



Celebrating Christmas 2021

“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.” – Luke 1:30

The beautiful greeting of the angel Gabriel to Mary resonates to us this Christmas. Do not be afraid. We have found favour with God. Let us rejoice at the birth of Jesus, our Lord.

Merry Christmas!

Year 2021 is about to end. Soon we will usher in 2022. It does not feel that long ago when we said 2020 will be remembered as the year of the pandemic. Now, 2021 could be remembered as the year of Delta with Omicron lurking in the shadows. More than a hundred days in lockdown. Again, we experienced uncertainties and losses. We see people disappointed, frustrated and angered. Our community displaced, disoriented and, in ways, divided. We could not physically gather to worship and celebrate the sacraments. Too many disruptions. But as we have seen, life goes on. Our faith is alive. In our own little ways, we kept the spirit of a caring and worshipping community, finding ways to be united and connected, even if they were on-line in most cases.

Do not be afraid... for you have found favour with God.

This same message is addressed to us. *Do not be afraid.* We know that we can rely on God. Christmas is the time we acknowledge God's great gift to us, His only begotten Son. We can turn to Him. We can hold on to Him.

As Christians, we focus on the real reason why we are grateful, why we gather, why we give gifts, why we want to share, why we want to be with our family and loved ones, why we want to spread joy. The reason, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the one who makes God known to us (cf Jn 1:18)

Let our family gatherings and celebrations reflect the true meaning of Christmas. May we shine brightly in the spirit of Charity. This Christmas and as always, we affirm to one another that God is truly with us! For God loves us so much that he sent his only Son to live among us, in order to show us how to live life to its fullest.

“The light of Christ shines, as in a mirror, upon the face of Christians; as it spreads, it comes down to us, so that we too can share in that vision and reflect that light to others...” (LF 37)

A Blessed and Peaceful Christmas to us all in St Mary's Parish, Northcote!

Fr Lio, Fr Marchellino and St Mary's Parish Team

A reminder that I formally give you **dispensation** from the **obligation** to participate at Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.



(cc 87 #1, 1247).

+ Bishop Patrick Dunn
24 March 2020

NZ CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER

Free of Charge digital link to latest issue—
<https://indd.adobe.com/view/ec3d8d91-1f86-4c52-948e-16a861c4ab70>

MASS FOR THOSE WITHOUT VACCINE

PASSES OR WHO DO NOT WANT TO SHOW THEIR VACCINE PASS

Will be celebrated on Thursday morning 30th December at 11am. Scanning in with the Covid App or Signing in, wearing a mask while in church and sanitizing hands are a requirement. Holy Communion will be under one species and reception will be by the hand only. **There will be no 11am Masses through January.** Please see our newsletter on the webpage for more information and up-dates.
www.northcotecatholic.org.nz

PARISH OFFICE

The parish office will close at 4pm 24th December and reopen 8.30am 23th January 2022. While we will be closed the telephone and email will be checked, email daily telephone every other day. **You do not need to book for Vaccine Pass Masses in January when we go to Traffic Light Level Orange** Please keep watching our Web site and Facebook for any updates. www.northcotecatholic.org.nz or [facebook.com/northcotecatholic](https://www.facebook.com/northcotecatholic) email info@northcotecatholic.org.nz Telephone 480 7357

CARE OF ALTAR LINEN

26 December— Orille Fernando 02 January— Jane Maximo
09 January— Jan Smith 16 January— Maha S
23 January Anne H 06 February - Prisca T

Please pray : For the elderly and frail and the sick in our parish, especially, Philip, Yohann, Linda F, John McC, Megan S, Peter D, Peter C, John W, Mary L. Shannon, Owen B, Susan C. Brian, Neil M, Katya, S Perry, Kathy M, Matthew S. Ronald B. Paula & Peter O'S, Syrel C, Billy G M. Angus C, Eileen Kit Yung D, Keira, Mark B, Kelly & Craig N, Max W, Ava, David P, Anne C, Yvonne S, Andrew C, Lauren S, Fe T, Jamie S-W, Jill O'N, Adam S, Roxanne V-R, Colleen S, James F, Lu P, Caroline C, Connie B, John H, Emily D, Sebastian C, Lucia, Jenny F, Victoria R, Huda AW, Hilda P, David K, Maria O, Alice C, Najla Petros A, Elliot T, Denise C, Jocell D-V, Luca M, Tui O'S, Maselino L.

DAILY READINGS

Monday – St John			
Reading	I John	1: 1- 4	Ps. 97
Gospel	John	20: 2- 8	
Tuesday - Holy Innocents			
Reading	I John	1: 5– 2: 2	Ps. 124
Gospel	Matthew	2:13-18	
Wednesday 5th Day Octave			
Reading	I John	2: 3-11	Ps. 96
Gospel	Luke	2:22-35	
Thursday – 6th Day Octave			
Reading	I John	2:12–17	Ps. 96
Gospel	Luke	2:36-40	
Friday – 7th Day Octave			
Reading	I John	2:18-21	Ps. 96
Gospel	Luke	1:67-79	
Saturday—Mary, Mother of God			
1st Reading	Numbers	6: 22-27	Ps. 67
2nd Reading	Galatians	4: 4- 7	
Gospel	Luke	2:16-21	
Sunday Epiphany of the Lord			
1st Reading	Isaiah	60: 1- 6	Ps. 72
2nd Reading	Ephesians	3: 2- 3,5-6	
Gospel	Matthew	:2: 1-12	

Christmas Mass will be

available from the Diocesan YouTube channel Christmas Eve from 5.30pm To join in with full voice with the singing you can download the Hymn Sheet Christmas-2021-Shine-TV <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Christmas-2021-Shine-TV.pdf> This Mass will also be available on free to air TV on Shine TV Christmas Day at 1.00pm Free-to-air TV Channel 25, Sky TV Channel 201.



PLEASE NOTE:

Baptism Preparation Programme Next Course will be early February 2022 date to be advised.

Sacramental Programme Preparation (Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion) Registration will be at the end of January 2022 date to be advised.

CONTACT DETAILS!!

If you haven't heard from us during this lockdown it probably means that we do not have your correct phone number or email! Please keep in touch email: info@northcotecatholic.org.nz us with your contacts.

CHURCH CLEANING

31st Dec. Judy Lam - 07 Jan. Issa N & Vanessa E
14 Jan. Aida Ayo 21 Jan Vanessa G

DAILY MASS CALENDARS & COLUMBIAN CALENDARS

Are available from the parish office Calendars \$12 each
Mass Calendars \$3.50 each

DIOCESAN LOCKDOWN RESOURCES

Can now be accessed on the Web homepage of the parish www.northcotecatholic.org.nz Pan down to the bottom of the page Under our Newsletter.

MASS INTENTIONS

Midnight Mass: Angel & Yousif Batta RIP, Janan, Nohad & Hadi Wakeel RIP: 10.30am Christmas Day Simon, Nouri, Sabiha, Gazala, Meelee RIP; 9.15 31/12 Elva Gonsalves RIP; 9.15am 06/1 Chris B (Birthday); 9.15am 11/1 Ricky Woo RIP (7th Anniv.); 9.15am 17/1 Capt. Atchie Ferreira RIP



PARISH TO PARISH FOR BnB CHANGES

From 1st September this year for one guest \$50per night, each additional guest \$30 each e.g. 2 guests \$80 per night. Due to Covid 19 some hosts may not be available for guests, please respect their wishes, books are available at \$15 from Marie Anderson phone: 03 3595 541 or email: marie.ian@xtra.co.nz