



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

OFFICE OF THE PASTORAL WORKER TO THE CATHOLIC DEAF COMMUNITY  
TE KAIHAUTU KATORIKA KI NGA TANGATA TURIA ME O RATOU WHANAU

## December Newsletter 2020

# SIGNED MASS WITH CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Reconciliation will be included.

BBQ meats, salads and drinks  
will be provided.

Please bring a plate of yummy  
dessert.

Please bring a present (upto \$10)  
suitable for both (men/women)

Please wear dress up with  
Christmas theme or Christmas  
story in Bible

**SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2020**  
**12PM**  
**POMPALLIER CENTRE,**  
**30 NEW STREET, ST MARY'S BAY**  
**AUCKLAND**

Please text to Rachel 0212760006, if you come as need know  
number for Meats/foods.

**Celebrant:** Monsignor Bernard Kiely

**Interpreter:** Felicity Crowe

**Raffle:** Sarah Loe

(See the details on the flyer above for more information)

If you have a cold or cough or flu symptoms – please stay home.  
Remember to keep washing your hands for 20 seconds to kill the virus.

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## **Gospel reading:**

John 1:6-8. 19-18



God sent a man named John. John came as a witness, to tell people about the Jesus, so that all will believe in him. John himself was not the light, only a witness to speak about the Jesus. This is how John appeared as a witness. The Jews sent priest and Levites from Jerusalem to ask, "Who are you?" John said openly, "I am not the Christ." They asked, "Are you Elijah?" John said, "No, I am not Elijah." They asked, "Are you the Prophet?" John said, "No." So, they said to him, "Who are you? Tell us because we have to go back and tell our bosses who you are. What do you say about yourself?" So, John said, "Same Isaiah said: I am the voice of a person in the desert, shouting: 'Make a straight path for the Lord.' These Jews were sent by the Pharisees and they asked more questions, "If you are not the Christ, not Elijah, and not the prophet, then why are you baptising people?" John replied, "I baptise with water; but there is a person here, one that you do not know, He will come after me. I am not good enough to take off his sandals." This happen in Bethany on the other side of the river Jordan, the place that John was baptising.

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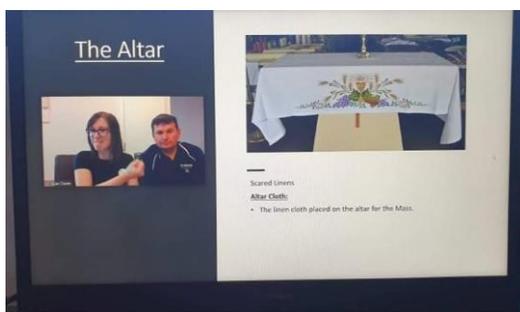
## **Our News:**

We are now in the Advent Season in preparation to celebrate Jesus Christ on Christmas day.

This is the last newsletter of 2020! What a unique year for all of us, especially experiencing lockdowns and Coronavirus. During this time there have been

some positive impacts for us, we had more time for reflection and reconnection with God. Also, we had the time to build a strong network of communities. I am proud of all of you and want to say a special thank you to the many wonderful volunteers who have been supporting the Deaf Ministry this year. Without you, we will not be here today.

I can see that our faith has grown so strong especially during the first lockdown when we had access to interpreted video Mass every Sunday. That was a total of 7 weeks! One time we had a Signed Mass which included a Deaf member signing the responses, an interpreter with Priest. This experience was a very positive and challenging project.



We also started online Gospel studies. Learning about a new Saint each week. This was such a valuable time and led to valuable discussions. All of this has enhanced our understanding of the Catholic world. I would like to say a big thank you to Deacon Nick and Sue Bruce for their wonderful support, we learnt a lot from Deacon Nick, again

thank you for sharing your knowledge. Thank you to Sarah Loe for her volunteer time to do the research of the saints. It has been decided that these zoom sessions will continue next year. Starting up again in February 2021.

Over the past 6 months, we have been so lucky to have Fr Michael Depcik to



give his time to be with us via zoom. We have all learnt so much from him, sharing of the Catholic faith, the bible and gaining a deeper understanding of the bible's meaning. We had our final meeting of the year with Fr Mike, last Sunday (6<sup>th</sup> December). We are privileged to have Fr Mike continuing with zoom meeting next year. You are all welcome to join, learning from and having discussions with Fr Mike.

Last month, we had two Masses.



On Saturday 7 November 2021, we attended Mass at St Patrick and St Joseph Cathedral in Auckland City. This Mass was the Thanksgiving Mass. The service was lovely, and the interpreters Felicity and Debbie did a wonderful job. Congratulations to Lourdes Sheer for receiving a volunteer award for her wonderful support for Deaf Ministry also being a volunteer, assisting with food shopping during lockdown. It was beautiful to see Lourdes's smile, it was lovely that she was surprised as her name was called out, it was a joy to see her smile while holding her award. We are proud of her!



On Sunday 8 November we had our regular Signed mass gathering. It was lovely to see everyone together again. Monsignor Bernard Kiely offered the Mass, his homily was lovely. I also want to say congratulations to Wendy Orellana,



she to was nominated and received a volunteer award for her volunteer support during lockdown, assisting Deaf seniors with food shopping.

I visited our lovely friend Roy Lewis, who sadly was back in hospital. He looked well and gave me a big smile. Now he is back home recovering. Please continue to hold him in your prayers.



Please remember in your prayers:

- Carol and Danny Brady have found a



place to move to, a new Retirement village, pray for this new chapter in their lives in their new home.

- Trevor Cotter's leg are still not improving.
- Sr Dominic's health condition is not good.

- June Whiting's health
  - Fr Mike and his friends/family in America who are currently having a difficult time with increasing cases of coronavirus.
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Happy Birthday to dear **Cameron Marr!**  
Happy Birthday to dear **Sarah Loe!**  
Happy Birthday to dear **Valerie Norman!**  
Happy Birthday to dear **Ivan Perez!**

And all our other friends and family who have **December** birthday celebrations, may God Bless you and keep you always in God's tender, loving care.

**Happy Birthday! Happy Birthday!**

Our last day in the office will be Tuesday, 22 December 2020. We will be back in the office Tuesday, 12 January 2021.

We would like to say Merry Christmas and happy new year for 2021! Stay safe over the holiday. We are looking forward to seeing you all again next year!

*Blessings and Love  
Eric and Rachel*

