



2nd Sunday of Advent, 10 December 2023

WHAT IS PRAYER?

or me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy. - St Therese

2559 "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God." But when we pray, do we speak from the height of our pride and will, or "out of the depths" of a humble and contrite heart? He who humbles himself will be exalted; humility is the foundation of prayer, Only when we humbly acknowledge that "we do not know how to pray as we ought," are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer. "Man is a beggar before God."

2560 "If you knew the gift of God!" The wonder of prayer is revealed beside the well where we come seeking water: there, Christ comes to meet every human being. It is he who first seeks us and asks us for a drink. Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God's desire for us. Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him.

2561 "You would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." Paradoxically our prayer of petition is a response to the plea of the living God: "They have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water!" Prayer is the response of faith to the free promise of salvation and also a response of love to the thirst of the only Son of God.

2562 Where does prayer come from? Whether prayer is expressed in words or gestures, it is the whole man who prays. But in naming the source of prayer, Scripture speaks sometimes of the soul or the spirit, but most often of the heart (more than a thousand times). According to Scripture, it is the heart that prays. If our heart is far from God, the words of prayer are in vain.

2563 The heart is the dwelling-place where I am, where I live; according to the Semitic or Biblical expression, the heart is the place "to which I withdraw." The heart is our hidden center, beyond the grasp of our reason and of others; only the Spirit of God can fathom the human heart and know it fully. The heart is the place of decision, deeper than our psychic drives. It is the place of truth, where we choose life or death. It is the place of encounter, because as image of God we live in relation: it is the place of covenant.

These quotations have been taken from the Catechism of the Catholic Church. To find more about prayer from the Catechism online, type in CCC and the numbers surrounding these ones.

ST PETER'S CHURCH, MAKETU: The final Maori Miha for 2023 will be held **this Sun, 10 Dec at 11.30am**, followed by a Christmas lunch at The Seaside Café (pay your own).

THANK YOU: There are many children whose Christmas's are going to be better due to the generosity of the congregation of St Thomas More Church and also St Thomas More School children who gave presents. There were three carloads full of presents taken to the support centre for distribution. Thank you so much for your generosity for those in need, God Bless.

2024 BIBLE DIARY: Cost \$20. Diaries are available for purchase after the STM Sunday Masses. You can make payment either by Eftpos, or using your mobile phone or place \$20 cash in a specialy marked envelope (available on the bench in the foyer). Place envelope in slot on bench (in the envelope). Great as a Christmas gift.

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP NEWS: St Patricks Family Group meeting **Sun, 10 Dec** for finger food lunch at 11 Kairua Rd 12 noon. Any queries ring Merrilyn 575 4148.

CASH FOUND AT ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, TE PUKE: Please contact parish office if you think it may belong to you.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM 2024: Enrolments are now open for children that are Baptised Catholic to join the Sacramental Preparation for Reconciliation, First Holy Communion & Confirmation. Children need to be from the age of 7 years and upwards. Sacramental preparation will begin in February 2024 (Term 1) for children and their parents/caregivers. For further information and to register your child please contact Heidi on 575 4807 Ext 6 or email: pastoral@allsaintsbythesea.nz

ENROLMENT FOR BACHELOR OF DIVINITY and Graduate Diploma in Theology is still on-going until the end of January. The Certificate and Diploma in Christian Studies are also accepting enrolment for 2024. Semester starts on 19 Feb 2024. For courses offered on campus, online and each diocese, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/timetables. To enrol, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/apply.

TITIPOUNAMU STUDY & JOY Christmas Story with Prof Thomas O'Loughlin: <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2021/12/23/the-christmas-story/>
YouTube Recordings YouTube and Muffin Talk recordings are available online at: <https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/muffin-talk/>
Our next Zoom sessions will be in FeB/Mar on the theme of Miracles.
For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE CATHOLIC BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON. An exciting opportunity has arisen with the vacancy of this position. The Personal Assistant to the Catholic Bishop role is pivotal to the well-being and pastoral efficacy of the Bishop and Diocese. A key aspect of the role will be to assist the Bishop to co-ordinate effectively a range of duties and requests received. Integral to the role is the ability to proactively facilitate interviews, meetings and appointments, and the planning and implementation of tasks and priorities identified. This is a full time and rewarding role, and will suit a person with strong organisational, written and verbal communication skills, IT proficiency, and a high level of integrity, confidentiality, and attention to detail. For further details, a position description and job application; please confidentially email jobs@cdh.org.nz

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION TIMES at St Thomas More Church:

Wed, 20 Dec 5.30pm-7pm

Thurs, 21 Dec 5.30pm-7pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES FOR ALL SAINTS BY THE SEA PARISH

Sat, 23 Dec 5pm Te Puke Vigil for 4th Sunday of Advent

Sun, 24 Dec 8.30am Suzanne Aubert for 4th Sunday of Advent

Sun, 24 Dec 10am St Thomas More for 4th Sunday of Advent

NOTE: There will be NO 5pm Sunday evening Mass at St Thomas More on Sun, 24 Dec.

Sun, 24 Dec 5pm Te Puke Christmas Vigil Mass

Sun, 24 Dec 10pm St Thomas More Christmas Mass During the Night

Mon, 25 Dec 8.30am Suzanne Aubert Christmas Day Mass

Mon, 25 Dec 10am St Thomas More Christmas Day Mass

Mon, 1 Jan 9am St Thomas More Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mon, 1 Jan 9am Maketu New Year's Liturgy Service

St Peter's Maketu:

Sun, 24 Dec 5.30pm-6.00pm Christmas Carols followed by Christmas story
Liturgy 6pm-7.00pm

ADORATION will continue in January from 8-8.50am before the 9am weekday Masses.

RECONCILIATION will be available at the normal times, Wed 9.30am & Sat 9.30am.

PARISH OFFICE: Mrs Jan Baker admin@allsaintsbythesea.nz
 9-12pm Tue-Fri Ph 07 575 4807 (Ext 2) 17 Gloucester Rd, Mt Maunganui 3116.
Parish Priest: Fr Richard Laurenson pp@allsaintsbythesea.nz
Assistant: Fr Matthew Gibson ap@allsaintsbythesea.nz
Pastoral: Mrs Heidi Nield pastoral@allsaintsbythesea.nz
WEB: www.allsaintsbythesea.nz www.facebook.com/catholiccoast/
APP: Churchapps nz - Allsaintsbythesea

formed.org is a premier on-line platform filled with over 4,000 Catholic studies, movies, cartoons, audio dramas, ebooks, and talks – and it's **FREE** for every parishioner. Enter parish code GNQDK3 or All Saints by the Sea.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION: "Prayer of the Heart" Tues 7pm-8pm at STM Church, M Maunganui. We welcome all. Experience and develop Christian Meditation in a holistic setting. Ph Kylie 027 964 8969 Paula 027 576 5235.

ROSARY is held **Tuesday to Saturday** after the 9am Mass at STM Church. **PUBLIC ROSARY** every **Wednesday** at 6pm, outside STM Church. For more information please see <https://public-rosary.org/https://t.me/NZPrays>

ADORATION & BENEDICTION is held on **Wednesday** at STM Church after the 9am Mass & also on **Sunday** from 3.45pm to 4.45pm.

AA: Do you, or someone you love, have a problem with alcohol? Alcoholics Anonymous meet in the STM Parish Lounge every **Sun 6.30–7.30pm**. All welcome.

READINGS for 3rd Sunday of Advent, 17 Dec: Sundays Year B; Weekdays Year 2

1. Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11 2. 1 Thess 5:16-24 **Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28**

MASSES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: Tues, 12 Dec to Sun, 17 Dec 2023

Mon	St Damasus I	
9am Tues STM	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Pat Fitzgerald RIP
9am Wed STM	St Lucy	Graham Muir RIP
9am Thurs STM	St John of the Cross	Brother Barry Burns
9am Fri STM		
9am Sat STM		
5pm Vigil St Pats		
8.30am Sun		
Aubert		
11.30am Maketu,		
(2 nd Sun of		
month)		
10am Sun STM		Missa Pro populo
5pm Sun STM		

If you wish to have a Mass offered, please contact parish office.