.org.nz or phone (04) 496 1706.



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

The Council for Young People is inviting young Catholics (and all other young people) to join a pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon. They have published a very full draft itinerary for Kiwis wanting to attend WYD 2023. It covers 24 days leaving Auckland on 15 July for Paris, then pilgrimage to such places as Lyon and Lourdes, Fatima for six days, reaching Lisbon on 31 July. Lisbon will host many official events from 1 August to WYD on Sunday 6 August, which climaxes with a Mass that Pope Francis is expected to celebrate in person.

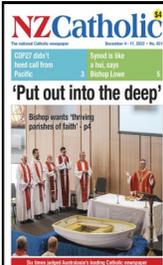
Read more and download the itinerary here: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/wyd-lisbon2023-itinerary/>



HEARTS AFLAME CATHOLIC SUMMER SCHOOL

Join us this year at *Nga Tawa Diocesan School, Marton from 30 December 2022 until 8 January 2023.*

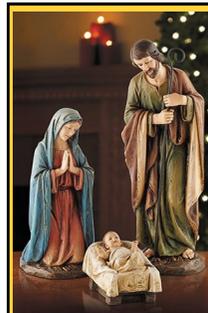
You can register at: www.heartsaflame.org.nz/registration or find out more at our website or on our social media.



NZ CATHOLIC (Issue 4-17 December)

Now for sale in church foyers. **Price: \$4** (unchanged for eight years).

Some headlines for this issue: Bishop wants 'thriving parishes of faith'. COP27 didn't heed call from Pacific. Synod is like a hui, says Bishop Lowe. CEC launches podcasts with a Christmas focus.



CHRISTMAS ROSTERS

Will you be attending Christmas Masses at either Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tawa or St Pius X Church, Titahi Bay? If so, we need people to assist with the following: -

TAWA:

Eucharistic Ministers (7pm Vigil, Midnight & 10.30am); Reader, Prayer Leader, Offertory, Collectors, (Midnight, 10.30am). Flowers (Christmas/New Year weekends)

TITAHI BAY:

Reader, Welcomer/Prayers of the Faithful, Eucharistic Ministers, Offertory & Collector, Altar Care (9am)

Please contact Jane in the office email: ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz or phone: **232 5611** by **16 December** if you can help, so rosters can be finalised. Thanks



MARIST ADVENT SERVICE

The parish Marian Mothers and Women of Faith groups are hosting an Advent Service (prepared by Marist Laity NZ) on *Tuesday 13 December at 10am in the foyer of Our Lady of Fatima church.* This will be followed by morning tea.



YOU are invited to join this event as part of your preparation for Christmas. If you haven't done so already, please bring some donations for the St Vincent de Paul appeal for their Christmas food parcels.



SIMBANG GABI / AGUINALDO MASS

This is a 9 Day Novena in anticipation of Christmas and to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary. All parishioners are welcome and encouraged to attend the Novena Masses which will be held at **7pm from 15-23 December at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tawa** and **celebrated in English.**

Would you like to take part or serve as a music group, reader, prayer leader, Eucharistic Minister or altar server? If so, please contact Elsie at: devera_elsie@yahoo.com or phone: 021 240 4544.

Thank you for your support.

May we have a fruitful celebration of the Birth of Jesus.



CHRISTMAS FUN MORNING

Tuesday 20 December 10am-12.30pm at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tawa.

Leave your children with us for a fun-filled morning while you catch up on Christmas preparations. Our fun morning is suitable for children 4 years and upwards. Younger children are welcome with an adult caregiver. Enjoy games, crafts and snacks. We will also be practising the play for the Christmas Eve Family Mass. Helpers are required for this event (teenagers, parents, other parishioners). Please contact Marie Andrewartha 021 476 153.

CHRISTMAS TREATS FOR SVdP FOOD PARCELS

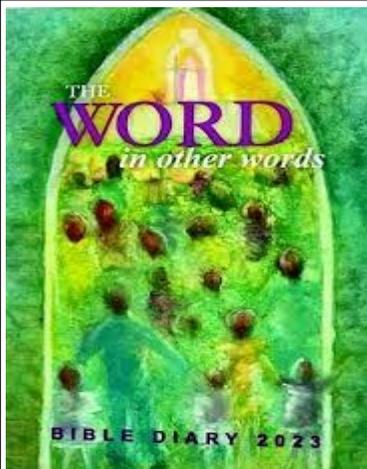
During the month of December, we like to include a few treats like fancy biscuits and crackers, tinned fruit, chocolate and sweets in our St Vincent de Paul food parcels. Over the next few Sunday's please could you help us in spreading some Christmas joy by placing in our basket in the church foyers any of the above food items as well as any bottles of shampoo, hand cream, fancy wrapped soaps etc.



Many thanks and May God Bless you all.

FOOD FOR FAITH FOR ADVENT - Online

Fr John O'Connor's Food for Faith page will have daily Advent reflections. As we make this Advent journey, set a few minutes at least a couple of times every day to practice recognising God. Savour the moments when you are walking, driving or waiting to recognise the presence and action of God. Go to Fr John's website: www.foodforfaith.org.nz and sign up to receive them.



THE WORD IN OTHER WORDS Bible Diary 2023

A helpful companion for those who continually seek to encounter Christ in the Scriptures.

The Bible diary 2023 is a decent, meaningful, and useful Christmas Gift. A beautiful way to say, "God loves you!"

A limited number are now available for sale at the Parish Office for \$20 (incl GST) - [cash only].

By purchasing this diary, you are supporting MISSIONZ.



RAT TESTS AND FACE MASKS

If you or your family need RAT tests and/or face masks, please contact the parish office (ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz or phone: 232 5611) as we have a good free supply. Thanks



FOR SALE: COLUMBAN CALENDAR 2023 AND SVDP CHRISTMAS CARDS

Available from the Parish office (Tuesday-Friday 9-noon)

Columban Calendars \$12 each (cash only)
St Vincent de Paul Christmas cards \$3 (cash only)



CHANGE TO WEEK-DAY MASSES

Starting on Monday, 21 November and on 19 December the 9am Mass will be a Liturgy of the Word with Communion service. Then, in the New Year, every 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month will be a Liturgy of the Word with Communion Service.

A Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion is provided to enable the faithful to offer praise and worship and to be nourished by Word and Holy Communion.

This will enable the presiders to have a regular practice of leading these services so that they can step in any time Fr Rico is unavailable due to illness, holidays or because he is attending to an urgent need.



JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND with Bishop Steve Lowe

Commences Sunday 5 March 2023 - 20 days

Includes visits to Petra (2); Madaba; Mt Nebo; Dead Sea (2); Sea of Galilee (5); Nazareth; Mt Tabor; Cana; Beit She'an; Jericho; Jerusalem (7); Bethlehem; Masada; Qumran; Ein Karem.

For more information, contact: booking.harvestjourneys.com/nzd