



MACKENZIE CATHOLIC PARISH

Albury-Fairlie-Tekapo-Twizel

Communion / Participation / Mission



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

30th Nov & 1st Dec 2024

The Son of Man Coming in a Cloud with Power and Great Glory

At the beginning of the new millennium, and at the close of the Great Jubilee during which we celebrated the two-thousandth anniversary of the birth of Jesus, a new stage of the Church's journey began. Our hearts resonate with the words of Jesus, who one day, after speaking to the crowds from Simon's boat, invited the Apostle to "put out into the deep" for a catch: "Duc in altum" (Lk 5:4). Peter and his first companions trusted Christ's words and cast their nets. "When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish" (Lk 5:6). Duc in altum! These words ring out for us today, inviting us to remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, and look forward to the future with confidence: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb 13:8). To Him, who is the goal of history and the one Savior of the world, the Church and the Spirit cry out: "Maranatha - Come, Lord Jesus" (cf. Rev 22:17, 20; 1 Cor 16:22).

As our community begins a new liturgical year with the season of Advent, let us reflect on the words of the Psalmist: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever" (Ps 118:1). In our parish context, we are grateful to God for the newly baptized, who have been called to bring the Gospel of Christ to life. We thank God for the moments of farewell as we entrusted our loved ones to Him, looking forward with hope to seeing them again in the Kingdom of God through the resurrection of Christ.

We also express gratitude for the many brothers and sisters who have served as volunteers in various ministries within our parish. Their generosity demonstrates the grace and fruits of the Holy Spirit at work among us. I am especially thankful for those who have recently stepped forward to take on new ministries in the parish. May God be glorified in you, and may your sanctity grow as you serve the Gospel of the living Christ.

In the midst of all that has occurred in our local context, such as the royal commission report and the recent Hikoi, we have also endured global challenges. The economic repercussions of COVID-19, job losses, and rising costs have affected families in diverse ways. Moreover, wars and conflicts continue to devastate our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, Gaza, Lebanon, and beyond. Truly, our common humanity in the Body of Christ remains crucified each day until He comes again. These realities remind us of the fleeting nature of this world and urge us to live each day with charity. Yet, they also invite us to look to the future with hope, knowing that God is with us in every moment, both joyful and difficult.

In today's Gospel, Jesus foretells of signs that will precede His return and calls us to remain vigilant and hopeful: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars; on earth, nations will be in agony, bewildered by the clamor of the ocean and its waves; people will faint with fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand" (Lk 21:25-28, 34-36).

As we await the glorious return of Christ, let us persevere in faith, hope, and love. *Fr Tien Cao*

Parish Contacts

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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

A NEW ADVENT IN FAITH IN CHRIST

Advent is a season of preparation and hope as we await the coming of Jesus Christ. It begins four Sundays before Christmas and it reminds us that Christ comes into our lives in three ways: in history, as He was born in Bethlehem; in mystery, through the Sacraments and daily encounters; and in majesty, when He will come again at the end of time. This Advent, let us embrace the sacred time with greater devotion:

1. **Come to at least one daily Mass per Week:** The Eucharist is the heart of our faith and the most profound way to encounter Christ. Attending Mass during Advent helps us stay focused on the true meaning of the season and nourishes our souls with His presence.
2. **Read the Bible:** The Word of God reveals His promises and prepares us for His coming. Spend time reading the Gospels and the prophecies that point to Christ's birth. Let the Scriptures guide your reflection and prayer.
3. **Pray Daily:** Prayer opens our hearts to Christ and deepens our relationship with Him. Consider praying the Rosary, especially the Joyful Mysteries, or setting aside time for quiet prayer to reflect on God's love and mercy.

Advent is a season of waiting, but it is also a time of action, spiritual action. Let us not merely count the days until Christmas but make these days count by drawing closer to Christ. May this Advent be a time of renewal for you and your loved ones, as we prepare our hearts to welcome the Lord with joy.

1. **RIP:** It is with great sadness that we share the news of the sudden passing of Fr. Geoff Gray, a beloved priest of the Diocese of Christchurch, and Fr. Mervyn McGettigan, a priest of the Diocese of Dunedin. Please pray for the repose of their souls. Funeral details will be announced soon.

2. **Priests Retirement Villas:** Bishop Michael has launched a campaign to support the development of retirement villas for priests in the Christchurch Diocese. The villas will allow for modest but comfortable accommodation for the men who have served our Diocese faithfully for decades. About 25 per cent of the \$3.5 million fundraising target has already been raised, including through contributions from clergy. Members of the Catholic community are invited to prayerfully consider how they can support this initiative.

Msgr Rick Loughnan entered the seminary at 35 after years of service to the Church. He has held various roles, including director of the Catholic Youth Team and Diocesan Administrator, and is now parish priest of Christ the Redeemer. One of Fr Rick's greatest joys in priesthood is connecting with people. Nearing retirement, he hopes to continue in ministry and enjoy travel. 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/>

3. **Fifth Gospel Living:** Fr John O'Connor has collated inspiring reflections on experience of God from ninety people across Aotearoa and further afield. These are now shared in an attractive volume entitled FIFTH GOSPEL LIVING - \$35.00. Available from THE Copy Press in Nelson or (to save postage costs and for bulk orders) directly from John john@fff.org.nz.

ALL SAINTS TWIZEL ROSTER

Date	Reader	OHP	Extra-Ordinary Minister
30 th Nov	Sue Atkinson	Kathleen Carpenter	Bronwen Dauvin
7 th Dec	Gerry Dauvin	Bronwen Dauvin	Elizabeth Higgins

Church set up for Nov: Carpenters

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH FAIRLIE ROSTER

Date	Reader	Prayers	Ex'Ord Minister	Collector	Greeter
1 st Dec	Terry O'Connell	Terry O'Connell	Cath Hanrahan	Kevin O'Neil	Mary Calder
8 th Dec	Christine O'Connell	Christine O'Connell	Leonie Guiney	Neville Smith	Tony Hill

Cleaners: 15 Nov/22 Nov Christine O'Connell & Terry O'Connell

Light-hearted Laughter: A reason God made Eve - *God knew Adam would never go out and buy himself a new fig leaf when his wore out and would therefore need Eve to buy one for him.* 🍌