

REFLECTION

Last Sunday, the liturgical year came to a close with the Solemnity of Christ the King, and this Sunday, it starts anew at the beginning of Advent.

The Second Coming is often depicted in Scripture as cataclysmic. In today's Gospel, Jesus warns that "there will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars," and even that "people will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world," before they finally "see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." And Jesus counsels us to be eager to greet that moment when our "redemption is at hand."

So it seems strange that Jesus warns us not to Become "drowsy" while waiting, "from carousing and drunkenness" - perhaps Jesus knew something about holiday parties - and from "the anxieties of daily life."

If the second coming is to be cataclysmic, how could we possibly sleep through it? Why is drowsiness the risk that we need to be cautioned against, here at the beginning of Advent?

In order to explore this question, it may be helpful to notice that Jesus is concerned that our hearts might become drowsy. Similarly, in today's second reading, Paul prays for the Lord to make us increase and abound in love "so as to strengthen (our) hearts," so that we might be blameless at Jesus' coming. In preparation for this Advent season, read Pope Francis' new encyclical, *Dilexit Nos*, on the Sacred Heart, released at the end of October. That encyclical begins not by immediately looking at Jesus' heart, but by asking "What do we mean by 'the heart?'" There are Advent references to "heart" as well, scattered through our readings and liturgy, both this week and in the weeks to come.

For today, and for a beginning in Advent and a beginning of the encyclical it is worth looking at that question of what we mean by heart. Pope Francis speaks of the heart "as a core that lies hidden beneath all outward appearances, even beneath the superficial thoughts that can lead us astray", it is also "the locus of sincerity, where deceit and disguise have no place", it is "where we are" authentic, real, entirely 'who we are.'" But if the heart is where we are at our most authentic, then it is also true that we sometimes struggle to know our own hearts, behind all the superficial appearances and concerns that can distract us. It takes patience, the encyclical says, to engage in the interior life by which we come into contact and harmony with our own hearts. The heart is more than just our ideas, and more even than just our soul in its spiritual reality, for "everything finds its unity in the heart, which can be the dwelling-place of love in all its spiritual, psychic and even physical dimensions. In a word, if love reigns in our heart, we become, in a complete and luminous way, the persons we are meant to be, for every human being is created above all else for love. In the deepest fiber of our being, we were made to love and to be loved,"

We are being asked to let love move us to action, not to be content just with the feeling of love or a sense of warmth and devotion, but for love to shake us up as much as it comforts us. To face love as the fire of God's presence and not just a warm blanket around us. Let us also allow Advent to call us to look forward to Christ's second coming and set a fire in us to carry Christ's love to all those in need. May Advent wake us from our drowsiness, strengthen our hearts, and set our feet on the road, to run forth to meet Christ at his coming.

CHILDREN'S FORMATION (EDUCATION IN FAITH)

If your child has been baptised, attends a non-Catholic school and would like to know more about their faith, these classes provide an opportunity for them to learn and grow in understanding of our Catholic religion.

The classes are a requirement for those children wishing to register for the Sacramental Programme later this year.

Classes are held on a Sunday morning. Please email for more details, dates etc.

Email: childrenformation@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

MASS FOR LIFE

You are invited to pray for babies, mums, dads and families at a Mass for Life on Friday 6 December 7pm at St Mary of the Angels, Boulcott St, Wellington. Eucharistic Adoration will follow for one hour.

MARCH FOR LIFE

You are invited to "love them both" by attending the annual National March in Wellington on Sat. 7th December. Gather at Parliament Grounds 1pm for family-friendly entertainment. March will leave grounds at 2pm, return and activities conclude at 4pm. More info. contact Simon 021 400 729.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION & MASS

Friday 6th December 7pm at St Mary's, Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction Mass, followed by veneration of St Faustina's relic, All Welcome!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OUR PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME THE EASIEST WAY TO CONTRIBUTE IS ONLINE (FEW PEOPLE CARRY CASH ANYMORE). TO ARRANGE FOR ONLINE DONATIONS PLEASE CONTACT office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz Or call (09) 480 7357.

DE PAUL HOUSE FOOD BANK

Has experienced a 100% increase in requests for help with basic food and household items, so please keep up your Weekly contributions.

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. Helen Keller - Thank you

CAN YOU HELP A FAMILY OR SENIOR CITIZEN IN NEED?

De Paul House has had over 30 families and senior citizens, move out recently and resettle into new homes.

We are in desperate need of quality, sturdy furniture to help them set up home. **Single Beds**, sets of drawers/dressing tables, dining suites, dining chairs, lounge suites, single lounge chairs, Coffee tables, bedside cabinets. (We cannot accept glass top tables.) We can help with collection on the North Shore. Please contact us by phone or email. Photos of the Furniture are needed to help us know if they are useful for the families and how much can fit in the truck.

Contact reception 480 5959 or reception@depaulhouse.org.nz

CHRISTMAS PLAYS

We are now looking for children to join our Christmas Nativity Plays - one at the Christmas Eve Vigil and one before the 8.30am Mass on Christmas day!

If your child would like to be involved then please email the office with your child's name, age, gender and which Mass they will attend. There will be 3 rehearsals and each child will get details of the song/s they will need to learn. office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

RIDE REQUIRED

We have had a request from an 84 yr old lady, who will be visiting Auckland for Christmas, requesting a ride to Mass on Sun. 22 Dec. Christmas Day and Sun. 29 Dec. she will be staying at Murano Pl. Off Chelsea View Dr. if you can help please contact Pauline. office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz Or 480 7357

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY NEXT WEEKEND

7 Dec. 5.30 Vigil Mass Anointing
8 Dec. 10.30am Mass Anointing
Youth Fundraiser (bring Cash!)
AFTER ALL MASSES!

12 Dec. 7.00pm Rite II Reconciliation

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

Please let us know you are here by contacting the parish office either on 480 7357, or by entering your name in our New Parishioners book in the church. alternatively email us on office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz



ANGEL TREE IN CHURCH THIS WEEKEND THIS IS OUR GIVING TREE FOR THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN OURSELVES

Please take an 'Angel' from the tree and buy a gift (\$25-\$30) for the age and gender on the 'Angel' and return it to the tree before Monday 16 December.

unwrapped please. Or you can Buy a gift voucher for \$30, so that a child may buy their own gift or a \$50 Adult Gift Card (Warehouse gift cards are great, so recipient can buy for themselves, they have a good variety available toys/books/food/cothes/school stationery). De Paul House are also looking for some Christmas Treats for the food parcels i.e. nice biscuits, tinned fruit, packs of Chippies, etc. (NO Mince Tarts/Christmas puds as not suitable for their clients.) **Please be as generous as you can..** The foodbank is shared with resident Families as well as a growing outreach in the local community, which includes elderly pensioners.

'Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD' (Prov.19:17)

SUMMER YOUTH CAMP – JANUARY 2025

Many of our youth are looking forward to the annual Camp in January. This year the camp is \$260 per person!! Thanks to all who supported our last Sausage Sizzle fundraiser.

Next weekend 7/8 December, bake sale and raffle. As a parish we are looking for any sponsorship or part sponsorship to help our youth participate. If you can help and would like to, please donate to our parish bank account 02-0108-0707200-000 & reference it 'youth camp'. Thank you for your help!

AUCKLAND CATHOLIC SINGLES (30's & 40's)

Final meet up Thurs. 12 Dec. 6.30pm. Gather at Ponsonby International Food Court for dinner, then stroll down Franklin Rd, Most festive street in Auckland.

FOOD FOR FAITH

For Advent. Sign up at www.fodforfaith.org.nz to prepare for Christmas receiving daily email encouragements from Fr John O'Connor's Food For Faith website.

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Warmly welcomes you to their Christmas Concert on Sunday 1st December 5.00pm CM Hall. Tickets are available for purchase at the door ONLY - Adults \$10 children free Cash and Eftpos available

THEOLOGY AT OTAGO 2025

Postgraduate Qualifications, theology for the Whole of Life - Chaplaincy - Ministry - Faith-Based leadership & Management - Theology. All qualifications are available by distance learning.

Email theology@otago.ac.nz or contact Ask Otago ask.otago.ac.nz

ROSARY BEADS FOR REPAIR

Can be left in the container provided in the church foyer with your name/contact number. They will be collected and repaired by a kind parishioner FREE OF CHARGE. You can also place beyond repair blessed beads in the container, they will be used to repair other Rosaries.



CANS FOR CHRISTMAS Is a charity that has run for 10 years now. They coordinate Catholic Primary Schools and Colleges to collect canned food items for St Vincent de Paul. Over the last 9 years they have collected 160,000 cans and \$10,000 for the St Vincent de Paul Society to help those in need. Please join us by donating to us. QR Code attached

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, Katya, S Perry, Kathy M, Matthew S, Ronald B, Syrel C, Billy G, M. Angus C, Eileen Kit Yung D, Keira, Max W, David P, Yvonne S, Andrew C, Lauren S, Fe T, Jamie S-W, Adam S, Colleen S, James F, Lu P, Caroline C, Connie B, John H, Emily D, Sebastian C, Lucia, Victoria R, Huda AW, Hilda P, David K, Maria O, Alice C, Najla, Petros A, Jocell D-V, Luca M, Maselino L, Ann C, Letalie V, Yvonne P, Helen McBride, Orille F, Connie B, Patricia W, Elizabeth S, M O'S, Jason P, Maria & Andre T, Chike E, Ted H, Eileen B, Dorothy T, Bridget & Helen R. Emily G

DAILY READINGS

Monday			
Reading	Isaiah	2: 1- 5	Ps. 122
Gospel	Matthew	8: 5-11	
Tuesday St Francis Xavier			
Reading	Isaiah	11: 1-10	Ps. 72
Gospel	Luke	10:21-24	
Wednesday			
Reading	Isaiah	25: 6-10	Ps. 23
Gospel	Matthew	15:29-37	
Thursday			
Reading	Isaiah	26: 1- 6	Ps. 118
Gospel	Matthew	7:21,24-27	
Friday			
Reading	Isaiah	29:17-24	Ps. 27
Gospel	Matthew	9:27-31	
Saturday St. Ambrose			
Reading	Isaiah	30:19:21.23-26	Ps. 147A
Gospel	Matthew	9:35-10:1.6-8	
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
1st Reading	Baruch	5: 1- 9	Ps. 126
2nd Reading	Philippians	1: 3- 6.8-11	
Gospel	Luke	3: 1- 6	

NOTICES FROM THE DIOCESE

CDA Connect catch up with happenings in the diocese and get a 'heads up' on upcoming events www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/services/cda-connect/
Anniversary Mass 2025 Registrations open for Coach Trip on 12 Jan 2025 this is a one-off day trip to attend the Anniversary Mass at Totara Point more details see noticeboard.

Wake and Pray Tuesday mornings in Advent, 3rd, 10th, 17th & 22nd December a half hour meditation on ZOOM 6.15am to 6.45am

Pondering Advent Sunday Gospels 01/08/15 & 22 Dec. ZOOM 7 to 7.30pm

Pope Francis latest Encyclical—“Delexit Nos”, He Loved Us three

Sessions 04, 11, & 18 December 7 to 7.30pm ZOOM

contact diannaf@cda.org.nz for all three Advent

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 have been opened your calendars are free. Explore and return regularly <http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/jubilee2025/jubilee-calendar>.

See Calendar on Notice Board

Local Youth Ministers Wanted! The Catholic Diocese of Auckland is looking for self-motivated leaders to become paid Local Youth Ministers, working across both a secondary school and parish. This is a unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people! To learn more and to apply, please visit: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies

NGA TAPUWAE

Registrations open 10-12th Jan. Join us in experiencing the footsteps of Bishop Pompallier, Kupe, & the Poynton's with other pilgrims sharing our Catholic & Māori heritage. Guided pilgrimage. Accommodation at \$80.00 per night/per person shared living, experience eating on the Marae. Own transport more info Deacon Steve stephenf@cda.org.nz

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 5.30pm Thanksgiving -Bridget Rutherford 21st Birthday & Thanksgiving for the marriage of Michaela and Joe; **Sun. 8.30am** Helen Bremford RIP (1st Anniv.) & Rachel Gardiner RIP (3rd. Anniv.) **5pm** Thanksgiving - Engagement of Ben & Leann.



"men fainting with fear as they await what menace the world for the powers of heaven will be shaken" Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

How do we live our lives based on God's will?

CARE OF ALTAR LINEN

01 Dec. Anne H - 08 Dec. Prisca T

CHURCH CLEANING

07 Dec. Malia & Tofu O

14 Dec. Lai Family

NORTH SHORE—RITE II ADVENT RECONCILIATIONS

TAKAPUNA Tues 10 Dec. 7pm ECBAYS Wed. 11 Dec.7pm

NORTHCOTE THUR. 12 Dec. 7pm OREWA Fri. 13 Dec 7pm

GLENFIELD Tues. 17 Dec. 7pm BEACHHAVEN Fri. 20 Dec. 7pm

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Meeting TODAY **Sunday 01st December at 6pm** (straight after the 5pm Mass) in the Foley Centre. All parishioners 16 - 30 year olds are welcome! Join us as we reflect on the Gospels, listen to talks, study Catholic theology, pray together and eat dinner together! Also if you would like to join our Young Adults Choir please let us know. Contact Dan : dandcstory@gmail.com or text 021 299 3270

PROLIFE FACTS

Script not yet received

For more pro-life information, visit Voice for Life at www.voiceforlife.org.nz.