

CHRISTMAS 2025



Christmas and New Year's Message from Father Lio, Father Lalith and the Pastoral Team.

As the light of Christmas shines upon our parish family, we pause to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This season reminds us of God's incredible love for humanity – a love so vast that He sent His only Son to dwell among us. In the Christ Child, we see the perfect image of peace, hope, and unity, transcending every barrier of culture and language.

Let us gather around the manger this year with hearts full of gratitude. Look back over the past twelve months and thank God for the countless blessings you have received: the kindness of a neighbour, the warmth of family, the strength you found in adversity, and the unwavering presence of the Holy Spirit in your lives. Every blessing, big or small, is a gift from our Heavenly Father. We also look at the service we have offered to others. The consoling hand extended to those in need. We are gifts to one another.

May the peace that radiated from Bethlehem fill your homes and your hearts this Christmas. Let us continue to be a beacon of God's love in our community, welcoming all as Christ welcomes us.

And may the New Year bring with it a fresh outpouring of God's grace!

As we stand on the threshold of a new beginning, let us cast off the burdens of the past and look forward with hope and anticipation. We pray that 2026 will be a year marked by greater faith, abundant health, and deeper unity within our parish and in the world. Trust in God's plan, embrace the challenges as opportunities for growth, and commit to living a life that reflects Christ's compassion and justice.

Merry Christmas to all! May God bless you and your families,
and grant us all a truly happy and peace-filled New Year!

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL TRAINED MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION & ALTAR SERVERS

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, Altar Servers and Computer Projectionists 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 where needed

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 HUGE 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!



PLEASE NOTE

If you need to email Fr Lio the correct & only address to use is parishpriest@stmarysnorthcote.or.nz

THE PARISH OFFICE

Closes on Friday 19th December and re-opens on 21st January. During the closure period emails will be monitored as well as the answerphone being cleared on a regular basis.

CARE OF ALTAR LINEN FOR NEXT FEW WEEKS

28 Dec. Fleur B	04 Jan. Eresha D
11 Jan. Anne H	18 Jan. Prisca T
25 Jan. Ninette C	

CHURCH CLEANING FOR NEXT FEW WEEKS

27 Dec. Hoa Nguyen	03 Jan. Kimberley G
10 Jan. Upton Family	17 Jan. Maia & Tofu O
24 Jan. Nissa T	

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PARISH GROUPS WHO USE THE FOLEY CENTRE.

You must book in with the parish office if you wish to use rooms in the Foley Centre, especially after hours. In an effort to increase our security to ensure the premises are safe and secure for all users we now have a new lock on the front door and we have also installed some security cameras. You will need to contact the office for a security code for your group. If you are unsure of how to arm/disarm the alarm then you must contact the office for instructions. Before leaving the Foley Centre please ensure that all windows/doors are secured. We are having too many activated alarm calls in the evenings!

DAILY READINGS

Monday 5th Day Octave

Reading	I John	2: 3-11	Ps.	96
Gospel	Luke	2:22-35		

Tuesday 6th Day Octave

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

Wednesday 7th Day Octave

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

Thursday 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		

Friday Sts Basil & Gregory Nazianzen

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

Saturday Before Epiphany

Reading	I John	2:29-3: 6	Ps.	98
Gospel	Mark	1:29-34		

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		

CLOSING OF THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

Join Bishop Steve in Mass closing the year of Jubilee. St Patrick's & St Joseph's Cathedral, 11am 04 January 2026.

PARISH CULTURAL DAY

Sunday 15th 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

MASS INTENTIONS

Christmas Midnight Evon Sulaman, Khlood Rassam, Nouri Saadalla & Sabiha Toma all RIP **Christmas Day 8.30am** Nouri, Sabiha, Simon, Gazala, Melee all RIP; Tues. 30.12 9.15am Angela Lobo RIP, **Sat 11.01 5.30pm** Ricky Woo RIP(10th Anniv.)

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 2026!

There are lots of areas where you could help - **Carparking persons for the Weekend Masses and special Liturgies i.e. Holy Week 2026!!**

Help for Cultural Day 15th February 2026

Be part of an Hospitality Team

Become a Mass Coordinator

Become a Computer Projectionist

Floral Arrangements in the Church

Caring for Altar Linen

Help with cleaning the church

Working Bees

(come along to help at our two main working bees (before Easter & Christmas only a couple of hours on a Saturday)

You could join our Thursday Scripture Group or Legion of Mary

We also have two Youth Groups as well as a Young Adults Group opportunities for musicians and singers!

We provide full training where needed-There is something for everyone, but if not mentioned here, perhaps something you were involved in in your previous parish? We really do want to involve everyone in our St Mary's Parish family.

Please contact the office and let us know where you feel you could become involved!. Just email the office for more information office@stmarysnorthcote.org.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, Yvonne P, Helen McBride, Connie B, Patricia W, Elizabeth S, M O'S, Jason P, Maria & Andre T, Chike E, Eileen B, Dorothy T, Bridget & Helen R. Emily G, June B, John S .