



## ST PASCHAL'S PARISH

FATHER MARCHELLINO PARK—PARISH PRIEST

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MASS 10.30am – Sunday

RECONCILIATION – During Exposition or after Mass every Sunday

**SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2023**

**READINGS**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Isaiah 40:1–5,9–11

Psalm 85

2 Peter 3:8–14

Gospel Mark 1:1–8

*'Make straight the path of the Lord.'*



**MINISTERS**

GREETER: Eileen Leonard

COMMENTATOR: Robert Hicks

PROCLAIMER OF THE WORD: Kathy Karl

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: F Chaplow

COLLECTOR: Stephen Croymans

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:

Laurel Blakey & Stephen Croymans

DATA PROJECTOR: Frances Croymans

**SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2023**

**READINGS**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Isaiah 61:1–2,10–11

Magnificat

1Thessalonians 5:16–24

Gospel John 1:6–8,19–28

*'There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.'*



**MINISTERS**

GREETER: Colleen Jordan

COMMENTATOR: Dot Chipman

PROCLAIMER OF THE WORD: Alice Douglas

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Kathy Karl

COLLECTOR: Robert Hicks

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:

Alice Douglas & Kay Brydon

DATA PROJECTOR: Erin Aralar

The prophet Isaiah brought a message of hope and comfort to the people of Israel who were in exile in Babylon. Despite their failings, God is merciful and has promised them a new beginning. John the Baptist appears in the line of that great prophet and again promises Israel the chance of a new beginning if they repent and turn again towards God.

The emphasis in Mark's portrait of John the Baptist is very much that of the subordinate. John's self-effacing manner makes it clear that he is not the one who is promised, but the one who is to prepare the way. The emphasis in John's preaching is on judgment; for Jesus, it is the Reign of God and salvation.



#### **FIRST CANDLE signifies HOPE**

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

#### **SECOND CANDLE signifies PEACE**

The second candle, also purple, represents peace. It is called the "Bethlehem candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

#### **THIRD CANDLE signifies JOY**

The third candle is rose and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepherd's candle", and is pink because rose is a liturgical colour of joy.

#### **FOURTH CANDLE signifies LOVE**

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final candle that symbolizes love. This final candle is the "Angel's Candle".

#### **SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL 7.30PM**

Preceded by carols from 7pm

#### **ST PASCHAL'S CHURCH**



The wilderness or desert can be a silent or frightening place – and yet it is into this silence that both Jesus and John withdraw to pray. For them it became a place of deep intimacy with God. Is advent a time to retreat into the wilderness within and listen for the voice whose cries are often missed in the busyness of life? Make time this week to spend a while in this wilderness within, listening to the voice which is there. *Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths.*

### Recognizing the Almighty

John the Baptist had quite a following. Many were coming to him to be baptized, and he was gaining much notoriety. But his notoriety did not go to his head. Instead, he understood his role of preparing the way for “the one who is coming.” He understood that he needed to decrease as Jesus began His public ministry. And, thus, he humbly points others to Jesus.

In today's passage, John was speaking to the Pharisees. They were clearly envious of John's popularity and questioned him about who he was. Was he the Christ? Or Elijah? Or the Prophet? John denied all of that and identified himself as one who is not worthy to even untie the sandal straps of the one who is coming after him.

Thus, John sees himself as the “unworthy one.”

But it is this humility that makes John truly great. Greatness does not come by self-elevation, or self-promotion. Greatness comes solely by fulfilling the will of God. And, for John, the will of God was to baptize and to point others to Him Who was coming after him.

It's also important to note that John said to the Pharisees that they “do not recognize” the one who is coming after him. In other words, those who are filled with pride and self-righteousness are blind to the truth. They cannot see beyond themselves, which is an incredible lack of wisdom.

Let us pray for the gift of humility. Amen.



### ADVENT WREATH

The four advent candles are lit for each of the four Advent Sundays. The three purple candles reflect the sorrow we feel for not loving Jesus enough. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday in joyful anticipation of Christ's coming at Christmas.



Light has become a synonym for Christ, who refers to himself as the Light of the World. Thus the presence of Jesus is often symbolized by a lighted candle.

Bring light to someone's life this week by a visit, a phone call, a gesture.....



### FILIPINO CHRISTMAS NOVENA- SIMBANG GABI

Fr Marchellino will be celebrating Mass each night at St Francis, Thames at 7pm from Friday 15th to Saturday 23rd December. Everyone welcome!

### ST PASCHAL'S BANK ACCOUNTS

HAURAKI PLAINS PARISH

02-0108-0707550-00

COROMANDEL REGION HOUSE ACCOUNT

02-0108-0706566-001

2024 Columban Calendars for sale—\$12

**MINISTERS – 24th December 2023**

GREETER: Ross Brydon  
COMMENTATOR: Stephen Crooymans  
PROCLAIMER OF THE WORD: John Reynolds  
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Kay Brydon  
COLLECTOR: Ross Brydon  
MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:  
Eileen Leonard & Simon Main  
DATA PROJECTOR: Dot Chipman

**MINISTERS – 31st December 2023**

GREETER: Stephen Crooymans  
COMMENTATOR: Frances Crooymans  
PROCLAIMER OF THE WORD: Kathy Karl  
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Laurel Blakey  
COLLECTOR: Trevor Finan  
MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:  
Stephen Crooymans & Laurel Blakey  
DATA PROJECTOR: Frances Crooymans

**READINGS – 24th December 2023**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

2Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16  
Psalm 89 pg 95  
Romans 16:25-27  
Gospel Luke 1:26-38



**READINGS – 31st December 2023**

**HOLY FAMILY**

Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14  
Psalm 128  
Colossians 3:12-21  
Gospel Luke 2:22-40



**Tues 12th:** Reconciliation in Thames  
from 5.15pm

**Fri 15th—Sat 23rd:** Christmas Novena  
at 7pm at St Francis

**Sun 24th :** CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS  
at St Paschals 7.30pm

**Mon 25th :** NO CHRISTMAS DAY MASS  
at St Paschals



**CHURCH LINEN**

DECEMBER Kay Brydon  
JANUARY Lorraine Hayward

Advent—no flowers

**CATHOLIC WOMANS LEAGUE NEWS**

Great effort by the CWL with their street stall late November. WOW—another \$1600 this year! Raffles won by Crosby Clapp and Eileen Leonard.

We pray for all those who are in need of our prayers: Mary Speedy, Robert Hicks, Michael Lynch, Ray Karl and Frank Walsh.

And those whose anniversaries occur during the month of December: Sam McWatters, Gerald Assen, Ernie Martinovich, Franz Spreeuwenberg, Sylvia Blake and Bernadette Burton.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.