

# St. Joseph's Parish Upper Hutt

<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr. Maleko Api-Tufuga 022 362 3862 <a href="mailto:matufuga0105@gmail.com">matufuga0105@gmail.com</a>	<b>Assistant Priest</b> Fr. Biju Xavier 022 159 4548 <a href="mailto:frbijuxavier2010@gmail.com">frbijuxavier2010@gmail.com</a>	<b>Supply Priest</b> Fr Kevin Connors 027 507 9078 <a href="mailto:kconnors4j@gmail.com">kconnors4j@gmail.com</a>	<b>Parish Secretary</b> Barbara Neho 04 528 2028 <a href="mailto:stjosephsuh1@gmail.com">stjosephsuh1@gmail.com</a>
<b>Pastoral Council</b> Ken Eades 027 529 0939 <a href="mailto:sedae@xtra.co.nz">sedae@xtra.co.nz</a>	<b>Finance Committee</b> Sonali James 04 528 9848 <a href="mailto:jpfauh@gmail.com">jpfauh@gmail.com</a>	<b>Liturgy Committee</b> Cherylynn Passmore 027 252 2536 <a href="mailto:cherylynn.passmore@xtra.co.nz">cherylynn.passmore@xtra.co.nz</a>	<b>Building Committee</b> Stewart Homan 022 526 6963 <a href="mailto:jensenlotus74@gmail.com">jensenlotus74@gmail.com</a>
<b>Parish office hours</b> Tue: 9am – 1pm Wed: 11am – 3pm Thurs: 9am – 1pm	<b>Address</b> 1 Pine Avenue P.O. Box 40-225 UPPER HUTT	<b>Parish Website</b> <a href="http://www.stjosephsuh.com">www.stjosephsuh.com</a>	<b>St Joseph's School</b> Andrew Herrick 04 528 4910
<b>Weekend Masses</b> Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 9am Sunday 10:30am	<b>Weekday Masses</b> Mon – Thurs, Sat 9am Wednesday 7pm Friday 6:30am & 11:15am	<b>Reconciliation</b> Friday 10:30am – 11am Saturday 9:30am – 10am	

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

23/24 December 2023

YEAR B

## Liturgy of the Word

Psalm Response:	"For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord."		
This Sunday:	2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
Next Sunday:	Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3	Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19	Luke 2:22-40



## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Introduction:** Today's readings focus on the circumstances leading up to the first coming of Jesus, the event which sets the pattern for his coming to us now and at the end of time. The Gospel stresses the key role of Mary in the work of our salvation. In addition, today's Scripture texts describe God's promise to David and its fulfilment in Jesus, the Son of David. They also tell us that God's preparation for the coming of Jesus was full of surprises.

**Scripture lessons:** The unfolding of God's plan of salvation through history has contained many surprises. The first reading surprises us by telling of God's promise to David that he would have a long line of royal descendants culminating in a final King, Jesus Christ. The second reading surprises us with Paul's explanation of the unveiling of God's plan for human salvation through Jesus.

In today's Gospel, the Angel Gabriel surprises Mary with seven announcements. i) Even as a virgin betrothed to Joseph, she will become a mother. ii) She will become a mother through "*the Holy Spirit [Who] will come upon you, and the Power of the Most High will overshadow you.*" iii) The angel continues, "Therefore, the Child to be born will be called Holy, the Son of God." iv) She is to "*name the child Jesus,*" which means Saviour. v) God will make Him a King and, as a descendant in the line of David, vi) "*He will rule over the House of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end.*" vii) As a Divine sign, Elizabeth, Mary's aged barren cousin is six months pregnant, "*for,*" says Gabriel, "*nothing shall be impossible with God!*" The Gospel narrative also surprises us by reminding us that God's promise is best fulfilled not in buildings, or even in great kings like Solomon, but rather in humble souls like Mary who trusted in God's promise.

## Life messages:

1) We need to say a courageous and generous "yes" to God: True obedience comes from a free choice made in the light of what is true and good. Such a self-surrender often requires a great deal of courage because it can involve going against the tide of social expectations. True obedience also aims at putting oneself at the service of something/Someone that is greater than oneself, accepting what God clearly wants us to do or what He wants to do through us. It is by saying, with Jesus and Mary, a wholehearted and totally unconditional "Yes" – "*Fiat! May it be done in me,*" to Jesus that he will be re-born in each of us, or maybe even born in me for the first time. By my saying "Yes," Jesus will be born or re-born in others, too.

2) We need to try to learn God's plan for our lives: The Good News in today's Scripture message is not only that God is making provision for the salvation of His people, but also that He has a plan for each individual person. In many cases, our work for God seems rather ordinary, but each ordinary task which we carry out fits into God's plan in ways that we cannot yet understand. God desires not only the skill of our hands and talents but the love of our hearts. The Babe in the Manger reminds us of what God has done and is still doing for us. What are we doing for Him in return? Let us show our gratitude to God by living as true followers of Christ: "Behold, here I am, Lord! I come to do Your will."

*Fr Maleko Tufuga*

PARISH DIARY		24 December – 31 December 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
Sun	1:00 pm	Baptism in Church
	6:00 pm	Christmas eve Mass in Church
	10:30 pm	Christmas eve Mass in Church
Mon	9:30 am	Christmas day Mass in Church
Sat	11:00 am	Baptism in Church
<b>The Holy Family</b>		
Sun	10:00 pm	Tongan New Year's Eve Mass in Church

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

In the first reading, God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary's "Yes" - "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." - that the promise finds fulfilment.

#### Remember In Prayer

Bernard Breslin, Jean Montgomery, Fr Kevin Mears, Geraldine Hutchings, the lonely, the vulnerable, special needs, & intentions.

#### Planned Giving

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? Your donations entitle you to a 33% tax rebate and a receipt will be provided to you at the end of the financial year. If you would like to join our Parish's planned giving system please contact Barbara in the Parish office.

#### Parish Bank Account number is:

Bank of New Zealand

02 0772 0074384 00

Account name - St. Joseph's Parish Upper Hutt

#### Preference of Enrolment Forms to Be Signed

Fr. Maleko will be unavailable to sign preference forms during the school holidays.

#### 2024 Columban Calendars

The 2024 Columban calendars are out now. They are available to purchase in limited numbers from the parish office for \$12 each. Eftpos available.

#### Parish Office Closure

The parish office will be closed from Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. If the office is unattended during January please contact via email.

#### Weekday Mass Times 26th December – 5 February

Monday	9am	Liturgy with communion
Tuesday	7pm	
Wednesday	9am	
Thursday	9am	
Friday	9am	
Saturday	9am	

NOTE: There will be NO 9am Mass on Tuesdays, 7pm on Wednesdays or 6:30am early bird Mass on Fridays.

*A blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

May Jesus be reborn in your heart and life during Christmas 2023 and every day of the **New Year 2024**. 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**



#### ST JOSEPH'S PARISH, UPPER HUTT CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2023

##### Christmas Eve – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December

6:00pm	Children's/Family Mass
10:30pm	Christmas Eve Mass

##### Christmas Day – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December

9:30am	Christmas Day Mass
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*There will be carols half an hour before the  
Christmas Eve Masses.*

#### New Year Masses – St Joseph's Church

Tongan New Year's eve Mass, Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December at 10pm. All parishioners welcome. New Year's Day Mass, 1<sup>st</sup> January at 9am.

#### St Joseph's SVDP

This weekend the St Vincent de Paul conference of St Joseph's distributed food parcels to around 20 households in our community. The food parcels are filled by your generous donations of grocery items and money through the year. Recent donations from the Catholic Women's League, the Garden Club, St Joseph's School, parishioners and other community groups enable us to provide food assistance and other practical support with energy bills and schooling costs. The recipients are very grateful as the increased cost of living is having a big impact in our community. Our members continue to visit people in their homes and rest homes and this personal contact is a lifeline for many. We are so grateful for your support that enables us to provide practical help to assist those in need. We wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas.

#### CWL UH Lotto Bonus # Result Week 5

The winner was again #5 \$20 Peter Dorward, consolations of \$10 each to Nellie Boynton and Robert Glover. Many thanks to all who have supported this fundraiser. We wish everyone a Holy and Happy Christmas. Stay safe.



### Prayers of the Faithful

Over the years many parishioners have written the Prayers of the Faithful, based on the Scripture Readings for each Sunday. Many of the writers have died - RIP - some moved away and others' commitments have changed. Ideally we need 8 on the roster which would mean you make a commitment to write prayers once every two months. At present we have 4. Would you or your family like to join in this ministry for our parish? Help is available to get you on this journey of faith. Please give your name - individuals or families, to Barbara, in the parish office and I will contact you by phone or e-mail. Digital copy of the prayers emailed to the parish is preferred. Many thanks to all who have written prayers and will continue to do so. Thanks, Anne Bowles.

### Seasons for Growth

As a preparation for Lent 2024 our parish has invited Fr. John O'Connor ([www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz)), to guide us in a time of formation in faith. These sessions will offer practical encouragement for all who are seeking greater maturity of faith. The dates are as follows:

Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>Evening Mass</i>
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>Both morning Masses</i>
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>7pm-8:30pm Mission Session</i>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>9am Mass &amp; Mission Session</i>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>7pm-8:30pm Mission Session</i>
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>9am Mass &amp; Mission Session</i>
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>7pm-8:30pm Mission Session</i>

### Sacred Heart Cathedral Restoration Raffle

The Sacred Heart Cathedral Restoration Raffle has been won. Seven lucky people have won prizes. The three top prizes were \$1000 New World Vouchers. The other four prizes were \$500 New World Vouchers. Thank you to Parish Priests and Leaders, parishioners, friends, groups and families who supported the campaign. It was good to be amongst our Faith communities at the after-Mass sales tables in different parishes in the Wellington region. It was heart-warming and encouraging for us to experience meeting parishioners, friends, groups, and families from the wider region who supported this campaign. We all look forward the reopening of the Cathedral in June 2024.

#### Raffle Results are:

Prize No. 1	Ticket 8248
Prize No. 2	Ticket 7683
Prize No. 3	Ticket 1440
Prize No. 4	Ticket 9320
Prize No. 5	Ticket 94
Prize No. 6	Ticket 5199
Prize No. 7	Ticket 3345

### 2024 Parish Bookings

Any parish groups wanting to use the Church, foyer or meeting room on a regular basis in 2024, please email Barbara in the parish office with dates and times.



## ST JOSEPH'S PARISH UPPER HUTT BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

# COFFEE CUP FUNDRAISER

FOR THE COST OF A CUP OF COFFEE PER WEEK YOU CAN  
BRING OUR BUILDING PROJECT OF A NEW PARISH /  
SCHOOL HALL & PRESBYTERY TO LIFE.

WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO CONTRIBUTE A REGULAR  
WEEKLY PAYMENT OF \$5 TO OUR BUILDING FUND.

YOUR WEEKLY AUTOMATIC PAYMENT, COMBINED WITH  
OUR PARISH TEAM OF 800, WILL PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT  
INCOME STREAM THAT IS REQUIRED FOR THIS MAJOR  
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO BEGIN.

PARISH FUNDRAISING BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER IS:  
BANK OF NEW ZEALAND - 02 0772 0074384 25  
ACCOUNT NAME - ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH UPPER HUTT

DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE,  
ALL FUNDS RAISED STAY WITHIN OUR PARISH.



## THIS WEEKEND'S ROSTER

23/24 December	Vigil 6:00pm	9:00am	10:30am
Sacristan	Michael Mears	Terri Corbett	Robbie Baltazar
Bell Ringer	Danny	Charlie McCairn	Marie Kirkup
Greeters		Trinidad Family	
Projectionists	Denis Bourke	David Passmore	Julian Millar
Musician	Josephine Bourke	Gus Taulanga	
Cantor	Peter Dawson	Gus Taulanga	
Altar Server			
Gathering Rite	Annemarie Wood	Teresa Homan	Rowena Echano
Proclaimer of the Word	Margaret Dawson	Gloria Stafford	Jane Glasgow
Eucharistic Ministers	Ken Eades Peter Dawson	Tina Afoa Vernon Hoey Josef Dawson	Belina Salandanan Pat Salandanan Micheal Gill
Offertory Procession		Sia Hynam & Pat Dunstan	
Collection			Uvea Family
Hospitality		Bill & Marie Kirkup	
Writing of POF	Parish Office		
Martha Ministry	Uvea Family – Church to be cleaned before weekend of 31 December		
Lawn Mowing			
Flowers	No flowers during Advent		

## NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

30/31 December	Vigil 6:00pm	9:00am	10:30am
Sacristan	Michael Mears	Terri Corbett	Robbie Baltazar
Bell Ringer	Danny	Charlie McCairn	Marie Kirkup
Greeters		Sean Fitzgerald	
Projectionists		Peter Dawson	
Musician			
Cantor			
Altar Server	Alaina, Elizabeth & Dana	Aquinas, Anya, Aira & Dana	
Gathering Rite	Cushla Lippitt	Maria Duff	Anna Orallo
Proclaimer of the Word	Anne Bowles	Connie Pragassam-Bliss	Clarita Estuita
Eucharistic Ministers	Max Smith	Mike Williams Kathleen Williams Peter Dawson	Des McMullan Jane Arimas Vaha Fainga'a
Offertory Procession		Vera Crombie	Uvea Family
Collection			
Hospitality		Derek Kane	
Writing of POF	Peter Dawson		
Martha Ministry	Fainga'a team – Church to be cleaned before weekend of 7 January		
Lawn Mowing			
Flowers	Carmelitia Baltazar		



Our weekly newsletter is proudly brought to you with the generous support of our local team at **Gee & Hickton Funeral Directors**, 22 King Street, Upper Hutt. Tel (04)5282 331. **Gee & Hickton** have kindly sponsored a brand new Canon colour photocopier housed in our administration office. Thanks to the team for their on-going support.