



MACKENZIE CATHOLIC PARISH

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



OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION - YEAR C

16th & 17th August 2025

Mary Is Taken Up to Heaven, and the Angels of God Shout for Joy

“The sanctuary of God in heaven opened and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it. Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown” (Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6,10). This vision helps us understand the mystery of Our Lady’s Assumption into heaven. Mary is revealed as the Ark of God’s covenant, for her womb, and indeed her entire immaculate being, was the dwelling place of the Word of God, who “became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). Jesus Christ is the Emmanuel, “God with us” (Matthew 1:23).

In the Old Testament, the Ark of the Covenant was kept in the midst of God’s chosen people as a sign of his presence, especially during their journey through the wilderness. God had commanded: “Have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them” (Exodus 25:8). With the Ark in their midst, Israel was protected from their enemies (Numbers 10:35) and assured that the Lord would never abandon them (Deuteronomy 31:6). The Ark contained manna and the tablets of the Ten Commandments. The manna prefigured the Eucharist, for Christ himself declared: “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever” (John 6:51). The Ten Commandments embodied the covenant way of life: “You shall walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live” (Deuteronomy 5:33). These signs distinguished God’s people from the nations around them. When the Israelites entered the promised land and the kingdom of David was established, the Ark was brought into Jerusalem and placed in the Holy of Holies within the Temple of God (2 Samuel 6:12-17). In this, we see a foreshadowing of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Having borne Christ, and having completed her earthly pilgrimage, she, the true dwelling place of the Lord, was assumed into heaven, the ultimate Promised Land. As Jesus himself assured his disciples: “In my Father’s house are many rooms; I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2-3).

Today, as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption, we rejoice with the angels in heaven and with all the faithful on earth. Mary proclaims for us: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (Luke 1:46-47). She is our hope, because we too are earthen vessels carrying God’s Spirit through baptism (2 Corinthians 4:7). Through the Eucharist, our mortal bodies, though destined to return to dust, are sanctified, for “the body is not meant for destruction, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power” (1 Corinthians 6:13-14). One day, God will bring us, his sons and daughters, into eternity as “heirs of God and coheirs with Christ” (Romans 8:17), to share in the joy of the saints whose bodies we venerate with reverence. We are pilgrims of hope, living in this world but fixing our eyes on eternity: “For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come” (Hebrews 13:14). Our heavenly Father delights to share his kingdom with us: “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32).

May we then be generous and loving to one another on earth, so that we may already taste the joy of God’s kingdom here and now. For as Jesus said: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35).

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 (in house chapel)

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

Last Sunday of the Month

Mass 31st August at **6:00 pm**

Parish Council

Tony Hill

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Parish Finance

Leonie Guiney

027 2933 228

Twizel Church Charitable Trust

Gerry Dauvin - 027 482 8284

St. Joseph’s School

Kelly and Bridget

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READINGS AT MASS

- *Apocalypse 11:19; 12:1-6,10*. I saw a woman clothed with the sun and with the moon at her feet
- *Psalms 44*. The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold
- *1 Corinthians 15:20-26*. As members of Christ all people will be raised, Christ first and after him all who belong to him.
- *Luke 1:39-56*. The Almighty has done great things for me; he has lifted up the lowly.

We invite you to gather with us for a **special hour of prayer and reflection**; a time to stand together as a community, united in hope and committed to building a just and peaceful future for generations to come.

Sunday 17 August, 3:00–4:00 pm - *St Patrick's Church, Fairlie*

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God" Matthew 5:9

With reflections from her time on the board of Fonterra and life on the land, Leonie offers a compelling perspective on values-based leadership, perseverance, and community. Reserve your place now at: www.cbn.nz

4. Antioch: Antioch is back for 2025 for young people in Year 10, 11, 12 and 13! It will be held on Sep 19 - 21. All the key camp favourites return this year including an international speaker, our iconic house band and messy games of course! That's all alongside the usual camp staples of engaging small groups, encounters through sacraments and so much more. Registrations are open at www.cyt.org.nz/antioch so get a group together with early bird pricing closing on the Feast of the Assumption. Any questions? Contact Mark via mcurrie@cdoc.nz

5. John Paul II Centre Race Night 2025: Join over 200 people for an unforgettable evening of harness racing, great food, and friendly competition. Enjoy a 2-course dinner, live racing commentary, and our famous Priest Punter of the Year competition - all while supporting local families. To be held at 5.30pm on Aug 29 at Addington Raceway. You can find more information and book tickets [here](#).

ALL SAINTS TWIZEL ROSTER					
Date	Reader	OHP	Extra-Ordinary Minister		
16 th Aug	Gerry Dauvin	Kathleen Carpenter	Rosalie Ardagh		
23 rd Aug	Rosalie Ardagh	Carolina Aldabe	Mary Murdoch		
Church set up for August 2025: Lenise Kearns					
ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH FAIRLIE ROSTER					
Date	Reader	Prayers	Ex'Ord Minister	Collector	Greeter
17 th Aug	Rose Struthers	Rose Struthers	Neville Smith	Lisa Holden	Amanda O'Brien
24 th Aug	Leonie Guiney	Leonie Guiney	Mercedese Abella	Kevin O'Neil	Christine O'Connell
St. Patrick's Church Cleaning Roster: 15 Aug/22 Aug Ngairé Gallagher /Adele O'Connor					

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