



MACKENZIE CATHOLIC PARISH

Albury-Fairlie-Tekapo-Twizel

Communion / Participation / Mission



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

14th & 15th Dec 2024

Preparation Prevents Poor Performance

FIRST READING • (Zephaniah 3:14-18). The prophet looks forward to a day of celebration to mark the Lord being in the midst of the people.

SECOND READING • (Philippians 4:4-7). True happiness and true peace are to be found in committing our hearts and thoughts to the Lord Jesus.

GOSPEL • (Luke 3:10-18). In his preaching John the Baptist tries to open our eyes to practical, day-to-day charity.

'Someone Is Coming

Who Will Baptize You with The Holy Spirit and Fire'

A teacher was sent to a new primary school. For the first few weeks, things went very well for her. However, some weeks later, she received a letter from one of the little children: *"Dear Mrs. Smith, we are happy that you have come to our school, and we really enjoy your teaching. We also hope that you enjoy teaching us, and if you like us, please inform your face."* The smile on our face indicates the internal joy of our heart. Sometimes, people need to know that we are joyful to be with them. Or as people say, how do you face the problem of life if the problem is your face?

The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*, the Sunday of Joy (Lk 3:10-18). Christian joy is different from worldly joy; it is deeper and comes directly from the hidden power of the Holy Spirit. It is one of the fruits of our faith, hope, and love. To use the image of a tree: believing in God, hoping in God, and loving God are the three roots, and joy, peace, love, patience, kindness, generosity, etc., are the fruits. They are the results of our knowledge of and prayers in relation to God.

Through baptism, the Holy Spirit is the cause of our inner joy. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the baptized person takes away loneliness and anxiety because they know God is near. St. Paul wrote to the Philippians, saying: *"The Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus"* (4:4-7). When St. Paul wrote this letter to the Philippians, it did not mean that their community and individual families had no trouble. It did not mean that the society and socio-economic situation of the Philippians were perfect. No, like us who experience unpleasant and unwanted situations, they too had their own issues to handle. However, instead of spending their precious time and energy mourning and complaining about their circumstances, St. Paul encouraged them to put their total trust in God. He reminded them of the power of prayer when they were worried, saying, if there is anything you need, pray for it.

Finally, the book of Zephaniah gives us more reasons to be joy-filled missionary disciples (3:14-18). It is not about having convenience; it is about being bearers and beacons of hope for one another. We are not allowed to lose hope in times of distress, because *"the Lord our God is in our midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over us, he will renew us by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for us."*

Fr. Tien Cao

Parish Contacts

7 Gall Street, Fairlie 7925

Parish Website:

www.mackenziecatholic.nz

Parish Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/mackenziecatholicparish>

Parish Priest:

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PARISH MASS TIMES

FAIRLIE - ST. PATRICK'S

Sunday 9:30 am

Tue – Fri

Adoration: 8:00 – 9:00 am

Mass: 9:15 am

Reconciliation every day during adoration

TWIZEL – All Saints'

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm

TEKAPO - Good Shepherd Church

Christmas Mass 25th Dec at 6:00 pm

Last Sunday of the Month Mass 29th Dec at 6:00 pm

Parish Council

Tony Hill

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Parish Finance

Leonie Guiney

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Twizel Church Charitable Trust

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PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS AND NOTICES

Mackenzie Catholic Parish Christmas Mass Times 2024

LITURGY	DATE	TIME	CHURCH VENUE
Sacraments of Anointing & Reconciliation before Christmas	21st Dec	At 5.00 pm Mass	Twizel
	22nd Dec	At 9.30 am Mass	Fairlie
Christmas Eve Mass	24th Dec	5.00 pm	Twizel
Christmas Day Mass	25th Dec	9.30 am	Fairlie
Christmas Day Mass	25th Dec	6.00 pm	Tekapo
New Year's Day Mass	1st Jan 2025	9.15 am	Fairlie

1. Christchurch Diocese Christmas Mass Times: Looking for Christmas Mass or Sacrament of Reconciliation times for churches across the diocese? Visit the diocesan website <https://cdoc.nz/christmas>

2. St. Patrick's Community Christmas BBQ: The holiday season is a time for sharing, joy, and togetherness. This year, we invite YOU to join our Community Christmas BBQ, a special gathering for everyone in town - especially those who may be far from family or simply looking for some festive cheer!

Date: Sunday 22nd Dec 2024.

Time: 6.00 - 9.00 pm.

Location: St. Patrick's Lawn – 7 Gall Street, Fairlie 7925.

What to Expect: Delicious BBQ and refreshments: This event is **FREE** and open to everyone. Please bring a salad or your favorite foods or drinks, along with your friends, neighbors, or just yourself - there's a place for everyone at our table this Christmas. Let's make it a season to remember, filled with love, laughter, and community spirit. For more information, contact: Carmel Daly 027 415 7869 or Fr. Tien Cao "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given..." (Isaiah 9:6).

3. Christchurch Diocese Clergy Movement:

Priest	Parish	Appointment
Fr. Rex Ramos	Hurunui	Parish Priest
Fr. Zani Pacanza	Waimakariri	Assistant Priest
Fr. John Nixon Tholatt	Returns to India	
Fr. Viet	Cathedral	Assistant Priest
Fr. Brian Fennessy	Selwyn and Akaroa	Parish Priest of both Selwyn & Akaroa
Ignatius Tran (seminarian)	Timaru	Pastoral Placement

4. Priests Retirement Villas: Bishop Michael would like to ask you to give generously to this worthy cause. Fr Peter Costello's priestly journey has spanned decades. After playing rugby and a career in public service, he was invited to consider the priesthood in his mid-30s and was ordained in 1993. For over 25 years, he has faithfully served parishes across the Diocese. Fr Peter says "Serving the people of the Church is such a joy, it is a privilege to know the people, to be of help to the people. I feel very blessed." Please contribute to the 2024 Bishop's Appeal by supporting the campaign to build seven modest villas for our retired priests. Find out more at <https://cdoc.nz/>

5. Food For Faith For Advent: Sign up at www.foodforfaith.org.nz to prepare for Christmas by receiving daily email encouragements with Fr. John O'Connor.

ALL SAINTS TWIZEL ROSTER

Date	Reader	OHP	Extra-Ordinary Minister
14 th Dec	Mary Murdoch	Lenise Kearns	Bronwen Dauvin
21 st Dec	Elizabeth Higgins	Kathleen Carpenter	Sandy Murray

Church set up for Dec: Carpenters

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH FAIRLIE ROSTER

Date	Reader	Prayers	Ex'Ord Minister	Collector	Greeter
15 th Dec	St. Joseph's	St. Joseph's	Mercedes Abella	Abella Family	St. Joseph's
22 nd Dec	Gary Brosnahan	Gary Brosnahan	Mary Calder	Cath Hanrahan	Amanda O'Brien

Cleaners: 20 Dec/27 Dec Ngaire Gallagher & Adele O'Connor

Light-hearted Laughter: A reason God made Eve - *As the Bible says, "It is not good for man to be alone!"* 🙏