

# WEEKDAY MASSES & HOLY HOUR

Tuesdays  
Wednesdays  
Last Friday of the Month  
First Friday of the Month

Last Wednesday of the Month

Kaikohe 6:30 PM  
Rawene 9:00 AM  
Moerewa 6:30 PM  
Holy Hour 5:30 PM @ St Patrick, Okaihau  
Mass & Anointing at Kaikohe Care Centre & Hospital, 9:30AM (Cancelled)  
Holy Hour 6:30 PM @ Moerewa  
Holy Hour 9:00AM @ Rawene



# MID-NORTH PASTORAL AREA NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

## Parishes of Kaikohe & Okaihau South Hokianga Parish Communities Bay of Islands Parish Communities

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Mid-North Parishes



### SUNDAY MASS & LITURGY SCHEDULES FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY YR B Cycle 2023	3rd December 1st Sunday of Advent	10th Decem- ber 2nd Sunday of Advent	17th December 3rd Sunday of Advent	24th Decem- ber 4th Sunday of Advent	Christmas Vigil Mass 24 December	Christmas 25 December
PAIHIA	Vigil MASS SATURDAY 5:30 PM	Vigil MASS SATURDAY 5:30 PM	Vigil MASS SATURDAY 5:30 PM	LITURGY 23 December SATURDAY 5:30 PM	MASS 4:30PM	
MOEREWAWA	MASS 9:00 AM	LITURGY 9:00 AM	MASS 9:00 AM	LITURGY 9:00 AM	MASS 8:45PM	
RUSSELL	MASS 11:30 AM	LITURGY 11:30 AM	MASS 11:30 AM	LITURGY 11:30 AM		MASS 11:30AM
KAIKOHE	LITURGY 9:00 AM	MASS w/ Baptism 9:00 AM	LITURGY 9:00 AM	LITURGY 9:00 AM	MASS 7:00PM	
OKAIHAU	MASS 5:30 PM	MASS w/ Baptism 5:30 PM	MASS 5:30 PM	LITURGY 5:30 PM		MASS 9:00AM
SOUTH HOKIANGA	LITURGY Whirinaki 11:00 AM	MASS Whirinaki 11:00 AM	LITURGY Whirinaki 11:00 AM	MASS Rawene 11:00 AM	Midnight Mass Whirinaki	



DATE	FIRST READING	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
03 December	Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:33-37
10 December	Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11	2 Peter 3:8-14	Mark 1:1-8
17 December	Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8,19-28
24 December	2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-11,16	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
25 December	Isaiah 52:7-10	Hebrews 1:1-6	John 20:17-22

## CHRISTMAS



In the fourth gospel, it says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..." (Jn 1:1,14). But why does God become One of us?

The story is told about a man who looked upon Christmas as nonsense. But this man is a kind and decent person. But he didn't believe about the Incarnation and Christmas and he was too honest. "I am truly sorry to distress you," he told his wife, who had been a faithful church-goer. "But I simply cannot understand this claim that God becomes man. It doesn't make any sense to me."

On Christmas eve his wife and children went to church for the midnight service. He declined to accompany them. "I'd feel like a hypocrite," he explained. "I'd rather stay at home. But I'll wait up for you." Shortly after his family drove away and the snow began to fall. He went to the window and watched the flurries getting heavier and heavier. He went back to his chair by the fireside and began to read his newspaper. A few minutes later he was startled by a banging sound. It was quickly followed by another, then another. He thought that someone must be throwing snowballs at his living room window. When he went to the front door to investigate, he found a flock of birds. They had been caught in the storm and in a desperate search for shelter and had tried to fly through his window. "I can't let these poor creatures lie there and freeze," he thought. "But how can I help them?" Then he remembered the barn where the children's pony was stabled. "It would provide a warm shelter" he thought. He went to the barn and opened wide the door and turned on the light. But the birds didn't come in. "Food will lure them in," he thought. So, he hurried back to the house for bread crumbs, which he sprinkled on the snow to make a trail into the barn. To his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs and continued to flop around helplessly in the snow. He tried showing them into the barn by walking around and waving his arms. They scattered in every direction-except into the warm lighted barn. "They find me strange and terrifying creature," he said to himself, "and I can't seem to think of any way to let them know they can trust me. If only I could be a bird myself for a few minutes, perhaps I could lead them to safety" he said to himself. Just at that moment the church bells began to ring. He stood silent for a while, listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas. "Now I do understand," he whispered. "Now I see why You had to do it" (Source unknown).

Friends, may the profound mystery of Christmas will lead us to prepare our heart to celebrate this gift with praise and thanksgiving knowing that we're loved and cared by God beyond we could possibly imagine. To all of you, have blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!

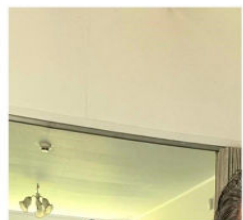
-Fr Ramil Hamil,msp



**NO PRAYER IS TOO SMALL FOR THE LORD**

### PRAYER FOR PARISHIONERS

- ◆ Please pray for the healing and fast recovery of all the sick especially Marie Wilson and Jack Magullian, Brenda Tweendale, Shaun, Sandy Waru, Tehia, Winnie, and Alex Wakefield.
- ◆ Let us also include in our prayers the souls of our brothers and sisters who have gone to our Creator before us especially those dear to us. **MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.**



Last 30 November during the Diocese of Auckland Clergy School held at St Joseph Church, Takapuna, Archbishop Paul Martin of the Archdiocese of Wellington, Fr Dennis Nacorda, and Manuel Beazley shared their experiences about the recently concluded Synod of Bishops.

Michael Butler, the Property Portfolio and Development Manager of the Diocese of Auckland came to St Anthony Church, Kaikohe last 06 December to discuss with the Parish Finance Committee, PPC members, and some parishioners about the plan of *Kainga Ora* to lease and develop the church's property.

Thomas Reese SJ – America – 8 Nov

- 1) A new stress on lay involvement.
- 2) Promoting the practice of "Conversation in the Spirit."
- 3) Acknowledge disagreements and uncertainties.
- 4) Addressing the concerns of women.
- 5) The poor will not be forgotten.
- 6) Combating racism and xenophobia.
- 7) Abuse in the church must be dealt with.



At the end of the Angelus on Friday, Pope Francis announces that the first World Day of Children will take place in May 2024.

**Catholic News Agency 08 December 2023**

### QUO VADIS (WHERE ARE YOU GOING?)

**15-23 December** –Nine-day evening Masses (Simbang Gabi) before Christmas at St Therese Church, Moerewa. Mass time is 6:00PM.

**16 December** - Mid-North Parishes Advent Recollection. The recollection time is from 10:00AM-12:00NN. Reverend Fr Peter Janssen, SM will talk about the spiritual significance of Advent. There will be adoration , benediction , and confession.

#### Approved Diocesan Marriage Preparation Course:

Are you are getting married? Please book your Diocesan Marriage Preparation course here: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/our-courses/> Please book 1 year (if getting married in NZ ) or 18months (if getting married overseas) in advance of your wedding date. The 3-part course takes about 32 hours to complete and is usually spread over 3 months. For more information email: [marriageandfamily@cda.org.nz](mailto:marriageandfamily@cda.org.nz) or call Gerry on M:021 02247442.

**10 December** –Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting at St Therese, Moerewa at 2pm.

**30 December** –Mid-North Parishes Christmas gathering at Fr Ramil's presbytery. Gathering time is 11:00AM. Kindly bring a plate.

**14 January 2024** – Totara Point Mass

The Vigil Mass at St Paul, Paihia is now back to **5:30 PM** every Saturday.

### PASTORAL COMMUNITIES CONTACTS

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PAIHIA

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Willie and Marie Wilson (09) 402 5230  
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**IF YOU FIND THIS NEWSLETTER INTERESTING, PASS IT ON!**

**Should you wish to donate send to :**

**Mid North 5 House Account 02-0100-0233290-028**

