

### Prayers for the Sick

Each week a Mass will be offered for the sick, including those mentioned below. If you would like a name added to the list, please email details to the office. Please pray for the sick and retired Priests of St John Vianney and Little Sisters of the Poor, Bishop Patrick Dunn, Tracey & Max Stacey, Mary Nevin, Louis & Lucie Morello, Michaela Schmidt, Sinili Chan Ting, Mele Moataane, Fa'avai Vasau, Vivien, Michael Wong, Maria Fatima Tunai, Kathleen & Doreen Follas, Patrick & John Meleisea, Barbara Stacey, Colleen Wright, Shaye Stowers-Tualega, Adrien Lunai, Lesley Moore, Katrina Cole, Patea Niupopo, Sam Kenny, John Gavin, Diane Young, Nick Nestoriwsky, Pauline Senn, Matilda Low, Paull Grasby, Lisa Finucane, Anna Tan, Phyllis Petricevich, Anne Riseborough, Allie Blucher, Chris Speight, Garth Stewart, Chris & John Sinisa, Livesa, Marie Nicholas, Stanley Tallon, Genevieve Low, Carlos dela Torre, Deodilyn Ticon, Salvador Romarate, Lucia Ng, Jessica Wright, Jane Cavanagh, Paul Rooney, Brett Linney, Dion Pivac, Henry Chan Ting, Clare Thompson, Chris Katia, Mr Passi

*We also pray for those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.*

### Feast Days and Memorials this Week

26 Dec—St Stephen, the first martyr  
 27 Dec—St John, apostle, evangelist  
 28 Dec—The Holy Innocents, martyrs

### December: Dedicated to the Immaculate Conception



The Blessed Virgin was brought into existence without the stain of original sin; bringing restoration through her complete, continual, and selfless obedience to God.  
**What you can do:** Reflect on your Baptism and the gift of being cleansed of original sin.

### Pope John XXIII's Christmas Prayer

O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas.

Put into the hearts of men and women this peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give to them. Help them to know one another better, and to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father.

Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness, and purity. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join them all together in your love. And give us your heavenly peace.



Amen.

Source: [www.catholicgallery.org](http://www.catholicgallery.org)

### NOTICES FROM THE DIOCESE



**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 that you can put in your diaries so that when notification of registrations been opened your calendars are free. <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/jubilee2025/jubilee-calendar/>

**See the Need. Be the Hope! Catholic Caring Foundation's Christmas Appeal** Please support the Caring Foundation's Christmas appeal through your donations and prayers. Your donation will have **double the impact!** [www.caringfoundation.org.nz](http://www.caringfoundation.org.nz) or call (09) 360 3012



**Christmas Mass on Shine TV** from the Archdiocese of Wellington will be broadcast on Shine TV at 3pm.

**Theology of the Body** - Registration OPEN for 2025 Human Love in the Divine Plan: Beginners Course : **Sat 15 and Sun 15 February 2025**. Mission Bay, Auckland. Book Study on Dr Edward Sri's Men, Women and the Mystery of Love -Wed evenings starting **12 Feb 2025**; Hillsborough, Auckland.

All adults 20+ are welcome. To register: [theologyofthebody.nz](http://theologyofthebody.nz)

**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/](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/)

**The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference** is seeking an **experienced journalist** to support its communications efforts in 2025 and beyond. This new position will assist the Church in sharing its stories and in keeping the Catholic and wider community informed about the life, mission and ministry of the Church. A background in religious journalism would be advantageous, as would experience in media monitoring. Please send expressions of interest to [communications@nzcbc.org.nz](mailto:communications@nzcbc.org.nz) no later than January 12. The role could be filled sooner than January 12 for the right candidate, so please contact the Bishops Conference promptly.



Venerable Suzanne Aubert devoted her life to helping others. She was a pioneer of New Zealand's health and welfare system and a friend to Māori people throughout her life. Her tireless compassion and practical brand of Christianity made a huge impact on New Zealand society. The cause for the beatification of Suzanne Aubert is at a crucial stage in the process and prayers are needed.

### PRAYER FOR THE CAUSE OF VENERABLE MERI HŌHEPA SUZANNE AUBERT

"Lord Jesus Christ,

*You taught us that as often as we show compassion to the least of your brothers and sisters, we show it to you. Hear our prayer that Venerable Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert, who came to Aotearoa New Zealand to be with Māori, and dedicated her life to caring for those in poverty and in need, may soon be recognized by the Church as a saint. Amen"*

### PARISH NEWS

#### Parish Office Holiday Closure

The parish office will be closed from **23 December** and we return on **29 January**. For any urgent matters during this time, please contact Fr Rory. We wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a hope-filled Jubilee Year!

#### MASS TIMES | Christmas and New Year's

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**5.00pm Mass (Family Mass)** Sacred Heart Church  
**6.00pm ACCC Mass** Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church  
**8.30pm Syro-Malankara Mass** Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church  
**11.15pm Carols** Sacred Heart Church  
**Midnight Mass** Sacred Heart Church

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**8.30am Mass** Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church  
**10.30am Mass** Sacred Heart Church  
**11.00am ACCC Mass** Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
**6.00pm ACCC Mass** Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church  
**8.30pm Syro-Malankara Mass** Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church  
**11pm Jubilee Year Opening Mass - Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
**7am Mass** Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

#### HOLIDAY TIMETABLE: 26 DEC 2024 – 16 JAN 2025

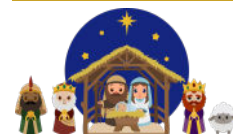
**Sundays:**  
 Vigil Mass Saturday 5pm Sacred Heart Church  
 Sunday Mass 8.30am Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church  
 Sunday Mass 10.30am Sacred Heart Church

**Weekday Masses:**  
 Monday 7.00am Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church  
 Tuesday 8.00am Sacred Heart Church  
 Wednesday 7.00am Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church  
 Thursday 6.30am Sacred Heart Church  
 Friday 12.10pm Sacred Heart Church

**Wednesday 5.30pm Mass resumes on 22 January 2025**  
**Friday 7.00am Mass resumes 17 January 2025**

#### Our Christmas Raffle Raised \$1,022

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas raffle and congratulations to our lucky winners! We are pleased to share that we raised **\$1,022** to help pay for our reroofing costs.



#### Angels and Shepherds at the Christmas Family Mass

There will be a Nativity play during the 5pm Mass on Christmas Eve at Sacred Heart Church. Children are welcome to come dressed as an angel or a shepherd.

#### Christmas Offering

During the Advent season, a special collection is taken to support the retired priests in the Auckland Diocese. If you would like to contribute, there are specially marked envelopes at the church foyer that you can use. Please drop them into the collection baskets at Mass. We thank you for your generosity.

#### Advance Your Faith With a New Year Retreat (25 Jan 2025)

Please join us in the Parish Centre on Saturday, 25 January, for a lively, hopeful, retreat day with Fr John O'Connor. Sessions will begin after 8am Mass in Sacred Heart Church and conclude in time for reconciliation at 4.15pm and Vigil Mass at 5pm. Sessions are standalone - the morning or afternoon, or for both. We would appreciate a koha of \$20 for the day, \$10 morning/afternoon. Some refreshments provided. Fr O'Connor will also offer Mass at 10.30am Sunday, after which we will enjoy a shared finger-food lunch in the Parish Centre.



#### PARISH FINANCES

Last week's Gifting: **\$2,818**

**Planned Giving:** If you wish to donate by Internet banking, the parish account is: **Ponsonby HB Parish 02-0108-0707673-000**

**Maintenance Fund:** To donate towards the reroofing cost and other maintenance projects, please use the above account number and reference "MF".

*Current Project Goal: \$50,000*  
**Funds Raised To Date: \$17,450**

**John & Teresa Dilger Education Fund:** If you require financial assistance for school fees, please reach out to Fr Rory. To make a donation, please use the bank details above and reference 'Education'.

**Tax Receipt:** For all donations, please email the parish office with your details if you would like a tax receipt. Thank you.

#### Sacrament of Baptism

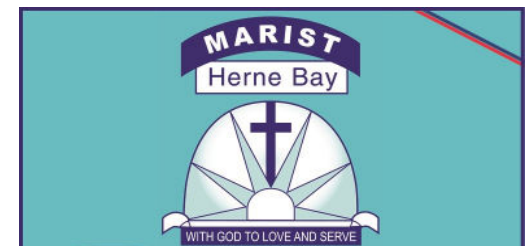
If you require the Sacrament of Baptism for yourself or a family member, please contact Fr Rory: priest@phbcatholic.org.nz or 021 0394 980.

#### Coming up in the Parish...

- \* The **Agape Community**, every Wednesday 6:30- 7:30pm at Parish Centre.
- \* Friday Night (1st & 3rd of each month)—**Upper Room** from 6.30-8.30pm. All young adults welcome!

#### Catholic School Preference Forms

Dear Parents, if you wish for me to sign a Preference Form for Catholic schools, *please leave the form and your contact number* either in the letterbox at Sacred Heart 16 Vermont Street, or the "leave and collect" board at 84 Kelmarna Ave. - Fr Rory



#### Marist Catholic School, Herne Bay

*Encouraging the pursuit & celebration of excellence.*

Come and visit us; we are a values driven central city Integrated Catholic Primary School. We strive for academic excellence in our warm and friendly environment with plenty of green open space.

We are an un-zoned local school serving our surrounding areas. However, many children travel to join us. We have families that have been with us for generations.

**Address:** 82 Kelmarna Avenue, Herne Bay, Auckland 1011  
**Phone:** 09 376 7173  
 or email Sarah Gleeson principal@maristschool.co.nz

**Website:** maristhernebay.school.nz



#### Holy Cross Seminary

Please pray for vocations, for those in discernment and for this year's seminarians, teachers and support staff. [www.holycross.org.nz](http://www.holycross.org.nz)



Sunday 22 December 2024

Readings at Mass

First reading

The Lord says this:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19 Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Micah 5:1-4

Second reading

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel

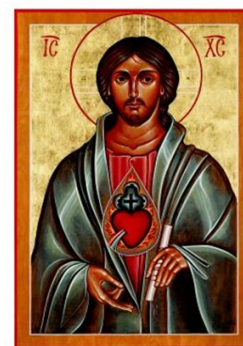
Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

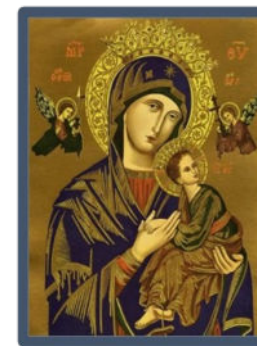
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Hebrews 10:5-10

PONSONBY HERNE BAY PARISH



4th Sunday of Advent 22 December 2024



PONSONBY HERNE BAY PARISH MASS TIMETABLE

Sacred Heart Church: 16 Vermont St, Ponsonby | Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 84 Kelmarna Ave, Herne Bay

Table with columns: DAY, TIME, CHURCH, DEVOTIONS. Lists mass times for Monday through Sunday at two churches, including exposition and morning prayer times.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Table with columns: DAY, TIME, CHURCH. Lists reconciliation times for Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

ANointing OF THE SICK AND ELDERLY

Table with columns: DAY, TIME, CHURCH. Lists anointing times for 1st Friday and 1st Sunday.

DIVINE MERCY

Table with columns: DAY, TIME, CHURCH. Lists Divine Mercy times for Monday-Friday.

Sacred Heart

5pm Vigil Saturday 21 December Word: Bridget, Rachel POF: Christina Gifts: Alex & Virginia EMOE: Michael, Nimo, Moira Servers: Ranen, Sabrielle, Issy, Florence

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

8.30am Sunday 22 December Word: Philip, Airini POF: Maria Gifts: Gasparini family EMOE: Tangi, Simone, Lois

Sacred Heart

10.30am Sunday 22 December Word: Tongan POF: Tongan Gifts: Tongan EMOE: Tongan Servers: Tongan

There is no liturgy roster from 26 December till the end of January. If you are available to serve at Mass during this time, please let Fr Rory know.

Cleaning: SH 21/12 Working Bee 28/12 Dorward family OLPH 21/12 Salome and team 28/12 Airini Turner

Parish Priest: Fr Rory Morrissey Mobile: 021 0394 980 Office: 09 376-4303 (Staffed 9am-12pm, Mon/Wed/Fri) Website: www.phbcatholic.org.nz Parish Administration: May Rozells Liturgy & Rosters: Claire Murphy Faith Formation: Gabriel Ren Going into hospital? Call 358 0825 ext 4000 and ask for a visit from a priest Email: priest@phbcatholic.org.nz Facebook: ponsonbyhernebayparish Auckland Email: admin@phbcatholic.org.nz Email: pastoral@phbcatholic.org.nz Email: formation@phbcatholic.org.nz