EASTERN BAYS PASTORAL AREA



St Joseph's Orakei | St Ignatius St Heliers | Mother of Perpetual Help Glendowie

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 29th NOVEMBER 2026

Kia ora koutou katoa…

A warm welcome to you all today.

As we begin the season of **Advent**, the Church invites us to be people of hope, watchfulness and expectation. Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, not simply by looking back to Bethlehem, but by recognising Christ's presence among us today and remaining attentive to where God is leading us into the future. As Jesus reminds us in this Sunday's Gospel, **we are to stay awake and be ready**.



Today is also a particularly significant occasion for **St Joseph's Ōrākei**. The 9am Mass will be the final Parish-School Mass before the school closes at the end of this year. As we gather together, we give thanks for the many graced years that St Joseph's School has been part of our parish and wider Eastern Bays community.

Today, Sunday, is **'Hamper-Packing Day'** and is the culmination of months of preparation and generosity by parishioners in this annual initiative that sees us reach out in a tangible way to those who might welcome a little bonus as we journey towards Christmas. The Parish Centre will be a hive of activity after the 9am Mass. May God bless our endeavours!

Last Sunday, many parishioners gathered for our latest **Reshaping Our Future** meeting. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and contribute so generously to our conversations and discernment. These gatherings are an important part of our journey as three parishes, as we listen to one another, share our hopes and seek to recognise the direction in which the Holy Spirit is leading us. Our focus must always remain on our common mission as followers of Jesus Christ.

I would particularly like to draw your attention to **Sunday**, **December 13,** when we will celebrate **one combined Mass** for our three parishes at **Sacred Heart College at 9.30am.** All other Sunday morning Masses across the Eastern Bays parishes will be cancelled that day. We are delighted that Bishop Steve will join us for this special celebration. It will also be an important occasion for our seminarian, Bob, who will formally receive **Candidacy**, one of the significant steps on his journey towards priestly ordination. We look forward to sharing this moment with him and supporting him with our prayers.

Following Mass, we will enjoy a pre-Christmas celebration together as one pastoral area family. It will be an opportunity to give thanks for Bob's presence among us throughout this year and to celebrate our growing sense of community as we continue discerning our future together.

May this Advent be a time of renewed hope, generosity and faith as we keep watch for the Lord who comes among us.

Blessings, Bernard

Today's Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 63: 16-17; 64:1.3-8

The prophet recalls God's past goodness to his people and pleads with him to save them from their present sinfulness.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

As we await the coming of Christ in glory, the Holy Spirit keeps us steadfast in bearing witness to him.

Gospel – Mark 13: 33-37

We need to stay awake at our appointed tasks, because we do not know the hour when the Jesus, our Master, will return.



Loving Father,
As we begin this season of Advent, prepare our hearts to welcome Your Son.
Help us to live with hope and faith, to be attentive to Your presence, and to share Your love and peace with others.
May this season draw us closer to You as we prepare for the coming of Jesus. Amen.

Prayers for Father Ryan

Please remember Father Ryan in your prayers. He has returned to the Philippines to care for his mother who is unwell.

Thinking about becoming Catholic? Come along to our Information Session

Tuesday 8th December at 7.30pm at St Ignatius. Please email Gina at sacraments@easternbayscatholic.org.nz

St Ignatius School ADVENT MASS

This Monday, 30th November at 9.15am. All parishioners are welcome to join with the school in celebration of the First Sunday of Advent

St Ignatius Church NEW Ministry Roster ~ December to early March

A response is urgently needed please. New volunteers are warmly welcome!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/December-early-March-rosters

or scan the QR code to sign up or update your availability

Christmas Hampers – Packing Day

Packing will take place after Mass

Please remain for the full Mass, as all instructions will be provided at the conclusion of the service.

A few important reminders for the day:

- Parking will not be available behind the Church or at the school.
- The school grounds, including the playground, turf and fields, will also be closed as the school will be used for loading hampers, with vehicles moving in and out throughout the morning. This is an important health and safety measure, so please ensure children stay away from these areas.

We **gratefully acknowledge** everyone who has contributed towards bringing this Parish Christmas Hamper project to fruition, enabling us to make Christmas a little brighter for those who need it most.

St Ignatius Catholic School St Heliers Centenary 2027

Planning is underway for our Centenary events next year! Please register your interest click here or jump onto our website or email centenary@stignatius.school.nz

St Joseph's Mass of Thanksgiving ~ This Sunday, 29th November at 9.00am

We invite you to celebrate the last **St Joseph's School-Parish Mass** at Orakei, with lunch to follow.
Let us celebrate the graces and blessings that have been a part of St Joseph's School over the years.
We remember with gratitude the generations of children, families, teachers, religious sisters, staff and parishioners who have contributed to its life and mission.

Scripture Study Group

Thursday, 10th December
at St Ignatius Parish Centre
from 7.30pm. All welcome.

St Vincent de Paul Society

We are commencing our Christmas Raffle. There are **three prizes** to be won.
Tickets are $5.00 each or 3 tickets for $10.00.
in the foyer of MPH at 10.30am Mass on Sunday morning.

Eastern Bays Coffee-Morning Group

Come and join us for our end of year Lunch
Wednesday 2nd December
at Moretons Restaurant, St Heliers at 12noon.
Numbers must be confirmed.
Please telephone 021 940 950

Men's Coffee Group

at "Honey Cafe" Roberta Ave
every Thursday after 9am Mass at MPH.
All welcome to join us for a coffee and a chat....

St Ignatius Card Group

Wednesday afternoons at the St Ignatius Parish centre. Call Stella on 021 02408199

Stonefields Choir

Several of our parishioners have sung in this the Stonefields Choir and there are at least two parishioners who are currently involved.
Please see details below for their upcoming
Sing for the City 2026
Saturday 5 December 2-26 at 4.00pm.
See details below



Eastern Bays Catholic Parishes Facebook Page

Have you seen our Facebook Page? Go to https://www.facebook.com/easternbayscatholic
Be sure to like it to keep up with the happenings at our parishes and beyond.

Christian Care Network Eastern Bays Communities

Helpline on 09 521 5712
Donations of non-perishable goods at St Joseph's Church, or donate via CCN bank account 12-3047-0089077-01
Reference: Your name
For tax receipts please email Maxine Priestley at priestlyfam@xtra.co.nz

ANNIVERSARIES

We remember those who have died recently, and whose anniversaries occur during the month of November…

Jan Carroll, Dawn Rocca, Mary Donegan, Anthony Gates, Reg Edwards, Gary Williams, Dona Elliott, Pat de Zote, Brother Michael Taylor fms, Abbey Russell, Donna Collins, Des Clarke, Alex Pinfold, Michael Davis, Royce Moodabe, Lotus Bentinck-Stokes, Anna Shalfoon, Yvonne Spode, Christopher Everitt, Rex Jennings, Margaret Winter, Annie Dempsey, Fr Humphrey O'Leary, William O'Connell, Noel Trembath, Yin Young, Walter Grbich, Patricia Wilson, Emily Mamo, Maurice Larsen, Joy McKenzie, Lydia Schweder, Peter Marshall, Rosemary Reeves, Carmel Connolly, Paul Mason, Carmel Henderson, Irene Davenport, William Fell, Graham Quinn, Ivy Digby, Barry Crowley, Aileen Angland, Hilda Waite, Leo Klaassen, Mary Millar, Elizabeth Downs, Juanita Corban, David Drum, Margaret McLean, Bill Williams, Darrell Comber, Valentina Warren, Ivan Downs, John Galvin, Dhiren Perera, Fay Hudner, Marie Dulihanty, Sakina De Marigny, Reginald McHugh, and Cushla Wallace.

Eternal rest grant to them…



Eastern Bays Area Schedule

Monday

9.00am Mass at OL of Fatima Meadowbank

9.15am St Ignatius School Advent Mass

All welcome.

Tuesday

9.00am Mass at St Pius X Glen Innes

Wednesday

9:00am at St Ignatius

School Mass (Term Time) All welcome!

Thursday

9:00am Mass at Mother of Perpetual Help

Friday

9:00am Mass at St Ignatius

Saturday

9:30am Mass at Mother of Perpetual Help

Sacrament of Reconciliation

8.45am Saturday at Mother of Perpetual Help

Saturday Vigil Mass - 5:00pm at St Ignatius

Sunday Mass

9:00am St Ignatius

9:00am and **5:00pm** St Joseph's

10:30am Mother of Perpetual Help

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursdays following

9.00am Mass at MPH

Rosary 8.30am and Benediction at 6.30pm

Rosary Group – All Welcome

Mother of Perpetual Help Parish

Fridays at 3.00pm in the Parish Centre

Visit our website for

~New Parishioner Registration

~Sacramental Programmes: including for Adults (OCIA) and Children (RCIC)

sacraments@easternbayscatholic.org.nz

Catholic Diocese of Auckland

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz

ST JOSEPH'S	ST IGNATIUS	MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP
16 Brenton Place, Orakei	12 Kotiri Street, St Heliers	510 Riddell Road, Glendowie

Email: office@easternbayscatholic.org.nz **Website:** www.easternbayscatholic.org.nz

Parish Priest: Monsignor Bernard Kiely **Assistant Priest: Father Ryan Sy**

Seminarian: Bob Fe'ao

PARISH SCHOOLS

St Joseph's School	St Ignatius School
principal@sjorakei.school.nz	office@stignatius.school.nz
Ph: (09) 521 0866	Ph: (09) 521 0866