

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2018, 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:13-16

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.

In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence.

And this is the name the city will be called: The-Lord-our-integrity.’

The word of the Lord

Psalm: 24(25):4-5,8-9,10,14

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:11 -14;18

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

The word of the Lord



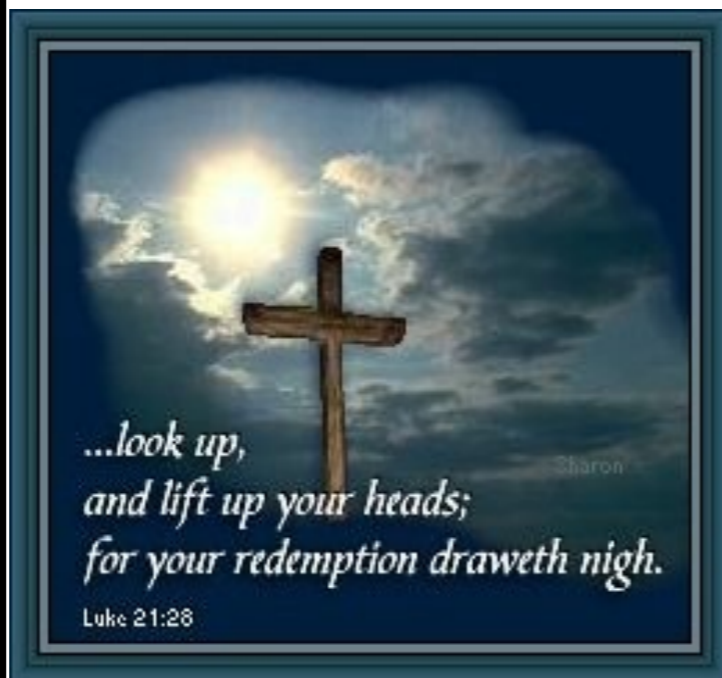
Gospel

Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

The Gospel of the Lord



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: 9 December 2018 Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading Baruch 5:1-9, Psalm 125, Second Reading Philippians 1:3-6,8-11, Gospel Luke 3:1-6

Te Kura Katorika o Hato Hohepa

Parish Priest
Father Joe Stack
Te Awamutu
07 8716109

Resident Priest
Fr. Matt McAuslin
Ph: 07 878 6417

St. George's Parish
Community Newsletter

Principal: Suzanne Downey
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26 Seddon St, Te Kuiti 3910

Panui 38 - 30 November 2018

Together we will provide a quality all round education, developing valuable contributors to society who reflect the teachings of Jesus Christ

WHAT ARE WE UP TO ?

NOVEMBER:

30: Maniapoto Kapa Haka Festival - Les Munro Centre

DECEMBER

03 to 07: Wellington Trip

06: Road Patrol Wardens Rewards Day

10: Miniball Roopu Competition

12: Leavers Mass, Nativity Play, Amazing Race and Leavers Dinner

14: Final Assembly

17: Last day for the busses, Thank you BBQ

18: Last day of Term

**PLEASE RETURN ALL SPORTS UNIFORMS,
WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN RETURNED YET,
TO THE SCHOOL BY
10 DECEMBER 2018. THANK YOU**

MANIAPOTO KAPA HAKA FESTIVAL, FRIDAY, 30 NOVEMBER

Our students will be taking part in the Maniapoto Primary Schools' Maori Culture Festival. St Joseph's will perform at approximately 9.45am on Friday, according to the programme we received.



Please note the time of our performance is approximate.



TO THE END OF YEAR MASS

The end of year Mass is scheduled on Wednesday, **12 December 2018**. Mass will be at **9.30 am**. This will be the final Mass for the 2018 Year 8's at St. Joseph's School and is a very special Mass to attend



TO OUR NATIVITY PLAY

Please join us at **11.30 am** on Wednesday, **12 December 2018**, after Mass, in the basement for our annual nativity play. Room 3 prepares the play and our Year 8's are able to show off their acting skills too.

TO THE LEAVERS' DINNER FOR YEAR 8'S AND THEIR PARENTS WITH STAFF

This dinner will take place on Wednesday, **12 December 2018** at the Panorama Motor Inn following the Amazing Race for 2018. The proceedings will start at **6pm** with drinks and the meal will follow at 7pm. **The supper will cost \$42.00 per adult and it is payable to the Panorama on the night.** Meals for the students are paid out of Alumni donations. Please contact the office if you plan on attending, thank you.



TO OUR FINAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE YEAR

Our final assembly for the year will be held on 14 December 2018. The time will be confirmed. In the school basement. Please join us for our leavers final assembly, handing out of the diligence awards and the announcement of the leaders for next year.

MRS. DOWNEY'S NOTES ...

Kia Ora Koutou te Whanau

This Sunday we begin the church season ADVENT (meaning COMING). Our preparation, for Christmas at St Joseph's during ADVENT is quite different from what you see on Television and in other non-integrated schools. For us our ADVENT lens is:

- A time to focus on the real meaning of Christmas - to learn the real Christmas story and add meaning to the symbols that surround it. So.... we tell the story, put up our nativity scenes, present nativity plays and the Christmas 'float' always has a nativity theme.
- A time to think of others. So.... we prepare advent calendars that don't feed us chocolates, but suggest ways that we can help others, we prepare our Christmas gift boxes to give to our elderly parishioners
- A time to pray with the advent wreath and candles to remind us of FAITH, HOPE, JOY, PEACE. So... we collect food and offer it to others in brown paper bags, to exemplify these four virtues.
- A time to remember that Jesus said he would come again. So.. we prepare the children to be hope filled and expectant and ready at all times for Jesus . Attending Mass and reconciliation is encouraged.
- To simplify our thoughts and deeds. So... we try to maintain a sense of simple in our classroom remembering that busyness is not always God's business

May your family too create some time to tell the real story of Christmas.

Congratulations and Thank You

Congratulations to all our miniball team's, who have finished their competition this week. Every child that played mini-ball has enjoyed the competition and a huge thank you goes out to the organising committee for their work and dedication to this sport in the Waitomo area. We had two teams in the finals. Congratulations to Kathleen Marich and Jan Lawrence who along with myself have completed the Year 2 Te Reo course. Congratulations to .Anita Bailey who has completed a Catholic RE paper 'New Testament'

Camps

Room 1 have had a very successful camp at Te Kauri Lodge. I have heard nothing but praise for the organisation by Mrs Bailey and Frau Woermer and the same for all the parents who attended the camp. While the students enjoy their time together it builds our community to have parents getting to know each other and working together too. Well done and Thank you all.

Wellington Trip

This is next week!! Exciting!! The trip leaves on Monday at 7am with all our Year 7/8 students. What a fabulous effort the fundraising group have done to enable every child to experience Wellington. Mrs TuiSamoa and myself will accompany the trip. Elmarie Senger will also be on the trip - and out of the office.

Arrangements for next week in my and Elmarie's absence

Sharon Mason will be running the office next week. Please ensure that the communication re absences and buses is clearly communicated to Sharon. Mrs Pam Boroovich and Mrs Pip Were will be deputising for myself. I will be in communication with them regularly.

Maniapoto Festival

The Maniapoto Kapa Haka Festival is on Friday 30th at the Les Munro Centre. Most of the school will attend initially to see our school perform at 9.45am. This is a festival for all schools and an opportunity to stay and watch others perform too. Our school under the tutelage of Amai are putting up a bracket of waiata, haka, and chant that reflects our special character. Amai has even written some of the work especially for us. This group stepped up to the extra challenge of performance and I cannot be prouder of their efforts. A special thank you to Amai but also to Mrs TuiSamoa and Mrs Needham who have helped practically to bring the performance together. Finally, thanks to our students. Enjoy your day. I know you will represent our school with big hearts.

Have a great weekend, Heoi anoo taaku moo naiainei (That's all for now), Suzanne.



PARISH NEWS

Scripture Discussion Group.

Come along and have a look at the readings for the forthcoming Sunday. Every **Monday** at **7pm** in the **Presbytery**. Any queries please contact Fr. Matt 027 3023154



DIOCESE SNIPPETS

National March for Life NZ 8th December:

Gather at 2pm in Civic Square (101 Wakefield St) ready to walk to Parliament grounds. The spirit of the march is one of celebrating the gift of life and helping the vulnerable. Our message to our community is, you are not alone, there is support, there is healing, there is hope! marchforlife.nz or phone Michael on 021 825 955.

NZ Rosary Crusade 8th December:

On December 8th, New Zealanders will join together in prayer from various locations (including at the National March for Life on the lawn of Parliament) to pray the Rosary for Life and Faith. www.rosarycrusade.co.nz or phone Clare on 022 1912 886 or 03 359 2087

Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women Event

"Gifts -Given and Received"

Christmas meeting on the feast of St Nicholas with excellent speaker : Anne Claessens (Tauranga).

Final meeting of the year so women do come and be blessed!

DATE: Thursday 6 December 2018

TIME: 7.30p.m. – 9.30 p.m.

VENUE: St Joseph's Parish Centre
86 Clarkin Road, Fairfield, Hamilton

All women, all ages, all walks of life, welcome. A small plate of food for supper is optional.

For more information or transport please contact Raewyn 07 856 8321 or Nancy at nancyjames@actrix.co.nz

What is Dove? Visit www.dove.org.nz

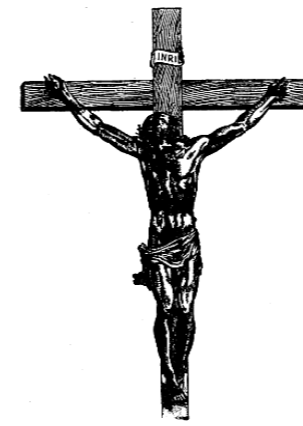
In the wake of the abuse crisis, here is an article from Cardinal Dolan who is the Archbishop of New York. It gives a somewhat different perspective.

Blessings
Fr. Matt

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It was only the third time it had happened to me in my nearly thirty-five happy years as a priest, all three times over the last nine-and-a-half years. Three is enough. Each time has left me so shaken I was near nausea. It happened last Friday . . . I had just arrived at the Denver Airport, there to speak at their popular annual "Living Our Catholic Faith" conference. As I was waiting for the train, a man, maybe in his mid-forties, came closer to me. "Are you a Catholic priest?" he kindly asked. "Sure am. Nice to meet you," says I, as I offered my hand. He ignored it. "I was raised a Catholic," he replied, almost always a hint of a cut to come, but I was not prepared for the razor sharpness of the stiletto, as he went on, "and now, as a father of two boys, I can't look at you or any other priest without thinking of a *sexual abuser*."

What to respond? Yell at him? Apologize? Deck him? I must admit all such reactions came to mind as I staggered with the damage of the wound he had inflicted with those stinging words. "Well," I recovered enough to remark, "I'm sure sorry you feel that way. But, let me ask you, do you automatically presume a sexual abuser when you see a Rabbi or Protestant minister?" "Not at all," he came back through gritted teeth as we both boarded the train. "How about when you see a coach, or a boy scout leader, or a foster parent, or a counsellor, or physician?" "Of course not!" he came back. "What's all that got to do with it?" "A lot," I stayed with him, "because each of those professions have as high a percentage of sexual abuse, if not even higher, than that of priests." "Well, that may be," he retorted. "But the Church is the only group that knew it was going on, did nothing about it." "You obviously never heard the stats on public school teachers," I observed. "In my home town of New York City alone, experts say the rate of sexual abuse among public school teachers is ten times higher than that of priests, and these abusers just get transferred around." To that he said nothing, so I went in for a further charge. "Pardon me for being so blunt, but you sure were with me, so, let me ask: when you look at yourself in a mirror, do you see a sex abuser?" Now he was as taken aback. "What the hell are you talking about?" "Sadly," I answered, "studies tell us that most children sexually abused are victims of their own fathers or other family members." I saw him dazed. So I tried to calm it down. "So, I tell you what: when I look at you, I won't see a sex abuser, and I would appreciate the same consideration from you." The train had arrived at baggage claim, and we both exited together. "Well then, why do we only hear this garbage about you priests," he inquired, as he got a bit more pensive. "We priests wonder the same thing. I've got a few reasons if you're interested." He nodded his head as we slowly walked to the carousel.

"For one," I continued, "we priests deserve the more intense scrutiny, because people trust us more as we dare claim to represent God, so, when one of us do it – even if only a tiny minority of us ever have – it is more disgusting." "Two, I'm afraid there are many out there who have no love for the Church, and are itching to ruin us." "And, three, I hate to say it," as I wrapped it up, "there's a lot of money to be made in suing the Catholic Church, while it's hardly worth suing any of the other groups I mentioned before." We both by then had our luggage, and headed for the door. He then put his hand out, the hand he had not extended five minutes earlier when I had put mine out to him. We shook. "Thanks. Glad I met you." He halted a minute. "You know, I think of the great priests I knew when I was a kid. Shouldn't judge all you guys because of the horrible sins of a few." "Thanks!," I smiled. Notwithstanding the happy ending, I was still trembling as I had to confront again the horror this whole mess has been to victims and their families, our Catholic people like the man I had just met . . . and to us priests.



Religious Education



Advent

Begins this Sunday 2nd December

This Sunday we begin the season of Advent in the Church. The season of Advent is a time of preparation before we welcome the coming of Jesus at Christmas. We are also aware of preparing for the second coming of Christ as He promised.

To celebrate Advent at school each class creates an advent wreath which consists of greenery shaped in a ring, purple ribbon and four candles—1 pink and 3 purple. The candles represent the 4 Sundays in Advent. Each week

we light another candle as we get closer to Christmas. As part of our Advent learning, we look at the significant symbols of Advent, how we can prepare, and the Nativity Story. Over the next couple of weeks ask your children what they are learning about Advent. Can you also think about ways that you and your family can help others this Advent Season.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL BROWN PAPER BAG APPEAL

It's that time of the year again to bring our spirit of giving to our community. Last year when we had the Brown Paper Bag Appeal we managed to fill over 20 bags to distribute to the needy in our community. We would like to be able to do that again or more this year, and ask our school community to donate food to fill our supermarket trolley. Please do not send fresh products / produce as these paper bags will only be distributed on or after 17 December. We would like to thank Te Kuiti New World for providing the trolley.



PLEASE TAKE NOTE!

TE KUITI AMATEUR ATHLETICS CLUB - REMINDER!!

The Club started on 2 November and will run for 6 weeks every Wednesday and Friday. Club nights are weather dependant and the final evening will be Friday, 7 December. The season will recommence in Term 1, 2019.



ATTENDANCE:

If your child is not going to be at school for any reason, please call 878 8190/3 and in case of no answer please leave a message, e mail, text on 027 878 8190 or send through an absence notice from the website. Thank you.



THANK YOU!!

BBQ - maybe. Will see what Monique says



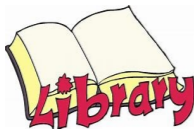
LUCKY BOOK CLUB

The Lucky Book Club orders must be in by tomorrow so we can receive and hand it out before the school holidays! Thank you



ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOKS

Year 8 students and students not returning to St Joseph's School in 2019, please ensure that you have handed in your school library books by Monday, 10 December 2019. Please don't leave our school without returning our library books as other students would like to read them next.



SPORTS COMMITTEE MEETING

Term One, Week One - Wednesday at 5pm. Please pencil this into your diary. Everyone is welcome, new members are needed to help with the running of sports codes at St Joseph in 2019. Sports Code Parent Leaders in 2018: Rugby - Monique Needham Football - Brendan Were Hockey- Kylie Leineweber Netball - Lizzie Rendall Touch/Miniball - Nikki Taylor Please let me know if you would like to help lead a code in 2019! Thank you, Pip Were.

PSG SECRETARY POSITION AVAILABLE FOR 2019

If you are interested in getting involved in the Parent Support Group in Term 1 of 2019, please contact Kylie on 0212341998.



CHRISTMAS PARADE HELPERS

If your child would like to be on the Christmas Float, please come to the basement on Monday 10th December at 3.15pm to meet with the PSG to plan the design of the float. Our theme will be around the Nativity. Please bring along your ideas to share at the meeting. We would appreciate your help! Thanks, PSG



WAITOMO DISTRICT EDUCATION TRUST

If you would like to purchase a Chromebook through the Trust next year, please let us know. They need to finalise numbers before the end of the school year. Thank you

AFFCO NZ LTD

Affco NZ have made a school payment of \$71.20 to our school. Thank you to the farmers who registered for this payment as part of the Bobby Calf round. We appreciate you thinking of our school.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?

This Noel Leeming Friends and Family offer runs from 26th November to 2nd December and is open to anyone associated with Catholic schools. Cost plus 7.5% store-wide (excludes IT accessories, PC Software, AV Accessories and PC Consumables). Print and present [this flyer](#) or show it on your device in store.

noel leeming friends & family deals
NZ Catholic Education Office - 26th November to 2nd December 2018

cost* + 7.5% storewide

excludes* IT accessories, PC Software, AV Accessories & PC Consumables. See below for terms & conditions.

this cost + offer could get you

up to 50% off selected audio
up to 17% off computers
up to 23% off whiteware
up to 40% off small appliances

SPORTS NEWS

INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS

Well done to all those students who took part in the Inter School Athletics at Te Kuiti High School on Friday, 23rd November. It turned out to be a lovely fine day in which students competed in a range of events. The students represented our school well; giving it their best and encouraging others! It was exciting to watch our students compete against other athletes in our community.

We are very proud of your efforts and will share the results with you all once we have received them. Mrs. Downey would like to thank Mrs Kearins and Mrs Were for so ably preparing and supporting the students throughout the day.



MINIBALL

Congratulations to the St Joseph's Panthers miniball team who won their Junior A grade final on Wednesday. The players all put in 100% effort into the game which was toughly contested by Centennial Park. The final score was 31-29 to the Panthers! It is the first time since 2009 that St Joseph's have won the Junior A grade division - well done team!

Also, a huge thank you to Haley Mita and Renee Pari for coaching the team. You have helped the players to progress each week as a team and improve the young miniballers skill set. Well done Panthers!

