



Parish of Our Lady of Kāpiti

Te Whaea Tapu o Kāpiti

www.kapiti-catholic.org.nz

3rd Sunday of Advent - Year C - 13 December 2015

Readings: Zeph 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Haere mai e te whanau, Tena koutou katoa, a kia noho te Ariki ki a koutou.

Welcome, family, greetings to you all. May the Lord be with you.

Dear Parishioners

The Year of Mercy

On December 8 2015, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Pope Francis and Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI passed through the Holy Door into Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome – the first time two Popes have been present at the opening of the Holy Door.

The ceremony also marked the fiftieth anniversary of the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council on December 8 1965. Its whole purpose was to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and 'reach out' to all people and cultures and 'to bring the joy of the Gospel, and the mercy and forgiveness of God' to them. That is still the God-given task before us.

Let us pray for the grace to both accept and pass on the tenderness and mercy of God during this Holy Year of Mercy, that is, the grace to fully accept God's mercy in our hearts, and, then, to make this mercy and compassion the special gift we give to others during this year of grace and blessing.

With every blessing in Christ
Michael McCabe, Parish Priest



CHURCH BUILDING FUND - THANK YOU

We have received to date from donations, pledges and fundraising

\$625,000-00

which is really very gratifying and a credit to the generosity of all in our parish who have thus far pledged their support. You have our sincere thanks and gratitude.

PASTORAL AREA ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER

Shared prayer for our Parish 11.30am for 20 minutes at the site of our new church and school. All welcome.

MONDAY 14 DECEMBER

St Vincent de Paul Meeting 9.30am Our Lady of Fatima meeting room. All welcome.

Faith Sharing Group 1.30pm at 1 Glen Loch Place, Paraparaumu. Currently studying the Book of Revelation.

TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER

Christian Meditation 4 - 5pm in Our Lady of Fatima meeting room. Phone Wanda 293 2441. This is our final meditation for 2015. We will recommence on 26 January 2016.

Harmony Singing Group 7pm at St Patrick's Church. Learn harmonies to the music we use at Mass, focusing on Advent and Christmas. All welcome. Contact Bridget on 027 316 5641 or bridget.oshanassy@kc.school.nz

WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER

Not Your Usual Sunday Readings Scripture Group will recommence in the New Year on a date to be advised.

THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER

Scripture Study Group at Our Lady of Fatima Church will recommence in the New Year on a date to be advised.

Not Your Usual Sunday Readings Scripture Group will recommence in the New Year on a date to be advised.

End of School Term 4

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER

Miha 10am Mass at St Patrick's.

Columban Calendars 2016

We still have a supply of Columban Calendars and these can be purchased from the Parish Office, 29 Parata Street, Waikanae. Ph 902 5815. Cost \$12.

Rosters for the next period commencing 19 December are now available in the Church foyer.
If we have your email address you will have already received a copy this week.

Building our new Church and relocation of our School - Prayer Focus for this week

Just as Jesus became flesh, may our human touch reach out and help those living on the Kapiti Coast to realize that God does truly love them.

Psalm Response: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

PASTORAL NOTICES

"Christmas flowers for St Patricks"

Please remember our need for white flowers especially lilies, for the Christmas Masses. If you can assist please leave them in the flower room at St Patricks by 9.30am on Thursday 24 December (Christmas Eve) If you need help with delivery please phone Velma Knight 299 1539.

St Vincent de Paul Society

St Vincent de Paul is again providing Christmas food gift parcels. If you can contribute with Christmas groceries would you please leave them in the baskets provided at Masses in both churches during Advent. We greatly appreciate your generosity.

The Sunday Coffee Group at Robert Harris

for those Bereaved in the Parish, will officially cease for the holidays from Sunday 20/12/15 to 24/1/16.

Have a very blessed Christmas.

We are always at the end of the phone if you need us. Annette 021 264 4567 Bereavement Team co-ordinator.

Liturgy Ministry for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

If you are available to serve as a Proclaimer of the Word or Minister of Communion for Christmas Eve/Christmas Day would you please put your details on the spreadsheet on the Liturgy Noticeboard. Your assistance with these ministries would be very much appreciated.

Enquiries: Waikanae: Wullie Grant 293 8702, Paraparaumu: Maureen Borkin 904 7464.

Christmas Carols

St Patrick's School Yr 5-8 students will be spreading some Christmas cheer by singing traditional Christmas Carols to parishioners after the 9.30am Mass on Tuesday 15 December at St Patrick's Church. Please come along.

God's Word 2016: Daily Reflections Liturgical Diary

If you ordered a copy of this please phone Anna to arrange to swap it for \$21. work: 902 6331 or home: 902 6330. I have a couple of spare copies of this book containing the readings for every day in 2016, so if you would still like a copy, first in first served!

Volunteers Still Required for Eucharist Ministers for all Masses and Welcomers/Collectors - especially for 8.30am at Our Lady of Fatima

We welcome any parishioner who is able to help with these Ministries as our numbers are few.

Each role is a rewarding and important part of our Mass celebration and training will of course be given.

Do please give it some thought and contact the Parish Office 902 5815 if you can help.



Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish

welcomes

Noah Gabriel Alcaraz

son of

Niño & Grace Alcaraz

Noah was baptised into our Parish Family last weekend.



CONDOLENCES TO: Gary Clarke on the death of his wife, Shirley Clarke, who died last week and whose funeral has occurred.
May she rest in peace.

PLEASE SEE NOTICE BOARD IN CHURCH FOYER FOR ALL EVENTS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE



REMEMBERING THE HOLY SOULS - MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Shirley Clarke, Edward Lawler, Brian Osborne, William Potts, Lena French, Maurice Gresham, Laurie Bell, Joseph Laverty, Mary Dorrington, John Edwards, Andrew Trlin, Mary Bunker, William Henderson, Celia Fletcher.

Readings for 14 - 20 Dec

Monday 14 December
Num 24:2-7, 15-17; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday 15 December
Zeph 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday 16 December
Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-25; Lk 7:19-23
Thursday 17 December
Gen 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
Friday 18 December
Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-24
Saturday 19 December
Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1:5-25
Sunday 20 December
Micah 5:1-4; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-44



Parish of Our Lady of Kāpiti

Te Whaea Tapu o Kāpiti

Our Lady of Fatima Church
29 Parata Street, Waikanae

Saturday Vigil Mass 5.30pm
Sunday Mass 8.30am

WEEKDAY TIMETABLE

Wednesday & Friday:
Mass 9.30am

Tues & Thurs: Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion 9.30am

*Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Friday 8.30am
Sacrament of Reconciliation follows Friday Mass*

Parish Priest: Fr Michael McCabe
Ph (04) 902 5815

Office location
29 Parata Street, Waikanae

Parish Secretaries:
Carol Lamain & Maureen Jones

Office Hours
Mon - Fri 9am - 2pm
Phone 902 5815

Email: ourladyofkapiti@paradise.net.nz

Webmaster: Lafaele Vaeluaga

www.kapiti-catholic.org.nz

St Patrick's Church
16 Hinemoa Street, Paraparaumu

Sunday Mass 10.00am

WEEKDAY TIMETABLE

Tuesday & Friday: Mass 9.30am
Mon, Wed, Thurs : Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion 9.30am

*Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Friday 8.30am
Sacrament of Reconciliation follows Friday Mass*

Kapiti Catholic Child & Youth Ministry - Ph 022 6757 357 kapiti.youth@gmail.com
St Patrick's School, Principal: Mr Martin Elms, 298.6780 E-mail: principal@stpatpara.school.nz Web Site: www.stpatpara.school.nz

EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY
HOLY MASS AND OPENING OF THE HOLY DOOR
HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

Saint Peter's Square
Tuesday, 8 December 2015
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In a few moments I will have the joy of opening the Holy Door of Mercy. We carry out this act – as I did in Bangui – so simple yet so highly symbolic, in the light of the word of God which we have just heard. That word highlights the *primacy of grace*. Again and again these readings make us think of the words by which the angel Gabriel told an astonished young girl of the mystery which was about to enfold her: “Hail, full of grace” (*Lk 1:28*).

The Virgin Mary was called to rejoice above all because of what the Lord accomplished in her. God’s grace enfolded her and made her worthy of becoming the Mother of Christ. When Gabriel entered her home, even the most profound and impenetrable of mysteries became for her a cause for joy, a cause for faith, a cause for abandonment to the message revealed to her. *The fullness of grace can transform the human heart* and enable it to do something so great as to change the course of human history.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception expresses the grandeur of God’s love. Not only does he forgive sin, but in Mary he even averts the original sin present in every man and woman who comes into this world. This is *the love of God which precedes, anticipates and saves*. The beginning of the history of sin in the Garden of Eden yields to a plan of saving love. The words of Genesis reflect our own daily experience: we are constantly tempted to disobedience, a disobedience expressed in wanting to go about our lives without regard for God’s will. This is the enmity which keeps striking at people’s lives, setting them in opposition to God’s plan. Yet the history of sin can only be understood in the light of God’s love and forgiveness. Sin can only be understood in this light. Were sin the only thing that mattered, we would be the most desperate of creatures. But the promised triumph of Christ’s love enfolds everything in the Father’s mercy. The word of God which we have just heard leaves no doubt about this. The Immaculate Virgin stands before us as a privileged witness of this promise and its fulfilment.

This Extraordinary Year is itself a gift of grace. To pass through the Holy Door means to rediscover the infinite mercy of the Father who welcomes everyone and goes out personally to encounter each of them. It is he who seeks us! It is he who comes to encounter us! This will be a year in which we *grow ever more convinced of God’s mercy*. How much wrong we do to God and his grace when we speak of sins being punished by his judgment before we speak of their being forgiven by his mercy (cf. Saint Augustine, *De Praedestinatione Sanctorum*, 12, 24)! But that is the truth. We have to put mercy before judgment, and in any event God’s judgement will always be in the light of his mercy. In passing through the Holy Door, then, may we feel that *we ourselves are part of this mystery of love, of tenderness*. Let us set aside all fear and dread, for these do not befit men and women who are loved. Instead, let us experience *the joy of encountering that grace which transforms all things*.

(cont. over)

Today, here in Rome and in all the dioceses of the world, as we pass through the Holy Door, we also want to remember another door, which fifty years ago the Fathers of the *Second Vatican Council* opened to the world. This anniversary cannot be remembered only for the legacy of the Council's documents, which testify to a great advance in faith. Before all else, the Council was an encounter. A genuine *encounter between the Church and the men and women of our time*. An encounter marked by the power of the Spirit, who impelled the Church to emerge from the shoals which for years had kept her self-enclosed so as to set out once again, with enthusiasm, on her missionary journey. It was the resumption of a journey of encountering people where they live: in their cities and homes, in their workplaces. Wherever there are people, the Church is called to reach out to them and to bring the joy of the Gospel, and the mercy and forgiveness of God. After these decades, we again take up this missionary drive with the same power and enthusiasm. The Jubilee challenges us to this openness, and demands that we not neglect *the spirit which emerged from Vatican II, the spirit of the Samaritan*, as Blessed Paul VI expressed it at the conclusion of the Council. May our passing through the Holy Door today commit us to making our own the mercy of the Good Samaritan.