



MACKENZIE CATHOLIC PARISH

Albury-Fairlie-Tekapo-Twizel
Communion / Participation / Mission



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

21st & 22nd Dec 2024

FIRST READING: (Micah 5:1-4) The prophet Micah announces to the beleaguered inhabitants of Jerusalem that a Ruler will come from Bethlehem who will bring them peace.

SECOND READING: (Hebrews 10:5-10) Jesus came, not to offer the sacrifices of the old law, but to do the will of God. His one perfect sacrifice replaced all the former sacrifices.

GOSPEL: (Luke 1:39-45) Elizabeth praises Mary, and, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, hints at the uniqueness of the child she has conceived.

The Visitation

Jesus Comes to Us Through Mary and the Holy Spirit

The Gospel of Luke (1:39-45) recounts Mary's visitation to Elizabeth, a profound moment filled with love, joy, and divine purpose. Mary, carrying Jesus in her womb, embarks on a selfless journey to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who is six months pregnant with John the Baptist. Despite her young age and the challenges of traveling over 100 kilometers, Mary humbly serves Elizabeth, embodying virtues of love, humility, and service. Her actions remind us that true greatness lies in caring for others.

This encounter signifies more than familial love; it reveals God's saving plan. Through Mary's greeting, Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit, and John the Baptist leaps for joy in her womb. This moment fulfills the angel Gabriel's words that "nothing will be impossible with God." It illustrates how God's grace transcends human limitations—Elizabeth conceives in old age, Mary bears the Son of God, and John is anointed even before birth.

Mary's visitation symbolizes the coming of Jesus, bringing joy and the Holy Spirit to prepare John for his prophetic mission. It emphasizes that God's power can override natural laws, as seen in the miraculous pregnancies of Mary and Elizabeth. Through Mary's voice, the Spirit flows, affirming the interconnectedness of God's work in salvation history.

Today's Gospel invites us to reflect on three points:

1. Mary, our spiritual mother, intercedes for us, urging us to pray the Joyful Mysteries for renewed joy.
2. Receiving the Eucharist, we carry Christ within us, like Mary, and are called to bring His joy to others.
3. Listening to God's Word empowers us to fulfill our vocation and mission.

Let us, like Mary, become joy-filled missionary disciples, sharing Christ's love and Gospel with the world.



Happy Christmas!



We rejoice as our Saviour, Jesus Christ, is born: "The true light that enlightens every person" (Jn 1:9) has come into the world, and "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn 1:14). He unites himself with every man and woman (GS No. 22), came to destroy sin, and saves the world through his love (Jn 3:17). Let us open our hearts to him and proclaim his Kingdom of love and peace to all.

Fr. Tien Cao

Parish Contacts

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Parish Website:

www.mackenziecatholic.nz

Parish Facebook:

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

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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

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Twizel Church Charitable Trust

Gerry Dauvin - 027 482 8284

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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>



Happy New Year 2025!



2. **After Christmas Notice:** Fr. Tien Cao will be away at a summer camp for young adults in early January 2025. Following this, he will visit Vietnam from January 14 to February 12, 2025, coinciding with the Têt holiday (Lunar New Year). This will be a special time of rest and reunion with his family.

To ensure the smooth running of the parish during his absence: Priests have been arranged to cover weekend Masses. For emergencies, such as anointing of the sick or funerals, please contact:

- o **Fr. Michael Welsh** at 027 531 1086
- o **Fr. Chris Friel** at 021 474 308

Please note:

- There will be **no parish bulletin** until mid-February 2025.
- There will be **no daily Mass** from **January 7 to February 14, 2025.**

Thank you for your understanding and prayers during this time.

3. **Faith Formation – Want to grow in your faith?** For you and family during the holiday and throughout the year. **FORMED** is an online Catholic media platform filled with over 4,000 programmes about the bible, faith and parenting, movies, audio dramas, talks, e-books, and even cartoons for our children. It is an amazing resource to enrich, deepen, and inspire your faith. This material is free for all parishioners. You can gain access to all of FORMED's content by following these simple steps:

- (1) Go to <https://signup.formed.org/> (2) • Enter your parish name: **Mackenzie Parish** (3) • Enter your name: ... and your email address:

4. **Priests Retirement Villas:** Bishop Michael would like to ask you to give generously to this worthy cause. Fr Kevin Wei, originally from Malaysia with a background in finance, found his calling after volunteering with the Marist Brothers in Papua New Guinea. He entered the seminary in Mosgiel and was ordained in 2000. Since then, Fr Wei has served as parish priest in various communities, including the West Coast, Timaru, Addington, Hoon Hay, Beckenham and North Parish. His favourite part of being a priest is the people. 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
21 st Dec	Elizabeth Higgins	Kathleen Carpenter	Sandy Murray
24 th Dec	Mary Murdoch	Bronwen Dauvin	Kathleen Carpenter

Church set up for Dec: Elizabeth Higgins

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH FAIRLIE ROSTER

Date	Reader	Prayers	Ex'Ord Minister	Collector	Greeter
22 nd Dec	Gary Brosnahan	Gary Brosnahan	Mary Calder	Cath Hanrahan	Amanda O'Brien

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

Light-hearted Laughter: A young boy was caught standing on a Bible. When asked why he was doing that, the boy replied, "Today in church, our pastor told us to stand on the Word of God!" 🙏