

READERS

17 DEC Anoop Tinto Margaret Mabe

24 DEC Lyn Hopkins Mark Oliver

MINISTER OF COMMUNION/SACRISTAN

17 DEC Frank Neyoni Frank

24 DEC Anoop Jenny Anoop

OFFERTORY / GIFTS

17 DEC Youth/Children's Liturgy

24 DEC Liji & Rojo's Family

ALTAR SERVERS

17 DEC Zaydee/ Charlotte P/Marilyn

24 DEC Eve/ Jaren/ Bridgette

FLOWERS

DEC Jade

MORNING TEA

17 DEC Team Kerala

CHURCH CLEANING

DEC WK 3 GROUP 2 Indian Group

JAN WK 1 GROUP 3 Frank Schnuriger / Mary Wenzlick/Gail Ryan/Judy Thomas

JAN WK 3 GROUP 4 Christine Pearce/Sherly Njarakkal/Cassie Fleming



THIRD SUNDAY OF Advent

Reflect, today, upon this calling from the desert and listen to the message God is speaking to you, personally. Abandon all worldly concerns, repent of sin, trust in Him and go out to meet Him so that you can more quickly and more easily come to a deeper faith in our Lord during this Advent season.

Gaudete Sunday - On the third Sunday of Advent, which is also called Gaudete (Latin: "Rejoice") Sunday, we recognize the joyful anticipation of the season that will culminate in the birth of Christ on Christmas by changing the liturgical color to rose. Rose is a "brightening" of the ordinary violet and thus symbolizes joy.

PARISH INFORMATION

Presbytery

111 Baillie Street, Thames 3500

Ph. 868 6169

Fr Marchellino Park

Email: pih0116@gmail.com

021 113 1855

Pastoral Care

Sister Paula Cronin

Ph 868 6310

Email: sisterp3@outlook.com

Parish Office

111 Baillie Street, Thames 3500

Robyn Smith (Administrator)

Mobile: 027 291 5165

Email:

stfrancisthames@xtra.co.nz

www.coromandelcatholic.org.nz

St. Francis School

Principal—Oliver Fahey

Ph. 868 7655

Ministry to the Sick/Elderly

Sr Paula (Coordinator)

8686310



LITURGICAL TIMES



St Francis of Assisi CATHOLIC CHURCH, THAMES

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT— YEAR B

17 DECEMBER 2023

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 61: 1-
2, 10-11

*I exult for joy
in the Lord.*

SECOND READING

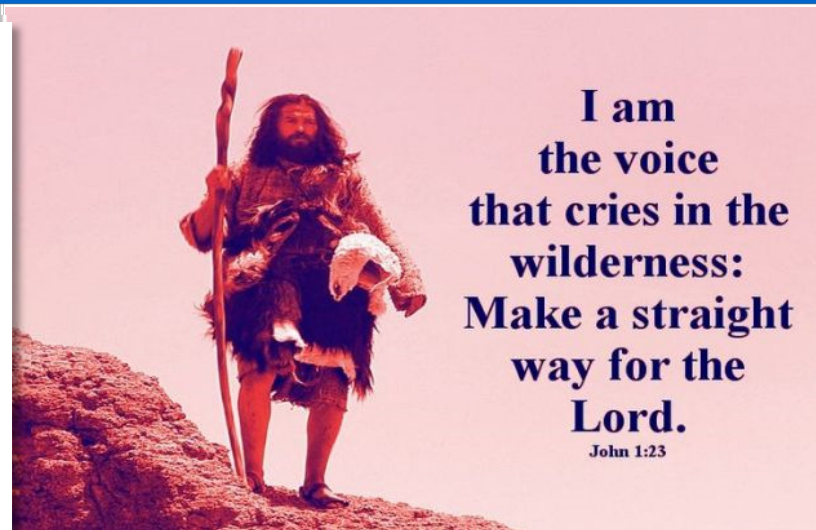
THESSALONI-
ANS 5: 16-24

*May you all
be kept
blameless,
spirit, soul
and body, for
the coming of
our Lord Jesus
Christ.*

GOSPEL

JOHN 1: 6-8,
19-28

*There stands
among you,
unknown to
you, the one
who is com-
ing after me.*



**I am
the voice
that cries in the
wilderness:
Make a straight
way for the
Lord.**

John 1:23

Meeting Christ in the Desert

"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said." John 1:23

In the passage above, Saint John the Baptist quotes Isaiah 40:3: "A voice proclaims: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!" This was a prophecy of Isaiah who was speaking about the return of the Jewish exiles from Babylon back to Jerusalem. Normally, people would travel along the well-watered routes from Mesopotamia to Israel. Those routes were safer than the desert and provided the necessary food and water for the journey. But Isaiah prophesied that the Jewish exiles would travel the shortest route—straight across the desert—and that God would provide for their needs during that journey. Such a journey required much trust in the providence of God. John the Baptist, in quoting Isaiah, applies this prophecy to himself. He was called to cry out in the desert and point people directly to the Messiah. It was in the desert that they would discover their Savior. Amen



WELCOME VISITORS, to St Francis of Assisi, Thames. Whether you are here for the first time or visit periodically you are most welcome. Please join us in the Parish Centre for morning tea after Mass.



Volunteers for Tasty Tuesday

Through illness a couple of people cannot continue with this ministry, so we are looking for others who may be able to assist with cooking and serving. You only get a turn every 3 months so it is not burdensome. *If you are able to help, please see Sr Paula.*



Social Club Christmas Raffle

**Sunday 17th Dec
Tickets \$2 or 3 for \$5.**



A new family to the parish is looking for a 2-3 bedroom house to rent. Please contact Sr Paula if you know of any that may be available. Ph 07 868 6310

CHURCH POWER ISSUE UPDATE: You may recall the power outage in the church a few weeks ago. The fault was at the point of entry to the church. As the mains box and wiring were so old they could not simply be replaced. A new cable needed to be laid and this was run down the side of the church and to the mains box inside via conduit. The total cost of this project (including 2 days of cherry picker hire) came to \$5,313.76

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for young enthusiasts to help lead our youth in 2024. If you love your Catholic faith and would like to see our Church grow than this could be your calling!

LEND A HAND FOR CHRIST

JOIN US NOW ST. FRANCIS YOUTH THAMES

CONTACT: FATHER MARCHELLINO 021 113 1855

*Have you considered giving your gift to the Parish through **Auto Payment?** This is a way to show a strong commitment to your Parish. AP's continually support even when you are away on holiday.*

**RC Bishop of Auckland Parish Account Thames
02-0108-0706566-000**

PLEASE NOTE: WE ONLY HAVE ONE COLLECTION

For priestly maintenance you can contribute into the House account.
RC Bishop of Auckland Coromandel Region House Account 02-0108-0706566-001



Christmas Novena

(Simbang Gabi is a devotional, nine-day series of Masses attended by Filipino Catholics in anticipation of Christmas)

December 15th—23rd, 7pm

Please check the Mass times below during this time. Only 7pm Mass (except 19th Liturgy in the chapel)

Friday 15th Mass 7pm

Saturday 16th Mass 7pm

Sunday 17th Mass 8:30am

Monday 18th Mass 7pm

Tuesday 19th Liturgy in the chapel 7pm

Wednesday 20th Mass 7pm

Thursday 21st Mass 7pm

Friday 22nd Mass 7pm

Saturday 23rd Mass 7pm

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Sun Dec 24th	8:30 am	Thames
	8:30 am	Whitianga
	10.30 am	Tairua
	10.30 am	Ngatea
	5:30 pm	Thames
	7:30 pm	Ngatea
	7:30 pm	Whitianga
Mon Dec 25th	8:30 am	Thames
Christmas Day	8:30 am	Whitianga
	10.30 am	Tairua
	11 am	Coromandel



Any queries, please see the Team. Mark Oliver, Will Bourke, Barbara Hennessy, Fr Marchellino

RC Bishop of Auckland Building Maintenance Account
02-0108-0706566-004

WANTED

Ladies bicycle and helmet needed for new parishioner. Please contact Barbara Takase on 027 249 1224

Dear all,
Thank you to those churches who have made recent donations.

Here are the most recent foodbank details to pass on to your congregations and foodbank donors. Please let me know if you want any additional information.

Data for November 2023

Food Parcels – 71 (feeding 119 people) – 64 adults and 55 children

Thank you for all your support for the Thames Foodbank.

Items presently needed: Weetbix, tins of corn, instant coffee, powdered milk, any Christmas treats
Potential volunteers need to contact me and I will talk them through what is involved.

We have received a \$1200 grant from TCDC to pay for Christmas lunches/ community hampers. We have already used a portion of this but it can be shared by other Faith groups. Please let me know if you would like to use some of the funds – I need to have receipts for spending the accountability report.

Please note we are closed from 22 December to 12 January.

Caroline Talbot, Team Leader Community Living Well Trust (Thames Baptist Community Ministries)