

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 2019

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.)

He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion feed together, with a little boy to lead them.

The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord

Psalm 71(72):1-2,7-8,12-13,17

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: *For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.*

The word of the Lord

Readings for next week: Third Sunday of Advent

1st Reading Isaiah 35:1-6,10; Psalm 146(147)6-10; Second Reading James 5:7-10;

Gospel Matthew 24:37-44

Gospel

Matthew 3: 1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

*A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.*

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord



St Joseph's Catholic School

St. George's Parish

Community Newsletter

Panui 39 – 6 December 2019

Parish Priest
Father Joe Stack
Te Awamutu
07 8716109

Resident Priest
Fr. Matt McAuslin
Ph: 07 878 6417

Principal: Suzanne Downey
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26 Seddon St, Te Kuiti 3910

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

PAYMENT FOR TRIPS

Please remember to send payment to school or do an internet transfer of the cost for your student's trip:

*Year 7/8 is going to Stubbs Farm on Friday, 6 December 2019 - \$51.00

*Year 5/6 is going to Stubbs Farm on Monday, 9 December 2019 - \$51.00

*Room 4 is going to the Hamilton Zoo on 11 December - \$20.00



LIBRARY BOOKS TO BE RETURNED - LAST DAY MONDAY, 09 DECEMBER 2019

Please remember to bring the books on lend from St Joseph's School's library back by Monday, 09 December 2019. We need to do a stock take for audit purposes. Thank you for your assistance.



SCHOOL STOCK SCHEME

We need support from our school community for our stock grazing scheme. If you are able to graze a calf through to sale on behalf of the school, please contact Dale Rendall 0274893165.



REBUILD

The roof goes on today!

I would like to offer parents the opportunity to come and have a REBUILD WALK THRU anytime Monday 9th Dec from 3.30 to 5.30pm. You may come as individuals or as groups during this time.

I will be available to ask questions about the Flexible Learning Spaces. We would also like to rename our learning spaces, so here's an opportunity for our school and parish community to help us name our new leaning spaces. The winner will receive a \$50.00 gift card from Warehouse Stationery. Let Elmarie or Suzanne know what your ideas are!



R.S.V.P.

PLEASE RSVP TO INVITATION FOR LEAVERS' DINNER

We need to confirm our numbers to Panorama Motor Inn, for the Leavers Dinner, tomorrow. Please call or email the office to confirm numbers for this event. The school pay for the meals for the students, and parents pay for their meal at the Panorama Inn. Cost for adults is \$45.00 each. Thank you.

WHAT ARE WE UP TO ?

DECEMBER 2019

6: STUBBS FARM VISIT - YEAR 7 & 8, SWIMMING 1.30 PM - 2.30PM

9: STUBBS FARM VISIT - YEAR 5 & 6

10: LEAVERS MASS, SWIMMING - 1.30PM TO 2.30PM; AMAZING RACE AND LEAVERS DINNER

11: ROOM 4 TRIP TO HAMILTON ZOO; ROAD PATROL WARDENS FUN DAY

12: SWIMMING - 1.30PM TO 2.30PM

16: FINAL ASSEMBLY 11.30 AM, LAST DAY FOR BUSES TO AND FROM SCHOOL

18: END OF TERM 4



Religious Education

On the **Second Sunday**, The **second** candle is lit on this day along with the first candle. It is the Peace candle or the Bethlehem candle, reminding that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. the Gospel reading recalls the preaching of John the Baptist, who came to "prepare the way of the Lord"



December 6: Feast of St Nicholas



LEAVER'S MASS

Our Leavers Mass will be on Tuesday, December 10th at St. George's Parish at 9.15 am. We invite you to attend this Mass with us to farewell our Year 8 students as they embark on the next step of their learning journey. Thank you

There will be one more farewell also as Father Matt is leaving us at the end of January. Father is going to Waihi. It is fitting that we celebrate our last Mass with him. See you there!

RETREAT

Today our year 8's are at a retreat with Mrs Erasmus. Mrs Bailey and myself. Thank you to Rev Jeheli Singh for allowing us to use the space at St. Luke's Anglican Church for the day. We have prayed, played some games and looked into how God is ever present in our lives. We want to be able to offer an opportunity for these twenty one amazing students to revisit the faith and leave us knowing what gift they have and how God is always accessible to them because he lives in each of them in a very special way. 'You are precious and wonderfully made' - 'I have carved you from the palm of my hand' - 'I knew you before you were born' Thank you to Anita for coming and leading this day.



HEALTH PROGRAMME

This six week programme for the year 7 and 8 students has now come to an end. Led by Liz Brandon (PHN), Anita Bailey, and myself. We would welcome any feedback you have from your children. Please email myself or phone personally. Remember that all feedback will be welcomed. Ask your children to help you as well, their voice is very powerful. I would like to say that as a group these twenty one students have a strong sense of faith, they are invested in learning new things and know how to care for others.

Learn the Amazing Story Behind Saint Nicolas



Saint Nicolas was Bishop Nicolas and lived in what is now Turkey in the 3rd or 4th century. His friend didn't have money for dowry, so his 3 daughters couldn't get married. Nick threw 3 bags of gold into their living room, some which landed in socks drying by the fireplace. Later he was declared a Saint by the Catholic church.

SVDP BROWN BAG APPEAL

Thank you to those families who have already contributed. We have made a really good start!! We still have next week to collect non perishable items to put in the brown paper bags and then distribute them before the end of the school year.



FROM FATHER MATT...

I read a nice article from Shaun McAfee about why he became Catholic and the place of Obedience in his conversion. I thought I would share it with you.

Blessings
Fr. Matt

Are you a convert? Why did you join the Church?

Are you a "cradle catholic"? Why are you still with the Church?

It's an important question we should all consider. Not only in order to be prepared for the inevitable question from friends, family and acquaintances, but also for some self-reflection. Chances are, the answer might have changed over time.

Sure, your initial reason for joining or making that life-long commitment to stay with the Church was on the basis of something divisible, something concrete. It might have been sparked by the reality of the Eucharist, or a love for the liturgy. But as time as gone on, and you've become more appreciative of your catholicity, you might dig even deeper. What *about* the Eucharist? What *about* the liturgy was it? The Eucharist, yes, is the "summit and source" of our faith, but even this reality derives from an even bigger reality: *authority*. Right? Without the authority of Christ, we wouldn't have the Eucharist through the hands and words of priests. Even deeper, I think we can go. It can even be backed up to *personhood*. Christ's authority is derived from who he is as a person: a person of the Holy Trinity.

So I think about these things from time to time, and I have, in the past few years. And since my appreciation of the reasons I joined the Church, an even further appreciation has formed in the area of obedience to the Church.

And though I was undeniably rapt by the logical principles that were provided for such teachings as baptism, the Eucharist, the Communion of Saints, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, these were not the sole basis of my decision to join the Catholic Church.

All of these things were and continue to be exceedingly important to me, but the reason I joined the Catholic Church, above all, was because of what the Church is. [The] Catholic Church is the Body of Christ, without metaphor. As the Body of Christ, the Church contains the authority to teach, the completeness of the Christian Faith, and the presence of a visible structure that communicates its teachings, and transmits the authority of Christ to the Apostles and to every age.

When I joined the Catholic Church, I joined with that discipline in mind. It required my obedience, even if I did not understand. It required my followership, even if I didn't agree. It required my devotion, even if I didn't want to.

In my conversion I became completely convinced that the Church, through Christ, was the only infallible communicator of moral and divine truths, and whatever she taught, I wanted to become a slave to.

PARISH NEWS

RECONCILIATION

Fr Joe Stack & Fr Laurie Bishop will be here for Reconciliation/Confession For Advent on Wednesday, 11th December 2019 at 7pm and Fr Joe will come again as usual on 18th December 6pm.

HILLVIEW

Reminder we are taking the Thursday services this month in the main lounge at 4.15. We are in need of singers so all are welcome . We will be going only to the 19th.

