

First Sunday of Advent - Hope

"Be ready"



"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." Mark 13:33-37

Color the first candle of Hope on the Advent wreath purple.



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

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1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B - 3 DECEMBER 2023

Happy New Year

HAPPY CHURCH NEW Year, that is. The **Church Calendar** reveals the pattern of our lives; nah, the pattern of our supposedly sanctified lives.

Look closely at our Church calendar and you will see the **history of salvation** being replayed before our very eyes: in **Advent**, we make the longings of the prophets and God's people our own as they prepare for the coming of the promised Messiah; **Christmas** season conveys to us the joy the birth of the Messiah brings.

The season in **Ordinary Time (First Part)** after Christmas with its lessons about the Kingdom sets us to that time when Jesus prepares his disciples during his short public ministry to look towards his coming self-offering. **Lenten Season** brings us closer to His Suffering and Death, as he accomplishes the Father's will—because he loves us—even unto death on the cross; but with **Easter Season**, we celebrate his victory over sin and death through his Resurrection and Ascension.

With the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, we are being "sent" into the world during the **Ordinary Time (Second Part)** to bear witness to our faith while we await the *end of times* where Jesus will come again as Christ the King to judge the living and the dead. The feasts and solemnities imbedded in the calendar teach us about the saints and the mysteries of our faith.

"Our calendar is our catechism," Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch replied when asked why the Jews do not have a catechism. His answer speaks for us, too; for, the Church Calendar, with its repetitions and cycles, makes the sacred lessons sink more easily and deeply into our lives. The Holy Spirit at work in the Church who is our *mater et magistra* (mother and teacher), knew exactly how to nurture and educate our stubborn human nature.

We may have been unfaithful and faltering these past days, months, and years, but in God there is always a new beginning—that the history of salvation we relive year after year may find its **completion in our own lives**.

Blessings
Rico Angelo

Happy New
Church Year!

*article first appeared on Dec 2018



THE CATECHISM CONNECTION

Here, some paragraphs from **the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)** are presented because they cite, or allude to, or treat topics found in the liturgical readings. We, therefore, encourage you to read them with the Catechism that we may grow deeper in our understanding of our Faith.

CCC 35: *God gives humanity grace to accept Revelation and welcome the Messiah*

MAN'S FACULTIES MAKE him capable of coming to a knowledge of the existence of a personal God. But for man to be able to enter into real intimacy with him, God willed both to reveal himself to man and to give him the grace of being able to welcome this revelation in faith. The proofs of God's existence, however, can predispose one to faith and help one to see that faith is not opposed to reason.

CCC 672: *The final tribulation and Christ's return in glory*

BEFORE HIS ASCENSION Christ affirmed that the hour had not yet come for the glorious establishment of the messianic kingdom awaited by Israel which, according to the prophets, was to bring all men the definitive order of justice, love and peace. According to the Lord, the present time is the time of the Spirit and of witness, but also a time still marked by "distress" and the trial of evil which does not spare the Church and ushers in the struggles of the last days. It is a time of waiting and watching.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.



Reconciliation is available before Vigil and Sunday Masses or after 9am Mass on Saturday mornings (9.30-10am).

Daily Readings 4-10 December

Monday: Matthew 8:5-11; *Tuesday:* Luke 10:21-24; *Wednesday:* Matthew 15:29-37; *Thursday:* Matthew 7:21,24-27; *Friday:* Luke 1:26-38; *Saturday:* Matt 9:35-10:1,6-8;
2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11; Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

MASSES: Special Intention - surgery (3).



ANNIVERSARIES: Fred Taupe (8).

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK: Timothy Leaf, Kevin Swain, Frank Ward, Robert Davies, Franciscus Knipping (4); Stephen Polaschek, Francis McCormick, John Rutledge, William Harcourt (5); Augustine Anthony (6); Bennett Ratcliffe (8); John Whitman, Gertrude Radcliffe-Talor, Litisie Alifereti, Georgina Boyle (9); Winifred Driscoll, Kenneth Patterson, Dianne Walford (10).

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

4-10 DECEMBER: MASS & SERVICE TIMES

	OUR LADY OF FATIMA CHURCH, TAWA	ST PIUS X CHURCH, TITAHI BAY
Monday	9am Mass <i>(St Francis Xavier School will be attending for their Feast Day)</i>	
Tuesday	9am Mass	
Wednesday	9am Mass 9am-9pm Adoration	
Thursday	9am Mass	10am Mass
Friday	9am Mass	
Saturday	9am Mass	5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	8.30am and 10.30am Mass	

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

St Francis Xavier School: Joan Woods, Principal Ph: 232 8927
St Pius X School: Nenah Kelemete, Principal Ph: 236 7006
Bishop Viard College: Chris Theobald, Principal Ph: 237 5248

Filipino Chaplaincy Web: www.filchap-adw.nz

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS/WEEKLY COLLECTION

26 November 2023 - \$2,053.80

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



ROSA MYSTICA CELEBRATION

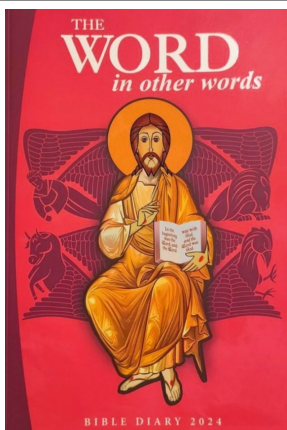
Friday, 8 December 12.10-1.45pm at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tawa

Holy Mass will be celebrated at 12.30pm by Fr Kevin Connors. Also, Reconciliation, Benediction, recitation of the Rosary, hymns and prayers to Our Lady. Please join us and stay for afternoon tea. For enquiries, please ph Stephen: 027 243 5119 or Mary 027 555 6333 or Lucia 021 022 89544.



SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - 8 December

As has been the custom for many years now, an Archdiocesan Mass will be celebrated on our Diocesan feast day at *St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral, Karori* at 7pm on Friday, 8 December. The Archdiocese will again be entrusted to the care of Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception at this Mass. All are welcome to attend this special Mass.



THE WORD IN OTHER WORDS Bible Diary 2024

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

The Bible diary 2024 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 **\$25 (incl GST) - [cash only]**.

By purchasing this diary, you are supporting MISSIONZ.



NZ CATHOLIC (3-16 December) Now for sale in church foyers. Price: \$4 (unchanged for eight years).

Angels in Sanctuary

Please put money in blue cash box on foyer table

Some headlines for this issue: NZ representatives at Vatican Synod reflect on experience. Changes to sanctuary at Dunedin cathedral. Young people debate topic of married priests. Transitional deacon ordained in Wellington.



THE JESSE TREE

The Jesse tree helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. The Jesse tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of King David. We adorn a Jesse tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophesies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments of the Jesse tree tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history.

1st week of Advent

Adam and Eve - Ornament: Tree with Fruit or Apple - Genesis 2:4-24

Noah - Ornament: Rainbow or Ark - Genesis 6-9

You are encouraged to celebrate the weeks leading up to Christmas with an Advent wreath which can be used as a focal point for your daily devotions.



ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we bless this wreath.

May its Advent light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

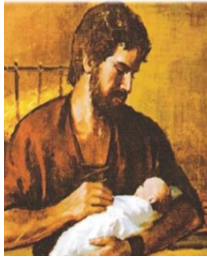


ADVENT SERVICE - Everyone welcome

The parish Marian Mothers and Women of Faith groups are hosting an Advent Service (prepared by Marist Laity NZ) on **Monday 4 December at 10am in the foyer of Our Lady of Fatima church** (after the School Mass at 9am). The service will be followed by morning tea.

YOU are invited to join us as part of your preparation for Christmas. If you haven't done so already, please bring donations for the St Vincent de Paul appeal for their Christmas food parcels. For more information, you can contact Mary 232 2088 or Jane 232 7206.





ST JOSEPH'S DADS GROUP

Kia ora koutou, we are a group of dads who get together monthly to pray and meditate on our faith. We want to have a better relationship with God so that we can guide our families to grow in their Catholic faith.

Our next gathering is on *Monday, 4 December at 7.30pm in the side chapel of Our Lady of Fatima church in Tawa.* For more info text Pablo on 021 1650 473.



TUESDAY LUNCHEON

The Tuesday luncheon will finish the year with a **CHRISTMAS LUNCH**. It is always the highlight of the year. So do come and join us in this enjoyable parish get-together for everyone 60 years and over.

It will be held on **Tuesday 5 December at 12 noon in the Our Lady of Fatima church foyer**. It will last a bit longer than our usual luncheons because of the extras you are served and the special entertainment. For catering purposes we like to know for how many people we have to cater. So please make a booking with Pat Fouhy on 461 6122 or Peter on 232 8795. Please make your booking no later than **TONIGHT, Sunday 3 December. Late bookings can only be taken if there are cancellations.** We ask for **\$6** to cover the cost and are looking forward to seeing you there!



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

This programme, for adults who would like to know more about the Catholic Faith will begin with an Introductory/Welcome session. This is an opportunity for those interested in joining the Catholic Church family to come along and find out a little about the RCIA programme and

to ask questions.

This session will be held on *Sunday 10 December at 4pm in the Foyer of Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tawa.*

This programme is designed for those wishing to become Catholic. If you or a friend would like to join this programme, please come along on the 10th or phone: Fr Rico 021 205 6476 or Jane at the Parish Office - (04) 232 5611 or email: ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz



Sisters Margaret and Francine have appreciated very much their time of being with you and journeying together over the years. Thank you very much for your love, friendship and support. We were very sorry to have to leave you and will keep you and your families in our prayers. "May the Lord bless you and keep you, May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace."



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 Sundays 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 God Bless you all.*



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

Please contact Jane in the office ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz or ph: **232 5611** by **11 December** if you can help, so rosters can be finalised. *Thanks*



NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE and MASS FOR LIFE

You're invited to join the National March for Life on *Saturday 2 December from 1pm* at Civic Square, Wellington. Preceding this will be the Mass for Life on *Friday 1 December, 7pm at St Mary of the Angels, Boulcott Street.* For more info visit fli.org.nz/prolifeevents