

**MASS TIMES**  
**(1 January – 31 January 2021)**  
Tuesday to Sunday – 9:00 am

**SACRAMENTS / DEVOTIONS**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:**

Friday & Saturday 8.00 – 9.00am

**Rosary:**

Saturday 8.30 am

Novena - Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Saturday 9.25am

**Divine Mercy** prayer: Friday 8.30am

**Parish Pastoral Council Contacts:**

**Acting PPC Chairperson:** Andy Tibbitts  
E-mail: icpcellerslie@gmail.com

**St. Mary's Parish Hall Hire**  
Ph. 579-5458  
**Parish Secretary:** Lourdes V. Domilies  
Ph. 579-5458

**Newsletter:** icpcellerslie@gmail.com

**Parish Finance Administrator:**

Margaret Burke QSM  
Ph: 579-5458

**Parish Office Hours:**

**Tuesday – Wednesday 9:00am-12:00 pm**  
**Thursday- Friday 8:00am - 12:00 pm**

**St. Mary's Catholic School:**

Website: <http://www.stmary.school.nz/>  
Phone: (09) 579 8937

**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:** We, the Parish of Immaculate Conception Ellerslie are God's people seeking God's purposes and fulfilling them through service. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, assisted through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

# PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ELLERSLIE

**Parish Priest:**  
Fr. George Areeckal, C.Ss.R  
**Assistant Parish Priest:**  
Fr. Majesh (Thomas) Kurian, C.Ss.R  
**Chaplain Vietnamese Community**  
Fr. Andrew Nguyen  
Ph. 266 2789



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Parish website:  
[www.ellersliecatholic.org.nz](http://www.ellersliecatholic.org.nz)  
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## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**2/3 JANUARY 2020**

### JOURNEYING BY THE LIGHT OF FAITH

The journey of the Magi was bold, courageous, and imaginative. Yet to many, it must have appeared foolish, even a little crazy. It can't have been an easy journey. No doubt, they encountered many difficulties, and knew moments of doubt and danger. Yet, in spite of difficulties, doubts and dangers, they persevered in their quest, and were rewarded when they finally found the Christ –Child. Though the light of a star guided them, they did not know where the star would lead them. Hence, their journey was very much a journey of faith. And even when they saw the Child, they still had to make an act of faith. Seeing is not necessarily believing.

The journey of the Magi symbolises our journey of faith, and it can serve as a model for that journey. Just as the Magi were guided by the light of a star, so we are guided by the light of faith. Their journey was one of searching and questioning, of fear and hope, of pain and joy. The faith journey contains all of these elements. It's not an easy journey. Like the Magi we can expect to encounter difficulties, and to experience doubts. To those with no faith, it may appear a little crazy. We can draw inspiration from the courage and perseverance of the Magi. Another thing we can learn from the Magi – they didn't travel alone. They travelled in a little community of three, three believers. In this way, they supported one another. We must not try to make the journey of faith alone. We travel with our brothers and sisters in the Christian community, and so we are able to support one another.

However, we have one great advantage over the Magi. At the start of their journey, they knew nothing about Christ. We already know Christ, and have encountered him in faith. Nevertheless, the fact that we haven't seen him face to face means we haven't yet arrived at our final destination. And the fact that we have faith doesn't mean we know all the answers. In that sense, we are still searching, still journeying. The journey of faith is the journey of a lifetime, and in a sense we never arrive in this life. The goal of our journey is to arrive at the heavenly Bethlehem and to see Christ in glory.

## Parish of the Immaculate Conception, Ellerslie

**66 Main Highway Ellerslie**



### **NEW YEAR HOLIDAY TIME TABLE**



Friday, 1st January 2021 to Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 (inclusive)

- mass at 9:00 am

Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm

Sunday mass at 9:00 am

5 Usual timetable resumes from Tuesday, February 2, 2021 - mass at 8:00 am

**The Parish is served by Redemptorist Missionaries**  
[www.cssr.com](http://www.cssr.com), [www.cssr.org.au](http://www.cssr.org.au)

*We welcome any visitors and new parishioners to our parish. If you would like to register, forms are available at the entrance of the church in the foyer. You can hand them in to Fr. George or to the parish office after filling them up.*

**This Sunday's Readings:**

**Isaiah 60:1-6**  
*The glory of the Lord shines upon you.*

**Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6**  
*The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.*

**Matthew 2:1-12**  
*We have come from the East to worship the King.*

**Next Sunday's Readings:**

**Isaiah 55:1-11**  
*Come to the waters, listen to my words and you shall have life.*

**Isaiah 12:2-6**  
*You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.*

**John 5:1-9**  
*The Spirit, the water and the blood give witness.*

**Mark 1:7-11**  
*You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

**Pope Francis @Pontifex**  
The Son of God was born an outcast, in order to tell us that every outcast is a child of God. He came into the world as each child comes into the world, weak and vulnerable, so that we can learn to accept our weaknesses with tender love.

*A New Year IS GOD'S GIFT*

IN THE JOYFUL MOMENTS  
THANK HIM

IN THE BUSY MOMENTS  
BLESS HIM

IN THE TRYING MOMENTS  
TRUST HIM

IN THE QUIET MOMENTS  
PRAISE HIM



**Totara Pt Mass** - A reminder and encouragement to visit the places of important Catholic history in our diocese, particularly Motuti, where Bishop Pompallier's remains are interred in St Mary's Church, and Tōtara Point, where the first official Mass was celebrated on 13 January 1838. All are invited to Mass at Tōtara Point Sunday, 10 January 2021 at 11am to commemorate the first Mass in Aotearoa. Click on the link below for more details

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/event-1/183rd-anniversary-of-the-first-mass-celebrated-at-totara-point/>



**MAKE SUMMER UNSTOPPABLE**  
The Government has launched a campaign urging everyone to help stop the spread of Covid-19 this holy, festive and holiday summer season. The New Zealand Catholic Bishops conference have been asked to spread the message far and wide among the parishes. Please click the link, look, and share: <https://covid19.govt.nz/everyday.../make-summer-unstoppable/>



**COVID-19 update from the New Zealand Government**  
14 December 2020

**Make Summer Unstoppable kicks off**

The Make Summer Unstoppable campaign has begun!

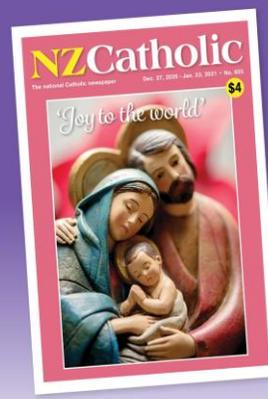
Make Summer Unstoppable - E te whānau, tautokohia te kaupapa - reminds all New Zealanders about doing the right things to keep each other safe.

This summer will be our first under COVID-19 conditions. It's important we look after ourselves and our whānau over the festive season and summer holidays.

**Safety Requirements & Procedures when entering the church: Please follow these practices for your safety and the safety of others.**

- \* Stay home if you are unwell or having any cold/ flu symptoms.
- \* Upon arrival, register by scanning the QR code
- \* Sanitize your hands.
- \* Feel free to wear face covering in the church

**NZ CATHOLIC** - \$4. The latest issue of NZ Catholic - Publication of the Year, Australasian Religious Press Association Awards 2020. Some headlines in this issue: Dunedin bishop reflects on St Joseph. Festival of Lights in Christchurch. March for Life in capital streets. Vandalism at east Auckland church.



**The latest issue**  
in your church,  
Sunday  
Dec. 27

**NZpray2day** - is an app to encourage people to seek a moment to reflect, pray and respond to the ancient Christian cycle of seasons, saints and readings. Available from Apple's App Store or the Google Play Store; search for NZpray2day. It is free, a gift for you from Te Kupenga - the Catholic Leadership Institute.

**Please pray for those who are sick especially Lynda Tunupopo, Jennifer Fewtrell, Gary Chen, Allan Turnock, Stanislav Szczepanski, Rowena Edgeworth, Mark and all those recovering from surgery or needing our prayers.**

**We remember those who have died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Patricia Broady, Basilisa Garena, Margaret Pamela Collins, Alexander White, Joseph Noakes, Alice Martin, Winnifred Ann O'Reilly, Jane McNamara, Evelyn Gore, Molly Harding, Alfred Puccinelli, Glendinine Conrad Dobbs, Margaret Garvey, Elizababeth McDonnell, Thomas Brett, John McInnanney, Mabel Mellana, Joseph Moakes, **May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. For additions or amendments to the Prayers for the Sick or Anniversaries please e-mail or ring the parish.**

Happy Birthday to all birthday celebrants this week. God bless you all.



May the abundance of the Love of Christ fill all the days of your life.

**Have a Blessed Birthday!**

**ELLERSLIE PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2021**

This parish - based programme is for the preparation of children who wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion. The course will commence on Sunday 14th February 2021 after the 9.00 am mass in the parish hall. A candidate must be a **baptized Catholic**; in **Year 5 for 2021 School Year** and **active parishioner of our parish or of another parish (name of the parish)** to be enrolled in the course.

If you wish to enroll, please email [icpellerslie@gmail.com](mailto:icpellerslie@gmail.com) with the Subject Sacramental Programme for enrolment form. Forms can also be downloaded from our website [www.ellersliecatholic.org.nz](http://www.ellersliecatholic.org.nz). Enrolment closes 31st January 2021. **LATE ENROLMENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Thank you to all our amazing parishioners for your kind generosity throughout the year. May God bless you with love, protection and abundance for the coming year. God bless

**Columban Calendars - \$12.00**  
now available at the office