

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love

"I will do what asks of me"



In the ornaments above, write ways you can say "YES" to Jesus. Cut out the ornaments and place them around your house for Christmas to remind you how Mary willingly agreed to do what God asked of her.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.



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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4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B - 24 DECEMBER 2023

O ANTIPHONS: The Great Os

WE OFTEN HEAR in our daily Mass *antiphons* recited at the Entrance and Communion. In an ideal liturgical setting, antiphons are usually chanted by a cantor.

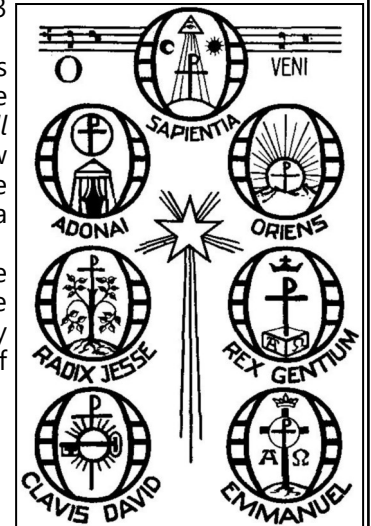
This ancient practice of using antiphons is said to have started by St Ignatius of Antioch in the first century and by the third century, the practice was well-entrenched into our liturgical tradition, with St Ambrose as one of the more famous ecclesiastics who favoured their usage. By the 6th century, the O Antiphons of Advent are a major component of the season. Modern English speaking churches often sing these antiphons during Advent each time they sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!"

During these days of Advent we heard once more the *O Antiphons*, so called because the Latin version starts with "O". These antiphons contain scripture based, theological reflections about the identity of the coming Messiah. For 17 December, we have *O Sapientiae* (O Wisdom); 18 Dec: *O Adonai* (Lord); 19 Dec: *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse); 20 Dec: *O Clavis David* (O Key of David); 21 Dec: *O Oriens* (O Dayspring); 22 Dec: *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations); 23 Dec: *O Emmanuel* (O God-with-us).

Oh, there's more! I'm not making this up: the first letters form a Latin reverse acrostic: *ero cras*, which is "tomorrow I will be [present]". Let us consider how privileged we are to receive this awesome ancient spiritual insight and treasure of a tradition by our faith-ancestors.

As this is the last newsletter for the year, may the remaining days of Advent be truly fruitful that we may have a truly Merry Christmas and a New Year that is full of Christian hope!

Blessings,
Fr Rico





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.

The Annunciation CCC 484:

THE ANNUNCIATION TO Mary inaugurates "the fullness of time", the time of the fulfilment of God's promises and preparations. Mary was invited to conceive him in whom the "whole fullness of deity" would dwell "bodily". The divine response to her question, "How can this be, since I know not man?", was given by the power of the Spirit: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you."

CCC 485:

THE MISSION OF the Holy Spirit is always conjoined and ordered to that of the Son. The Holy Spirit, "the Lord, the giver of Life", is sent to sanctify the womb of the Virgin Mary and divinely fecundate it, causing her to conceive the eternal Son of the Father in a humanity drawn from her own.

The "Obedience of Faith" CCC 148:

THE VIRGIN MARY most perfectly embodies the obedience of faith. By faith Mary welcomes the tidings and promise brought by the angel Gabriel, believing that "with God nothing will be impossible" and so giving her assent: "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be [done] to me according to your word." Elizabeth greeted her: "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." It is for this faith that all generations have called Mary blessed.

CCC 149:

THROUGHOUT HER LIFE and until her last ordeal when Jesus her son died on the cross, Mary's faith never wavered. She never ceased to believe in the fulfilment of God's word. And so the Church venerates in Mary the purest realisation of faith.



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



ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK: Phyllis Cameron, William Wyatt, Patrick Bolton (25); Jean Holyoake, Vernon Beveridge (27); Claude Taylor, Kevin McCool, Soonafai Ah Kiong (28); Rosetta Rolston, Stanley Alekna, John Leamy, Lorraine Moore (29); Wayne Butler, Alfred Gibbons, Lawrence Gage, Catherine Buckley, Taeu Carter, Mary Glover (30); Grace Reilly, Marie Sharp, Mary Sinclair, Maureen McCarron, Louise Heraud; Teresa McKerlie, Jack Kidd (31).

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

25-31 DECEMBER: MASS & SERVICE TIMES

	OUR LADY OF FATIMA CHURCH, TAWA	ST PIUS X CHURCH, TITAHI BAY
Monday	Midnight Christmas Mass 10.30am Christmas Day Mass	9am Christmas Day Mass
Tuesday	9am Mass	
Wednesday	9am Mass	
Thursday	9am Mass	10am Mass
Friday	9am Mass	
Saturday	9am Mass	5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	8.30am & 10.30am Mass	
Weekday Masses may be replaced by a Funeral Mass		

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS will be held at *Our Lady of Fatima Church at 9am* and at *St Pius X Church at 10.30am*.

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

17 December 2023 - \$1,199.00

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

Daily Readings 25-31 December

Monday: John 1:1-18; *Tuesday:* Matthew 10:17-22; *Wednesday:* John 20:2-8;
Thursday: Matthew 2:13-18; *Friday:* Luke 2:22-35; *Saturday:* Luke 2:36-40;
Feast of the Holy Family, Year B: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14; Psalm 128;
Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40

Daily Readings: 1-7 Jan

Monday: Luke 2:16-21; *Tuesday:* John 1:19-28; *Wednesday:* John 1:29-34;
Thursday: John 1:35-42; *Friday:* John 1:43-51; *Saturday:* Mark 1:6-11;
Epiphany of the Lord, Year B: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Daily Readings: 8-14 Jan

Monday: Mark 1:7-11; *Tuesday:* Mark 1:21-28; *Wednesday:* Mark 1:29-39;
Thursday: Mark 1:40-45; *Friday:* Mark 2:1-12; *Saturday:* Mark 2:13-17;
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B: 1 Samuel 3:3-10,19; Psalm 40;
1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20; John 1:35-42

Daily Readings: 15-21 Jan

Monday: Mark 2:18-22; *Tuesday:* Mark 2:23-28; *Wednesday:* Mark 3:1-6;
Thursday: Mark 3:7-12; *Friday:* Mark 3:13-19; *Saturday:* Mark 3:20-21;
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B: Jonah 3:1-5,10; Psalm 25; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31;
Mark 1:14-20

Daily Readings: 22-28 Jan

Monday: Mark 3:22-30; *Tuesday:* Mark 3:31-35; *Wednesday:* Mark 4:1-20;
Thursday: Mark 16:15-18; *Friday:* Luke 10:1-9; *Saturday:* Mark 4:35-41;
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 95;
1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28

Daily Readings: 29 Jan - 5 Feb

Monday: Mark 5:1-20; *Tuesday:* Mark 5:21-43; *Wednesday:* Mark 6:1-6;
Thursday: Mark 6:7-13; *Friday:* Luke 2:22-40; *Saturday:* Mark 6:30-34
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B: Job 7:1-4,6-7; Psalm 147A;
1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23; Mark 1:29-39

NZCatholic



'Peace on Earth'

NZ CATHOLIC (17 December - 27 January) Now for sale in church foyers. **Price: \$4** (unchanged for 8 years).

Please put money in blue cash box on foyer table

Some headlines for this issue: Joy as fourth Bishop of Hamilton ordained. Don't forget suffering Church. Pope receives new NZ ambassador. South Korea pilgrimage was a real blessing.

As a promotion, this entire edition is supplied at this

link: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/7d2f4fc3-4750-490e-9037-f0042afa6a31>



Let us welcome once again Gerson Badayos as he stays with us over this holiday time from the Seminary. May he enjoy his time in our Parish.



THE JESSE TREE - 4th week of Advent

Joseph - Ornament: Carpenter's Square or Hammer - Luke 2:1-7, 15-20

Mary - Ornament: White Lily - Luke 1:26-35



CAROL SINGING INVITE

Parishioners are invited to join the Smith family on 24 December at 2pm at St Pius Church for Christmas Carol singing, reflection and prayer. This will be followed by refreshments, so please bring a plate to share. All are welcome to come and join in singing on Christmas Eve.



CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

7pm, Sunday 24 December at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tawa

Join us for this special celebration. Children can come dressed as angels or Shepherds and participate in the Christmas play.

We Need YOU!



NEW ROSTERS for OUR LADY OF FATIMA & ST PIUS X CHURCHES

covering **Greeters, Readers, Musicians, Collectors, Offertory, Eucharistic Ministers, Counters, Flowers** from 3 February to 26 May are soon being prepared. If you know you're going to be unavailable during this time, please let Jane in the office know by **11 January** - email ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz or phone 232 5611 and leave a message. **Thanks**



PARISH OFFICE

The office will be closed from Thursday 21 December. From 16 January it will be open on Mondays from 9.30am-12 noon. Normal hours will resume on Tuesday 30 January 2024.

If you require anything over the holidays I will be monitoring emails, so if you have any queries, please email - ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz. I will also be checking the phone (04) 232 5611, but please use email as your first point of contact over this time. Wishing you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and safe holidays. *Jane*



PARISH FEAST DAY and ADORATION

The Feast Day of Our Lady of Hope will be celebrated on *Wednesday, 17 January*.

This is also the day when Adoration will resume following *9am Mass until 9pm*.

We would love to have more people sign-up to spend one hour with the Blessed Sacrament. Please email your name and contact details to the Parish Office - *thanks*.



CHANGE TO BAPTISMS

Starting in 2024, baptisms will be held on the *3rd and 4th Saturdays of the month at 11am*. This will enable all families

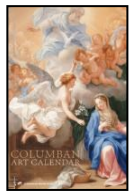
wishing to have children baptised to celebrate this sacrament of initiation together and will streamline the Parish Diary.



WORKING BEES: St Pius X Church and Our Lady of Fatima Church

Reminder - Working Bees at St Pius X Church (*1st Saturday of the month*) and Our Lady of Fatima Church (*2nd Saturday of the month*) will restart on **3 and 10 February 2024** respectively. They are held between **10am to 12 noon**.

Please note these dates in your 2024 Diary and make time to come and help - as the saying goes "*Many hands make light work*".



FOR SALE AT THE PARISH OFFICE - [cash only]

Columban Calendars - \$12

MISSIONZ Calendar - \$2

If you would like to purchase either of these items, please email the office and they will be kept aside for you until the New Year.



CAROL SINGING WELLINGTON HOSPITAL - Christmas Eve

After an absence of 3 years, Christmas Eve Carol singing is returning to the wards at Wellington Hospital. This has great meaning to patients who are unable to be home with family and friends.

If you are able to join in, please meet at the *Hospital Atrium at 6.45pm on Christmas Eve* for 90 minutes approx. *Wellington Hospital Chaplains*



SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL RESTORATION RAFFLE

Congratulations to the seven lucky people who have won prizes, including one from your parish. Thank you to Parish Priests and Leaders, parishioners, friends, groups and families who supported the campaign. It was heartwarming and encouraging for us to experience meeting

parishioners while we sold tickets at after-Mass sales tables.

We look forward to the reopening of the Cathedral in June 2024.

Winning ticket numbers: 8248, 7683, 1440, 9320, 94, 5199 and 3345.



GETTING MARRIED NEXT YEAR?

To prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage, all couples are required to attend a marriage preparation programme. Our upcoming course, "*Love is a Decision*" takes place on 3 & 10 March 2024.

For registration and details, please contact marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz or visit the Archdiocese of Wellington Marriage Ministry's website: www.wn.catholic.org.nz/about/church-mission/marriage-ministries/

PEACE LAMP FOR THE HOLY LAND

Caritas invite you to join in prayer for lasting peace in the Holy Land. May we join together as a faith community to pray for all those affected by this conflict.

Peace lamps (like the image shown) are produced in the village of Taybeh, 30 kilometres from Jerusalem, and have been distributed around the world, to unite people of all faiths in prayer for the peace of the Holy



Prayer for the Holy Land

Jesus, protect the innocent and vulnerable, comfort the suffering, and give courage and wisdom to leaders in the Holy Land. Amen.



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 still have a **good free supply**. *Thanks*