

Parish Calendar, News & Notices

Weekend Mass Times

Dec 24 Christmas Eve
 Blenheim-5.30pm Family Mass
 Seddon/Ward-6pm
 Kaikoura-7.30pm, Carols from 7pm
 Blenheim-9pm, Carols from 8.40pm
 Picton- 9pm Carols from 8.40pm

Dec 25 Christmas Day

Blenheim 9.30am
 Kaikoura 9.30am
 Picton 9.30am

Feast of Holy Family (4)

Sat Dec 26
 Blenheim-5pm W&C
Sun Dec 27
 Seddon-8am Mass/ Fr Pat
 Picton-9am Mass/ Fr Jacob
 Kaikoura-9.30 Mass/ Fr Paul
 Blenheim-10am Mass/Fr Pat
 Havelock-11am Mass/ Fr Jacob
 Ward- 5pm

Fri Jan 1: New Year's Day

Picton-9am Mass
 Kaikoura- 9.30am W&C
 Blenheim-12.05pm Mass

Epiphany of the Lord (1)

Sat Jan 3
 Blenheim-5pm Mass
 Cuppa after Mass

Sun Jan 4

Seddon-8am Mass
 Picton-9am Mass
 Cuppa after Mass
 Kaikoura-9.30 W&C
 Blenheim-10am Mass
 cuppa after Mass
 Havelock-11am Mass

2nd Sunday of Ord (2)

Sat Jan 10
 Blenheim-5pm Mass
Sun Jan 11

Seddon-8am W&C
 Picton-9am W&C
 Kaikoura-9.30 Mass
 Blenheim-10am W&C
 Cuppa afterwards
 Havelock-11am No Mass

3rd Sunday of Ord (3)

Sat Jan 17
 Blenheim-5pm Mass
Sun Jan 18
 Seddon-8am W&C
 Picton-9am Mass

Kaikoura-9.30 W&C
 Blenheim-10am W&C
 Havelock-11.30am Mass
 Renwick-5pm No Mass

4th Sunday of Ord (4)

Sat Jan 23
 Blenheim-5pm Mass
Sun Jan 24
 Seddon-8am Mass
 Picton-9am W&C
 Kaikoura-9.30 W&C
 Blenheim-10am Mass
 Havelock-11am No Mass

5th Sunday of Ord (5)

Sat Jan 30
 Blenheim-5pm Mass
Sun Jan 31
 Seddon-8am W&C
 Picton-9am Mass
 Kaikoura-9.30 Mass
 Blenheim-10am W&C
 Cuppa after Mass
 Havelock-11am Mass

Parish News & Events

Office Closure: Ginetta is taking leave during January so if you want to book one of the buildings over that time, please contact Lex Agnew 027 438 3157.

January Masses: Please keep an eye out for the changed timetable of Weekday & Weekend Masses during January. This is holiday time for the priests as well so there will be more Word & Communion Services during this period.

Communion to the Sick: If you have a family member housebound or in hospital and would like a priest to visit or someone to take Communion, please contact the Parish Office or Judith Kerridge 578 6209

Youth group is still looking.... for someone to take over Mieke's role while she is on maternity leave. 8th March for 6 months. Paid role, 10 hours. Please get in touch with Mieke asap if you are interested. 0223918584 . Thank you.

Want to be part of the most fun committee ever??!! Youth group committee has said goodbye to 3 long serving members this year, and we need a couple more people to come join us! Cruisy and fun, we meet once a month over nice wine and cheese platter to discuss and

support the ministry. You don't need to be a parent to help support our youth! Please get in touch with Mieke and Maurice 0223918584.

Wood choppers wanted: If you have time over January to help cut up the fallen tree on St Mary's grounds, please contact Lex Agnew 027 438 3157. And if anyone has access to a log splitter we could use as well, we would love to hear from you.

Mass Managers wanted: for BHM Masses. With enough supporters you will only have to do this once a month. Full training given.

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy Online Session (Retreat Day): Who am I? - Reflecting on our Identity in God with Eamon Butler. Sat 30 Jan, 10.30am-4pm. Fee: \$60, ZOOM
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/virtual-retreat-day-with-eamon-butler-who-am-i/>

For more information and registration: info@studyjoy.nz

Parish Calendar

December
 Dec 25..Christmas Day
 Dec 26..Boxing Day
 Dec 25-Jan 30, 2021- Parish Office closed
 No Parish meetings in January
February 2021
 Feb 1 2021.. 5th Anniversary of the New Star of the Sea Parish
 Feb 1.. Sounds Stewardship (5)
 Feb 2..Kaikoura Stewardship
 Feb 7...1st newsletter of the yr
 Feb 9.. Wairau Stewardship (7)
 Feb 16..Finance & Property (7)



Let Us Remember in our Prayers and at Mass:

Recently Deceased: Lois Maher (CHCH), Matthew K.k. (Kerala, India- father of Fr Binu), Paul Eden, Bob Dean

Anniversaries: Dec 24 Gwenda Bishell, Doreen Smith

Other Intentions: Kitty Collier, Harvey Howard, Beavan Undrill, Terri Byrne, Jim Loe, Paul McIntyre, Heather Alexander, Flo Andrews, Diane Smith, George Eaton, Fr Damian Caccioppoli sm, Michael O'Sullivan (UK), Tom Hannon (UK), Eileen Hartnett (UK), Bill & Jenny McElhinney (50th WA), Esme Murphy (90th)

COLLECTIONS:

We are most grateful for your support of our Parish of Star Of The Sea.

Last week:

AP's: \$ 2,254.45
 Envelopes: \$ 201.91
 Cash: \$ 483.67
 Christmas Dues: \$ 50.00

thank you!



When a priest is not available, Word & Communion will be led by parishioners.

Blenheim

Tues: 9.30am Mass
Wed: 12.05pm Mass
 Rosary: 5.30pm
 Ph: 572 9067 or 5782507 for venue

Thurs: 9.30 am Mass
Except 1st Thurs: Bethsaida **10.45am**
Fri: 11am Adoration
 11.30 Reconciliation
 12.05pm Mass
Sat: 9.30am Mass
 Reconciliation to follow
Sat: 5.00pm Mass
Sun: 10.00am Mass
 (2nd & 5th Sunday
 Word & Communion)

Havelock

Sunday: 11am
 (4th Sunday
 No Mass)

Kaikoura

Tues: 9.30am
Wed: 9.30am
Wed: 7pm Rosary
Thurs: 5.15pm
Fri: 9.30am
Sun: 9.30am
 (1st & 3rd Sunday
 Word & Communion)

Picton

Mon: Adoration 4-5pm
Wed: 9.00am Mass
 Adoration & Reconciliation: 9.30-10.30am
Fri: 7.30pm Rosary -
 24 York Street
Sun: 9.00am Mass
 (4th Sunday:
 Word & Communion)

Renwick

3rd Sunday 5pm Mass
Seddon
Sun: 8am Mass
 (2nd & 5th Sunday
 Word & Communion)

Ward

4th Sunday 4pm Mass
Baptisms
 Celebrated during weekend Mass or other times.

Marriages

Marriages celebrated in all our Churches. Please contact the Parish Office well in advance.

Open Church

Our Churches at St Mary's & Sacred Heart Kaikoura are open every day if you want a quiet place for prayer.

Te Whetu O Te Moana | Star of the Sea Marlborough Catholic Parish

From the Sounds to the Sea, the Mountains to the Plains

We Are One Mission. One Parish. Seven Communities

Blenheim | Havelock | Kaikoura | Picton | Renwick | Seddon | Ward

Parish Office: 61 Maxwell Road, Blenheim | T. 03 578 0038

EM. office@staroftheseamarlb.co.nz | FB. Star of the Sea Marlborough (357 followers)

WEB. www.staroftheseamarlb.co.nz

Newsletter No 49: 25 December 2020

CHRISTMAS God's Gift to us

Each Christmas, we come together with many Christians throughout the world to give God thanks for the greatest Gift God has given to us. We pause, we gather and celebrate that God in his Amazing Love - has sent his Only Son - the Word who is uncreated - to be a little baby, to be a human being like us, in order to unite us all together with Him (or we can say: to Save us!)

The first reading of the Scriptures this evening captures this:-

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shone." (Isaiah 9: 1)

Then Isaiah speaks of the joy and gladness of the nation delivered from the dark threat, and that a child is given to them.

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us . . . and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:5)

Very likely, Isaiah is speaking of how the Assyrian army that came in great strength to destroy the Northern Kingdom in 732 BC, would have its day and that a descendant of King David, possibly Hezekiah would bear the hopes of God's people. So the child born to the descendant of King David is a token of God's covenant love and will to save his People.

We too this year, have walked in darkness. We live in a world severely threatened by a strange pandemic - Covid 19, which has killed about 1,724,000 people around the world, and caused untold harm to peoples' livelihood, and threatens whole populations with debilitating illness.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us be grateful for the great Gift that God gives of his Only Son. He came as a helpless weak baby into a dangerous world. He promises us Peace, Life forever and his Joy - gifts that are to endure in God's Kingdom of Light..

Let us truly Love for us. Let ble awe, with and the angels Christ Child. Let God gives his also must be Peace and For-another.

Just as we his little help- has his little us share his Love in the way in our family, our friends and our neighbourhood. Will you be his helper too?

Fr. Jacob, Fr Paul Shannahan SM, Sr Maureen and Sister Frances Anna and myself, wish you and your family a very Happy and Holy Christmas.

Pat McIndoe CP



believe in God's us come in hum- the shepherds to adore the us know that as Son to us, we givers of Joy, givenness to one

say, 'Santa has ers', also Jesus helpers too. Let joy, his gifts, his we give to those

Readings for the Feast of the Holy Family

Sun 27th: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14 Colossians 3:12-21 Gospel Luke 2:22-40

Psalm: The Lord remembers His covenant forever.

Mon 28th: 1John 1:5-2:2 Matthew 2:13-18 **Holy Innocents, Mm**

Tues 29th: 1Samuel 1:24-28 Luke 1:46-56 **Fifth Day of the Octave**

Wed 30th: 1John 2:12-17 Luke 2:36-40 **Sixth Day Octave**

Thurs 31st: 1John 2:18-21 John 1:1-18 **Seventh Day Octave**

Octave of Christmas

Fri 1st Jan: Num. 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21 **Mary Mother of God**

Sat 2nd: 1John 2:22-28 John 1:19-28 **Sts Basil and Gregory Nazianzen, B.D.**

Epiphany of The Lord

Sun 3rd: Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

Those who pray never turn their backs on the world: Pope

Vatican City, Dec 16, 2020 / 04:30 am MT (CNA).-

People who pray for others are like God's antennas, Pope Francis said at the general audience Wednesday.

In his address Dec. 16, the pope insisted that those who seek solitude and silence to intercede for others are not evading reality.

"Whoever can knock on the door of someone who prays finds a compassionate heart which does not exclude anyone," he said, seated beside a traditional depiction of the nativity.

He added: "These people pray for the entire world, bearing its sorrows and sins on their shoulders. They pray for each and every person: they are like God's 'antennas' in this world."

In his audience address, the pope continued his cycle of catechesis on prayer, which he began in May. He dedicated the address to the prayer of intercession, which the Catechism of the Catholic Church [recognizes](#) as one of the principal forms of prayer, alongside blessing and adoration, petition, thanksgiving, and praise.

Speaking via livestream from the library of the Apostolic Palace due to coronavirus restrictions, the pope underlined that prayer was not a form of escapism. He said: "Those who pray never turn their backs on the world. If prayer does not gather the joys and sorrows, the hopes and the anxieties of humanity, it becomes a 'decorative' activity, a superficial, theatrical attitude, an intimist attitude."

"We all need interiority: to retreat within a space and a time dedicated to our relationship with God. But this does not mean that we evade reality."

The pope noted that when Christians pray behind closed doors, as Jesus recommended in Matthew 6:6, they still "keep the doors of their hearts wide open."

"In every poor person who knocks at the door, in every person who has lost the meaning of things, the one who prays sees the face of Christ," he said.

He quoted the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which says that intercession is "characteristic of a heart attuned to God's mercy."

"This is beautiful," he said. "When we pray we are in tune with God's mercy."

Speaking off the cuff, he added: "Jesus is our intercessor, and praying is a bit like doing as Jesus did: interceding in Jesus to the Father, for others. And this is very beautiful."

The pope said that to pray seriously one must love one's neighbours, no matter what errors they have made.

"It can be said: in a spirit of hatred one cannot pray; in a spirit of indifference one cannot pray. Prayer is only given in a spirit of love. Those who do not love pretend to pray, or they think they are praying, but they do not pray, because they lack the very spirit that is love."

He continued: "When a believer, moved by the Holy Spirit, prays for sinners, no selection is made, no judgment or condemnation is uttered: they pray for everyone. And they pray for themselves. At that moment they know they are not that different from those for whom they pray: they feel they are a sinner among sinners and they pray for everyone."

The pope highlighted the parable of the Pharisee and the publican, recorded in Luke 18:9-14, in which Jesus contrasts the prayer of a self-satisfied Pharisee with that of a humble tax collector.

"The lesson of the parable of the Pharisee and the publican is always alive and current: we are not better than anyone, we are all brothers and sisters who bear fragility, suffering and being sinners in common," he said.

The pope observed that those who intercede for others are largely unknown to the world, but not to God, and they help to sustain the world.

"The Church, in all of her members, has the mission of practicing the prayer of



Contd: Those who pray never turn their backs on the world: Pope

intercession. This is especially so for those who exercise roles of responsibility: parents, teachers, ordained ministers, superiors of communities... Like Abraham and Moses, they must at times 'defend' the persons entrusted to them before God," he said.

"In reality, we are talking about protecting them with God's eyes and heart, with His same invincible compassion and tenderness. Praying with tenderness for others."

He concluded: "Brothers and sisters, we are all leaves on the same tree: each one that falls reminds us of the great piety that must be nourished in prayer, for one another. Let us pray for one another: it will do us good and do good to all." In his greetings to Polish-speaking Catholics, the pope noted that the [Novena to the Child Jesus](#) begins on Dec. 16, nine days before Christmas.



He [said](#): "In your Advent journey this year, in a special way, may St. Joseph accompany you. May the Divine Child, who saw in him the tenderness of God, fill your hearts, especially in these difficult times, with the certainty that our Heavenly Father is a God of tenderness, who is good to all and His mercy extends over all His children. I bless you from my heart."

Addressing Italian-speakers, the pope reflected on the difficulties of celebrating Christmas amid coronavirus restrictions.

"I would like to exhort everyone to 'hasten the step' towards Christmas, the real one, that is, the birth of Jesus Christ," he [said](#).

"This year restrictions and inconveniences await us; but let us think of the Christmas of the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph: it was not all rosy! How many difficulties they had! How many worries! Yet faith, hope and love guided and sustained them."

"May it be the same for us! May this difficulty also help us to purify a little our way of experiencing Christmas, of celebrating it, moving away from consumerism: may it be more religious, more authentic, more true."

FOOD FOR FAITH FOR ADVENT – Father John O'Connor's popular Food for Faith page will have daily reflections for Christmas. Go to his site and sign up to get the reflections daily by email during December: www.foodforfaith.org.nz



Weekday Mass during January.

Kaikoura: as normal.

Picton: no mid-week Mass

Blenheim: 9am, Tuesday to Friday. This may change if there is a funeral.

25th January: back to the normal weekday Mass timetable.

A quote from the ADW Office of Ecology, Justice and Peace

How many times Jesus comes into our lives, and how many times he sends us an angel, and how many times we don't notice because we are so taken, immersed in our own thoughts, in our own affairs and even, in these days, in our Christmas preparations, so as not to notice Him who comes and knocks at the door of our hearts, asking for acceptance, asking for a "yes" like Mary's.

Pope Francis: [Angelus 21 December 2014](#)