



MACKENZIE CATHOLIC PARISH

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



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

7th & 8th Dec 2024

Preparation Prevents Poor Performance

FIRST READING • (Baruch 5:1-9). God promises the seemingly impossible the transformation of mourning into joy.

SECOND READING • (Philippians 1:3-6.8-11). We are called to be pure and blameless and to be ready for the Day of the Lord.

GOSPEL • (Luke 3:1-6). At a specific and defined time in history, John the Baptist begins his preaching.

The Word of God came to John

The Word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, in the wilderness—not as dead, written letters, but as creative power and Spirit of God (*Luke 3:1-6; John 1*). The phrase ‘the Word of God came to...’ is a common expression in the Bible that addresses prophets or chosen individuals who were to carry out God’s will with His personal revelation, guidance, or a specific call to action. For example, *"The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: 'Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.'" (Genesis 15:1), "The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..." (Jeremiah 1:4-5), and "The word of the Lord came to Ezekiel the priest..." (Ezekiel 1:3).*

Today’s Gospel message explains that after the Word of God came to John the Baptist, he was moved by the Holy Spirit to rise up, travel throughout the Jordan district, and proclaim a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (*Luke 3:1-6*). It was a common Jewish ritual to wash with water for purification from sin or defilement. John introduced the rite of baptism, possibly full immersion, as an external sign of an interior purification of the heart for God’s indwelling Spirit.

Let the Word of God Come to Us – Nowadays, the word of God does not just come to the prophets or Christians only, but also to anyone who is willing to serve God. By listening to and reading the Bible, we allow our inward and outward selves to be purified and reset for fresh graces of the Holy Spirit. The word of God will:

- ✓ Make the crooked paths of our thoughts and actions straight.
- ✓ Fill our emptiness of heart with hope.
- ✓ Lay low the high mountains of our pride and self-grandiosity.

In short, with childlike trust in God’s Word, the word of God will keep us from giving in to doubt and uncertainty about God’s existence. To believe in the Word of God is to believe in God Himself. Moreover, to believe in God is to understand the difference between history and God: history is not God; God created history, God is not contained by time. As St. Luke recorded, it was during the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar’s reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, that the word of God came to John. In Christ, God has entered into our history from outside of it.

Lastly, be the Word of God as John was, because for some people, the integrity and devotedness of our lives will be the only living Gospel they have ever read.

Fr. Tien Cao

Parish Contacts

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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

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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. 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).

2. St. Joseph's School Mass: Next Sunday, 15th December, St. Joseph's will celebrate its End-of-Year Mass. The children will serve in the ministries, and a potluck will follow the prizegiving. Please bring a plate to share - everyone is welcome!

3. Priests Retirement Villas: Bishop Michael would like to thank all those who have supported this campaign so far. If you have not yet done so, he kindly asks that you consider donating to this worthy cause.

Fr Brian Fennessy's journey has taken him beyond typical priestly assignments. Alongside serving parishes in Christchurch, Greymouth and Timaru, he was a military chaplain in peacekeeping missions in Bougainville, East Timor and Afganistan. Recently, he was parish priest at Opihi Parish, Timaru, and now serves at Our Lady of the Plains Parish in Selwyn, where he helped build the new Church in Lincoln. 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/>

4. Jubilee Year 2025 – Pilgrims Of Hope Pope Francis has announced that 2025 is a Jubilee Year. A Jubilee Year encourages renewal, spiritual growth, mercy, and forgiveness. The theme for the Jubilee year is Pilgrims of Hope. Bishop Michael will open the Jubilee Year on Sunday 26th January 2025, at the 9.30am Mass, St Mary's Pro-Cathedral. More information about the Jubilee can be found at <https://cdoc.nz/jubilee> or contact Mike Stopforth, Bishop's Pastoral Office, mstopforth@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
7 th Dec	Gerry Dauvin	Bronwen Dauvin	Elizabeth Higgins
14 th Dec	Mary Murdoch	Lenise Kearns	Bronwen Dauvin

Church set up for Dec: Carpenters

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH FAIRLIE ROSTER

Date	Reader	Prayers	Ex'Ord Minister	Collector	Greeter
8 th Dec	Christine O'Connell	Christine O'Connell	Leonie Guiney	Neville Smith	Tony Hill
15 th Dec	St. Joseph's	St. Joseph's	Mercedes Abella	Abella Family	St. Joseph's

Cleaners: Cindy Sheehan & Cath Hanrahan

Light-hearted Laughter: A reason God made Eve - *When God finished the creation of Adam, He stepped back, scratched His head and said, "I can do much better than that!"* 🤔