



Catholic Parish of Christchurch South

18th December 2022—4th Sunday of Advent

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Sometimes in our lives, unforeseeable events happen to us that radically alter our lives, whether by tragic or joyful circumstances. There are some of us who dislike intensely being surprised. But as we go through life, we become more and more aware we are not in charge of our own destiny. **The element of surprise** will always be there in the background and for us as God's people there is a call on our faith and a willingness to trust in **"Emmanuel, God-is-with-us"**.

The story of Mary and Joseph is the story of two people who were willing to co-operate in what was totally beyond their expectations. The Gospels indicate that the **element of surprise** remained throughout their lives, but their ability to respond in faith and trust and generosity remained too.

"Pause a while and know that I am God". As Christmas Day draws near, today, tomorrow and for the rest of this week, it is important for us **to take time to pause**. We are invited to have a sense of expectancy, a capacity for wonder, a faith that trusts. **If we take the time to pause, to listen, God will be heard calling us to trust, as Mary and Joseph did, in Him who has entrusted Himself to us.** May we join Mary and Joseph's unconditional response to the mysterious ways of our God, **a God who is always with us, a God who will continue to surprise us.**



THANK YOU for 2022



As this is the last newsletter for 2022, **I want to thank you, the parishioners of the Catholic Parish of Christchurch South, for the way in which you give so generously of your time in service for the parish:** to the members of our Parish Staff, the Leadership Team, Finance and Management Committee; the religious orders present in our parish, members of the Catholic Women's League, St Vincent de Paul Societies, Passionist Family Groups; our three parish primary schools; those who minister to the sick, elderly and bereaved, provide pastoral care; those of you who are greeters, provide music either individually or as a member of a music group, those who compile the power-points and who operate the laptops at weekend Masses, arrange the flowers and decorations for our churches; those who contribute financially to the running of the parish, collectors and those who assist in the counting of the money; proclaimers of the Word, those who assist with children's liturgy, Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, sacristans, those who wash the altar linen, open and lock our churches, look after the church gardens and lawns; those involved with preparation for the Sacraments, RCIA, the Young Adults group, devotional groups, Couples for Christ, Jesus Youth; those involved with formation in the faith; belong to a parish group not named above and those of you who individually contribute in ways unbeknown to the rest of us.



I feel very proud of you all and express my deepest gratitude to all of you. I am privileged and honoured to be your parish priest.

With Advent, Christmas and New Year blessings to you and your families

Father Peter Head sm
Parish Priest



Parish Priest

Fr Peter Head sm
phead@now.net.nz
(03) 338 8395

Assistant Priests

Fr Ben D'souza sm
Fr Barry Malone sm

In Residence:

Fr Allan Jones sm

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Parish office

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Office Hours:

9.00am–3.00pm

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Parish Website
Christchurchsouth.org.nz



Parish App
The Catholic Parish of
Christchurch South



[https://www.facebook.com/
CatholicChchSouth/](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicChchSouth/)

PARISH NOTICES



CAROLS AT ST PETERS: on Christmas Eve. Join us at **5.45** (before 6 pm Mass) or **8.30** (before 9 pm Mass)

MINISTRY OF COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND: To learn more about whether this volunteer ministry is for you please contact Joanne Hope pastoralcoordinator@christchurchsouth.org.nz the Coordinator of Pastoral Care or leave your contact details with Janice ph 338 8395

BEREAVEMENT CARE: Thank-you to those who joined us for a conversation about bereavement care in the parish, and others who have shared their experiences. We hope to build on your suggestions and look for other opportunities for consultation as we develop a Ministry of Accompaniment and Consolation which has the needs of parishioners at its heart .



INVITATION: Passionist Family Groups have been in our parish for many years, operating out of the previous parishes of Our Lady of the Assumption and St Peter's. We're still going strong and we'd love to share with you all what the Passionist Family Group Movement, or PFGM, is all about - how it builds meaningful community - and invite you to join.

The PFGM's motto is '**A FAMILY FOR ALL**'. It provides opportunities for individuals and families to belong to a small group who meet regularly for various activities (potluck dinners, etc). As these people get to know one another, they are able to offer practical Christian care and support in 'good times and bad'.

We are running a promotion weekend during the *last weekend in January 2023* and more information about this will be coming your way next month.



THE BISHOP'S CARE APPEAL 2022

Food OR a doctor visit?
Food OR petrol in the car?
Food OR the power bill?

When you donate to the Bishop's Care Appeal, you're helping those in need not to have to choose between essentials. A portion of appeal proceeds will be used to provide struggling families with food parcels through Catholic Social Services.

This Advent, please give to help those in need.

Catholic Parish of Christchurch South: Mass Times

Addington - Sacred Heart

70 Spencer Street
Monday 6.00pm
Wednesday 9.00am
Friday 9.00am
Saturday 9.00am
Saturday Vigil 5.00pm
Sunday 10.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sacred Heart:
Saturday 10.30am–11.30am
or by appointment with a Priest

Exposition at Sacred Heart

Friday 9.30am until 10.30am
Saturday 9.30am until 11.30am

Beckenham - St Peter's

11 Fisher Avenue
Sunday 9.00am
Thursday 11.00am*
(*School Term only)

Carmel Monastery

52 Halswell Road
Daily 8.30am

Halswell - Sts Peter & Paul

56 Nicholls Road
Thursday 9.00am
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm
Sunday 10.30am

Hoon Hay

Our Lady of the Assumption

170 Hoon Hay Road
Sunday 9.00am
Friday 11.00am*
(*School Term only)

Baptisms 2nd Sunday of the month.

Contact the Parish Office on 338 8395

Primary Schools

Our Lady of Assumption
Ph 338 9503,
www.ola.school.nz/Home/

Sacred Heart, Ph 338 3247,
www.sacredheartchch.school.nz

St Peter's, Ph 332 7598,
www.saintpeters.school.nz

Weekly Collections 11 December

Parish \$2,020 Clergy Fund \$1,010

Automatic Payments received November

Parish \$9,792 Clergy Fund \$4,896

Next Special Collection:

Christmas Day – for Diocesan Clergy

Parish account for donations

Westpac 03-1592-0207148-20 Thank you

READINGS (Year A) Isa 7:10-14;
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25



Response: Lord, come and save us.

Next week: (Year A) Isa 52:7-10;
Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

These are also on the Parish App under Readings.



HALSWELL CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE:

Thank you to all those who supported our Christmas raffle. This has now been drawn and the 13 prize winners have been notified. The list of prize winners is on the noticeboard at Halswell.

As we head into Christmas week I want to say a big thank you to all those who have helped out during the year. Merry Christmas. Helen Hutching

Mass Intentions: John W Tier, Len Sullivan & Heather Boaz, Pippa Foley, Stephanie Sullivan, Rosemary & Bud Grose

