

## CHRISTMAS 2024



My dear brothers and sisters, parishioners and family of St Mary's Northcote, as we gather to celebrate Christmas, let us remember the profound significance of this holy season. At the heart of our festivities lies the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who brings light into our world. This humble birth in a manger is a realisation of God's boundless love and mercy. It carries with it an invitation to be ready for his second coming.

As we enter into the New Year, we continue our journey as a parish working together to reflect the face of Christ.

Many things had happened in the past year. Things that were beautiful and joyful, reminding us always of God's care and blessings. Milestones were reached. Relationships forged. But there were also things that were unfortunate and sad, reminding us of our dependence on God's love and mercy.

In our parish, we had a lot of baptisms, confirmations, weddings and other sacraments celebrated and shared. Our gatherings reflect our desire to be one with God and with each other. We were sad because some people had to move out of our parish due to various reasons. We remember those called by God to himself. May they rest in peace as they continue to be one with us in spirit.

I pray that amidst the challenges and distractions, we can pause to reflect on the true essence of Christmas. Embracing peace, joy, and hope. Let us open our hearts to the message of Christ's love and allow it to transform our lives. May we extend kindness and compassion to those in need. Let us be instruments of God's love, bringing comfort and joy to our families, our parish community, and the world.

From myself, Fr Lalith and the whole parish team, a Blessed Christmas and a joy-filled New Year to all.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL TRAINED WEEKEND MINISTERS

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO PREPARED ROSTER FOR LATE DECEMBER/JANUARY MASSES.** We do have rostered on Mass Coordinators and Ministers of the Word, as well as some Computer Projectionists. Ministers of Holy Communion and Altar Servers please volunteer at which ever Mass you attend over this holiday period. Remember up to 4 Altar Servers at each Mass and Ministers of Holy Communion as advised. Please complete the sign-in sheet

### REMINDER RE PARKING!

With Christmas almost upon us it is timely to give a reminder! You must not block the entrance and exit ways onto church grounds in case there is a need for an emergency vehicle to be called. Only park in the marked spaces, so as not to block another vehicle. **When parking on the street, DO NOT PARK ACROSS NEIGHBOURS DRIVEWAYS, if you do you WILL be TOWED !!!**

### DE PAUL HOUSE FOOD BANK HAS EXPERIENCED A 100% INCREASE IN REQUESTS FOR HELP!

Tinned fish-Corned beef-Rice - Pasta sauces - Biscuits- Crackers -Jam - Long life milk - Powdered milk - Milo-Tinned fruit - Muesli bars -Tea - coffee - Spreads - Vegemite - Peanut Butter etc. Personal Care - shampoo - Soap -Toothpaste - Toothbrush - Baby wipes - Frozen meals or meat. Children still get hungry, even if on holiday from school!!! Bring your contribution When you come to Mass PLEASE!

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Christmas Vigil** Cynthia Greaves RIP, Jocelyn Pastorel RIP;  
**Christmas Midnight** Evon Sulaman, Khlood Rassam, Nouri Saadalla & Sabiha Toma all RIP and Cyril & Helena Thomas RIP Angelle & Yousif Batta RIP; **ChristyMAS Day 8.30am** Noreen Greaves RIP, Mahi, Nouri, Sabiha, Simon, Gazala, Melee all RIP; **Christmas Day 10.30am** Ted & Doris Bonugli and Susan Ruden all RIP and Amira Azzu, Alice Ibraheem, Nasir Azzu, Janan Allos, Noor Hasoon and Emmanuel Allos all RIP. **Fri. 9.15am** Holy Souls; **Sat. 9.15am** Thanksgiving Jose & Melanie; **Tues.31.12 9.15am** Elva Gonsalves RIP; **Sat 11.01 9.30pm** Ricky Woo RIP(10th Anniv.) & Philip Lee RIP; **Fri.17.01 9.15am** Capt. Archie Ferreira RIP

### PLEASE NOTE

If you need to email Fr Lio the correct & only address to us is [parishpriest@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz](mailto:parishpriest@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz)

### THE PARISH OFFICE

Will close at midday on Christmas Eve and re-open on 20th January. During the closure period emails will be monitored as well as the answerphone being cleared on a regular basis.

### NOTICE TO ALL PARISHONERS

While you are enjoying the summer holidays, please prayerfully think about how you might volunteer and become more involved in our St Mary's Parish family in 2025!

There are lots of areas where you could help - become a Minister of the Word, Mass Coordinator or Projectionist, Altar Serving (for our younger parishioners aged 9 years or post First Holy Communion +), care for our church linen, have a turn on the church cleaning roster or our flower roster, be available to help with parish hospitality, come along to help at our two main working bees (before Easter and Christmas), and many other areas, you could also join our Thursday Scripture group or our Legion of Mary, we also have a Youth Group and a Young Adults Group, and are hoping to start a Mainly Music Group in 2025 so something for everyone! If there is an activity that happened in a previous parish that you now miss, then any and all suggestions are welcome too! Heaps happens at St Mary's. Just email the office for more Information [office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz](mailto:office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz)

### DAILY READINGS

#### Monday 6th Day Octave

Reading I John 2:12-17 Ps. 96  
 Gospel Luke 2:36-40

#### Tuesday 7th Day Octave

Reading I John 2:18-21 Ps. 96  
 Gospel John 1: 1-18

#### Wednesday Octave of Christmas—Mary Mother of God

1st Reading Numbers 6:22-27 Ps. 67  
 2nd Reading Galatians 4: 4- 7  
 Gospel Luke 2:16-21

#### Thursday Sts Basil & Gregory Nazianzen

Reading I John 2:22-28 Ps. 98  
 Gospel John 1:19-28

#### Friday

Reading I John 2:29-3: 6 Ps. 98  
 Gospel John 1:35-42

#### Saturday

Reading I John 3: 7-10 Ps. 98  
 Gospel John 1:35-42

#### SUNDAY EPIPHANY

1st Reading Isaiah 60: 1- 6 Ps. 72  
 2nd Reading Ephesians 3: 2- 3,5-6  
 Gospel Matthew 4:12-17,23-25

### OPENING OF THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

Join Bishop Steve in Mass opening the year of Jubilee 2025. St Patrick's & St Joseph's Cathedral, 11pm 31 December.

### 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

### CARE OF ALTAR LINEN FOR NEXT FEW WEEKS

29 Dec. Birgitte R 05 Jan. Jan S  
 12 Jan. Fleur B 19 Jan. Anne H  
 26 Jan. Prisca T

### CHURCH CLEANING FOR NEXT FEW WEEKS

28 Dec. Kimberley G 04 Jan. Upton Family  
 11 Jan. Malia & Tofu O 18 Jan. Lai Family  
 25 Jan. Choy Family

### PARISH CULTURAL DAY

Sunday 16th February. Please keep this day free and if you would like to help or have your culture celebrated in food, then please email the office and someone will contact you with more details. [office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz](mailto:office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz)

### NZ CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Are seeking an experienced Journalist to support its communications efforts in 2025 and beyond. This is a new position to assist the church in sharing its stories and in keeping the Catholic & wider community informed about the life and ministry of the church. Please send expressions of interest to [communications@nzcbc.org.nz](mailto:communications@nzcbc.org.nz) as soon as possible and no later than 12th January. A background of religious journalism would be an advantage. -

### THEOLOGY OF THE BODY - Registrations OPEN for 2025.

Human Love in the Divine Plan: Beginners Course Sat. & Sun. 15th Feb. Mission Bay, Auckland. Book Study on Dr Edward Sri's Men, Women and the Mystery of Love. Wed. evenings starts 12th Feb. in Hillsborough. All Adults 20+ are welcome. More details on the noticeboard and to register please visit: [theologyofthebody.nz](http://theologyofthebody.nz)



**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, June B, John R, John S, Pearl D,