

St. Joseph's Parish Upper Hutt

THIS WEEKENDS ROSTER			
21/22 December	Vigil	9:00 am	10:30 am
Sacristan – December	Michael Mears	Vernon Hoey	
Greeters		Sean Fitzgerald	O’Kane Family
Hospitality		Homan Family	
Gathering Rite	Gerald Carter	Ben Phiri	Rachel Kingi
Altar Servers	Samasoni Hewitt Aaliyah Eslera Mary Athena Estuita	Sam Leitch Adrian Leitch	Gibbeon Pole'o Okus Pole'o
Projectionists		Michael Jordan	Julian Millar
Prayer of Faithful	David Pritchard		
Proclaimer of the Word	Virginia Hewson	Sonali James	Te Ataria
Cantor		Peter Dawson	Youth Choir
Gifts Procession		Kathryn & Adam Andrews	Margaret John
Collection Procession			Uvea Family
Music Ministry	Irene Levangie	Theresa Jordan	Youth Choir
Eucharistic Ministers	Bernadette Barry Lorraine Sayer Janet Robinson	Bev Holcroft Dian Marlow Ann Peebles Riutendo Monzora Marie Kirkup	Anna Orallo Roman Zarate Des Davies Abraham Baltazar Lina Stowers
Bell Ringer	Danny	Matthew Chan	
Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy		
Martha Ministry	Homan Family – Church to be cleaned before weekend of 28/29 December		
December Ministries	Counting Team – Lacuna & Zarate families Lawn Mowing – St. Joseph's – Driscoll family		
Flowers	No flowers during Advent		

NEXT WEEKENDS ROSTER			
28/29 December	Vigil	9:00 am	10:30 am
Sacristan – December	Michael Mears	Vernon Hoey	
Greeters		Pat Dunstan	
Hospitality		Steel Family	
Gathering Rite	Mick Quinn	Teresa Homan	Liz Coe
Altar Servers	Joshua Jordan Katie Jordan Joey Moorman	Matthew Jones Jonathan Jones	Zhali Morgan Okus Pole'o Nina Bennett
Projectionists	Nel Mullin	Peter Dawson	
Prayer of Faithful	Lorna Zorate		
Proclaimer of the Word	Joe Moorman	Bernadine Fitzgerald	Carmelita Baltazar
Cantor	Joe Moorman		Youth Choir
Gifts Procession		Sia Hynam	Uvea Family
Collection Procession			David Carter
Music Ministry	Irene Levangie		
Eucharistic Ministers	Briana McDonald Anne Bowles Carol Brabyn	Tina Afoa Harris Joseph Liz & Keith Budd Mike Driscoll	Mike Gill Elizabeth Te'o Belinda Salandanan Jane Arimas Karen Henderson
Bell Ringer	Danny	Matthew Chan	
Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy		
Martha Ministry	Steel Family – Church to be cleaned before weekend of 4/5 January		
December Ministries	Counting Team – Lacuna & Zarate families Lawn Mowing – St. Joseph's – Driscoll family		
Flowers	Geraldine Hutchings		

Parish Priest
Fr. Maleko Api-Tufuga
Fr. Biju Xavier (Assistant)
Ph. 528 2028

Parish Secretary
Barbara Neho
Ph. 528 2028

Pastoral Council
Peter Dawson
Ph. 021 2580 595
nzphreadde@gmail.com

Finance Committee
Mike Williams
Ph. 027 248 4675

St Joseph's School
Andrew Herrick
Ph. 528 4910

Postal Address
P.O. Box 40-225
UPPER HUTT 5140

Parish Office
Hours 9 am - 1:00 pm
Monday to Friday
Ph. 528 2028

stjosephsuh1@gmail.com (Office)
mat_wel@hotmail.com (Fr Maleko)
frbijuxavier2010@gmail.com (Fr Biju)
www.stjosephsuh.com (Parish Website)



Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am & 10:30 am
Weekdays: Mon (usually) Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 9:00 am, Fri 6:30 am & 11:15 am
Reconciliation: Friday 10:30 am - 11:00 am, Saturday 9:25 am - 10:00 am

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT **21/22 December 2019** **YEAR A**

Liturgy of the Word:
Psalm Response: "Let the Lord enter; he is King of glory."
Today's Readings: Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-24
Next Sunday: Sirach 3:2-6.12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Matthew 2:13-15.19-23



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Introduction: Today we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, which occurred some 2,000 years ago. Looking through the telescope of Christ's Resurrection, the New Testament authors, as well as the Fathers of the Church, re-examined foreshadowing's of the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, in the writings of the prophets and discovered that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah.

Scripture readings: Following the death of the Assyrian monarch in the late 8th century B.C, the prophet Isaiah prophesies relief for both Northern and Southern Kingdoms of Israel through a new king and his descendant in the line of David, in the person of Jesus. He is the child Isaiah's prophecy describes as the "prince of peace". The second reading, taken from the "pastoral letter" of Paul to Titus, tells us that it is only by the saving power of God in Christ that we are enabled to live virtuously in the present with hope for the future. The Gospel for the Midnight Mass tells us how Jesus was born in Bethlehem and how the news of his birth was first announced to shepherds by the angels. Since David was a shepherd, it seems fitting that the shepherds were given the privilege of visiting David's successor in the stable. If these shepherds were the ones in charge of the Temple of Jerusalem, no wonder they were chosen to be the first to see the Lamb of God who wakes away the sins of the world!

Life messages: 1) We need to reserve room for Jesus in our heart: Christmas asks us a tough question. Do we close the doors of our hearts to Jesus looking for a place to be reborn in our lives? There is no point in being sentimental about the doors slammed by the folks in Bethlehem, if there is no room in our own hearts for the same Jesus coming in the form of the needy. We need to reverence each human life, and to treat others respectfully as the living residences of the Incarnate God. To neglect the old, to be contemptuous of the poor or to have no thought for the unemployed and the lonely, is to ignore those individuals with whom Christ has so closely identified himself. Therefore, we all need to examine ourselves daily on the doors we close to Jesus.

2) We need to experience Jesus the Emmanuel: The real meaning of Christmas actually is Emmanuel, God with us - God coming down to us; God coming alongside us; God seeking us out; God revealing Himself to us; God bringing us forgiveness, healing, comfort, moral strength and guidance. Each one of us has, deep down in our souls, an incredible hunger: a hunger for purpose and meaning; a hunger to feel and celebrate the redeeming, forgiving, sustaining love of God; a hunger to be in the presence of God. Christmas is special because it reminds us concretely that God is indeed with us. In every circumstance of life, even when we are frightened or lonely or in sorrow, God is with us. So let's go home to the heart of Christmas and embrace Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

Fr Maleko Tufuga

PARISH DIARY	22 December – 29 December 2019
	4th Sunday of Advent
Sun	12:00 pm Samoan Divine Mercy in Church 2:00 pm Baptism in Church & foyer afterwards 4:00 pm Christmas Rite 2 Reconciliation 7:00 pm RCIA program in meeting room
Mon	6:00 pm Samoan choir practice in Church
Tue	6:00 pm Children's Mass 10:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass
Wed	9:30 pm Christmas Day Mass
Thurs	
Fri	6:30 am Early Bird Mass
Sat	
	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
Sun	7:00 pm RCIA program in meeting room

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother, Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit!

Vocations for December – John & Marie Brophy

Weekly Collections

Weekly income required - \$1,950.00
Last week's giving - \$1,701.00
Shortage - \$249.00

Aotearoa New Zealand, following Jesus Christ by celebrating and sharing faith, growing in community, and working for justice and peace. "Everything – time, talent and treasure – given to the parish is a gift."



Have you ever considered going on the Planned Giving system here at St. Joseph's? You can do this by automatic Payment or the weekly envelope system. Your donations entitle you to a 33% tax rebate and a receipt will be provided to you at the end of the financial year. Planned Giving forms are available on the table in Foyer. Please ring Barbara at the Parish Office 528 2028 for a reference number or if you have any enquiries.

Parish Bank Account number is:

Bank of New Zealand

02 0772 0074384 00

Account name - St. Joseph's Parish Upper Hutt

Remember in Prayer

Doreen Tait, Verdon Macartney, George Mulder, Margaret Newhouse, Eleanor Campbell, Alan Maathuis, Freda, Laurie & Marion Finlay, the sick, special needs and intentions.



2020 Columban Art Calendars

These are now available from the Parish Office and are \$12.00 per calendar.



A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND PRAYERS

May Jesus be reborn in your heart and life during **Christmas 2019** and every day of the **New Year 2020**. May he radiate His presence from within you as sharing love, unconditional forgiveness, humble service, a compassionate heart and overflowing generosity. May the Holy babe of Bethlehem bless you with health in body and soul and grant you a peaceful and blessed New Year. We assure you of our special prayers during our Christmas Holy Masses and every day in the New Year.

From Father's Maleko, Biju & Kevin



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve - Tuesday 24th December

6:00 pm Children's/Family Mass

10:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass

(Both Masses preceded by 30 minutes of Carol Singing)

Christmas Day - Wednesday 25th December

9:30 am Christmas Day Mass

Christmas Rite 2 Reconciliation

Sunday 22nd December at 4 pm at

St Joseph's Church, Upper Hutt.



Last Bulletin for the year

Will be the weekend of 21st/22nd of December. The first bulletin for 2020 will be the weekend of 25th/26th of January.

Parish Office Closing and Opening dates

The Parish office will be closed from Friday the 20th of December 2019 and will re-open on Monday the 13th of January 2020.

Carol singing

Come along and join in singing Carols on the 23rd of December outside St Joseph's church at 2 pm. All welcome to take part.

Christmas Eve Children's Mass

All children attending this Mass are encouraged to dress as an Angel, Shepherd or Wise Man/King as they can be a part of the Gospel drama.

Collection for Samoa

There will be a collection taken up at the 6pm Christmas eve children's Mass for the children of Samoa who have suffered due to the measles epidemic.

Religious books and items for sale

There will be some religious books and items for sale in the foyer after Mass on Sunday. Some may be useful as a Christmas gift.

Rosters for 2020

We are in need of more people/families to do the hospitality (tea/coffee), greeting parishioners with bulletins at 9 am and 10:30 am masses and also presenting the offertory gifts for all masses. If you are able to fill any of these roles please call Barbara at the Parish office.

NEW Church Cleaning Rosters

Please collect the new rosters for Church cleaning which are in the foyer this weekend.

2020 Church/Meeting Room Bookings

For all bookings of the Church and meeting room for 2020 please email Barbara in the Parish office. Please remember that to use the Church or meeting room for an event you must have made a booking. **It is also very important to leave all of the areas clean, with rubbish removed, lights/power switched off, and all doors locked.**

Proclaimer of the Word Practice Sessions in 2020

Please mark your calendar. The first proclaimers' practice session of the year will be on **Tuesday 28 January 6:30 - 7:30 pm**. In 2020 practice sessions go to every two months and will be on the Tuesday prior to the first Sunday when every new bi-monthly Sunday roster starts. Sessions are open to anyone who will be proclaiming at any Mass. Dates for 2020 are: 28 Jan, 31 Mar, 2 Jun, 28 Jul, 29 Sep, 1 Dec 2020, and will be in the bulletin. If you have any questions contact Christina on 021 029 28147 or Wilma 970 4228

Christmas Mass Readings on our Parish Website

The drop down bar under *Downloads* brings up extra pages. On the page **Readings for Masses** is a complete set of the full Lectionaries used in our parish, i.e. for weekdays as well as Sundays. Also, a liturgical calendar and a link to the on-line Ordo for Australia and New Zealand which gives the current and the next week's ordo. The page **Readings Dec 14 to Dec 25** provides Mass Readings on individual files copied from the Lectionary for all of the Christmas Mass options - as well as the usual upcoming Sundays. Readings for further Sundays are added as time goes by, and the page name is updated accordingly. These resources are to help reflect on the scripture in the week prior to coming to Mass or to check back after Mass is over.

NEW Parish Database & App

The Parish is now running a new database system called 'Infoodle'. With this new system there is also an app which parishioners can download on their phones/devices from the 'App Store' for Apple or 'Google Play Store' for Android. After searching 'Infoodle' from your App or Google Play Store and downloading it, enter 'St Joseph's Parish Upper Hutt' in the organisation name search box. Once this loads you will be able to see 'Coming Events' in the Parish. You can click on 'Events' on the bottom panel and it will display the Parish diary with all booked baptisms, funerals, meetings, community events etc within the Parish. Also on the bottom panel you will find 'Bulletin' which will be updated with the current weekly bulletin.

To keep the Parish database current, a form has been created called 'Parishioner Household Details' which is also on the bottom panel of the App. This form will also be available on the Parish website for parishioners that aren't able to access the App. If each household within the parish can fill out this form with household details and each individual family members details (by clicking 'add another' at the bottom) it would be very helpful. Once you have submitted this form it will get sent straight to the parish office and the details will be uploaded directly to the new parish database. The old database has been transferred over so your household may already be in the new database. However if you have updated your contact details, or have children who have now grown up and are now not living in your household, this updated information would be great to have. **If you or your family have an email address that the parish office does not have, supplying it would allow the parish secretary to send out emails with important parish notices, rosters, the bulletin etc which will in turn also save on printing costs.** If you have any questions or need help with any of this please call or visit Barbara in the office.

National Treasurer Role – SVDP

The Society of St Vincent de Paul New Zealand is currently accepting applications for the role of National Treasurer. If you have a desire to join one of New Zealand's best known, trusted and respected not-for-profit organisations, please email national@svdp.org.nz for a full job description.

Urgently Needed

Catholic Social services are working with a Kaupapa Maori Housing first provider. This organisation provides homes for our vulnerable homeless whanau. Right now they have the opportunity to house two families before Christmas. However we desperately need household goods - furniture, bedding, towels, blankets, pots, cutlery, crockery, microwave, electric jug, toaster, vacuum cleaner. If you can help with any of these items please contact Karen Holland at Catholic Social Services on 04 385 8642 or to reception@wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz

Advent is a time of grace. It tells us that it is not enough to believe in God: it is necessary to purify our faith every day. It is a matter of preparing ourselves to welcome not a fairy-tale character, but the God who challenges us, involves us and before whom a choice is imposed. The Child who lies in the manger has the face of our brothers and sisters most in need, of the poor who are a privileged part of this mystery; often they are the first to recognize God's presence in our midst. Pope Francis: Angelus 15 December 2019.