

### MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm
Sunday	9.00am
Vietnamese (Sun)	11.00am
Syro Malabar Com. (Sun)	2.00 pm
	5.00pm
Monday	8.00am
(Liturgy of the Word & Communion)	
Tuesday to Thursday	8.00am
Friday	9.00am
Saturday	9.00am
Public Holidays	9:00am

### SACRAMENTS / DEVOTIONS

#### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Friday & Saturday 8.00 – 9.00am

#### Rosary:

Saturday 8.45am

Novena - Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Saturday 9.25am

**Divine Mercy** prayer: Friday 8.30am

#### St. Mary's Parish Hall Hire

Ph. 579-5458

**Parish Secretary:** Lourdes V. Domilies

Ph. 579-5458

**Newsletter:** icpellerslie@gmail.com

#### Parish Finance Administrator:

Margaret Burke QSM

Ph: 579-5458

#### Parish Office Hours:

**Tuesday – Wednesday 9:00am to 12:00 pm**

**Thursday- Friday 8:00am to 12:00 pm**

#### Parish Pastoral Council Contacts:

**PPC Chairperson:** Lynda Tunupopo

Mob: 027 363 3334

E-mail: ppcellerslie@gmail.com

#### 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



66 Main Highway Auckland NZ

Phone: (09) 579-5458

Parish Email:

icpellerslie@gmail.com

Parish website:

[www.ellersliecatholic.org.nz](http://www.ellersliecatholic.org.nz)

[Facebook.com/icparishellerslie](https://www.facebook.com/icparishellerslie)

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

27 DECEMBER 2020

Today, much is at stake, when what the family stands for is under attack. It is through sharing in family love and responsibilities that we find ourselves as persons. It is normally in the love and support of the family that we find the resources to face the setbacks of life. And what family is there that does not know pain and suffering? Today's liturgy reminds us that, because 'he became in every way like us' (Phil 2:7), our Saviour has shared in the ups and downs of family life.

Our reading from Genesis reminds us of the strength we can find in family traditions. Taking part in the life of old Israel, the family of Jesus shared in the boundless hopes – as vast as 'the stars of the heavens' and 'the sands on the seashore' – that found expression in the stories of God's promises to Abraham. The second reading, from Hebrews shows the first Christians rejoicing in the fulfilment of these hopes. They saw the wanderings of Abraham as making him a model of God's people, as they come to terms with the fact that their true home is not any earthly city. And they saw, in Isaac, the son Abraham was ready to sacrifice - given back to him from the dead, as it were - a foreshadowing of the Son the Father gave up for our salvation.

The tableau sketched by Luke in today's gospel text, brings us insights into the life of the Holy Family. Joseph and Mary were faithful to the traditions of Israel. (This is significant, coming from Luke the Gentile convert – pointing to the essential continuity of the two covenants: salvation for old Israel, he implies, comes through fidelity to the authentic traditions of the old covenant.) Though Joseph's carpenter trade would have given this family some security, they did not find it easy to make ends meet. The offering they made, of doves and pigeons, is the more modest offering permitted to the poor (cf. Lev 12:8). Their home was probably a cave dug into the side of a hill, with a small extension in front, and a floor that was simply clay beaten hard by the feet of the household (B. Vawter). This family belonged to the 'anawim', the simple people championed by the prophets who, in the struggle of life, kept alive the true spirit of Israel, through trust in their God.

Luke's narrative often uses the device of pairing a man and a woman, expressing their equal dignity under the Gospel. Here he sees Simeon and Anna, meeting with the parents of Jesus, as the fulfilment of the longings of the 'anawim', movingly expressed in the canticle of Simeon, 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace', and in Anna's praise and rejoicing.

The 'salvation' being inaugurated is universal, 'for all the nations', one of Luke's favourite themes. But it will come through the Cross. The family that returns to the hidden life of Nazareth is very close to the world's families in their ups and downs.

### Parish of the Immaculate Conception, Ellerslie

66 Main Highway Ellerslie



## CHRISTMAS 2020 and NEW YEAR HOLIDAY TIME TABLE



#### CHRISTMAS MASSES:

December 24 ----- 5:30pm - Christmas Family Mass  
----- 7:30pm – Syro-Malabar Community mass  
----- 12:00 MN – Midnight mass with Christmas  
carols at 11:30 pm

December 25 ----- Christmas Day mass at 9:00 am



#### MASS TIMES (After Christmas Day)

Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> December 2020 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

♾ 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:

**Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3**

*Your own son shall be your heir.*

**Psalms 104:1-6, 8-9**

*The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.*

**Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19**

*The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.*

**Luke 2:22-40**

*The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.*

### January 1 - Solemnity of Mary readings

**Numbers 6:22-27**

*They will call down my name on the children of Israel and I will bless them.*

**Psalms 66:2-3, 5, 6, 8**

*May God bless us in his mercy.*

**Galatians 4:4-7**

*When the appointed time came, God sent his son, born of a woman.*

**Luke 2:16-21**

*The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the crib... When the eighth day came, they gave him the name of Jesus.*

### **Message from Bishop Patrick Dunn**

Pope Francis sometimes makes the point that we are living not simply through an era of change, but through a change of era. His point is that this is a moment of great opportunity and he uses beautiful images to describe what a missionary church should look like. He says the Church is the House of the Father where the doors are open and all are welcome. It should be like a field hospital where those who are burdened or wounded find comfort and healing. Our 'Mission Map' challenges each one of us to be open to a conversion of heart so that we may seek the face of Jesus in our society, especially in the poor and the sick, the young and the old, and serve him with tenderness and love. Our mission is to live and to share the Joy of the Gospel. (31 July 2020)

*+ Patrick Dunn*  
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BISHOP OF AUCKLAND

**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**

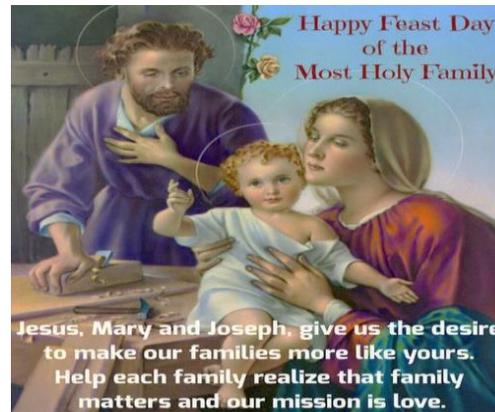
The Government has launched a campaign urging everyone to help stop the spread of Covid-19 this holy, festive and holiday summer season. The New Zealand Catholic Bishops conference have been asked to spread the message far and wide among the parishes. Please click the link, look, and share: <https://covid19.govt.nz/everyday.../make-summer-unstoppable/>



### **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. NZ Catholic has been named as Publication of the Year at the Australasian Religious Press Association 2020 Awards. The December 13-26 issue of NZ Catholic is out now. Some headlines are: New pastoral plan for Auckland diocese. New vaccines prompt serious questions. Hospital chaplain called a local hero. Marist ordained to priesthood.

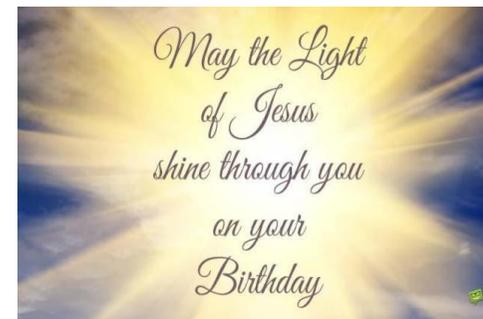


**NZpray2day** - is an app to encourage people to seek a moment to reflect, pray and respond to the ancient Christian cycle of seasons, saints and readings. Available from Apple's App Store or the Google Play Store; search for NZpray2day. It is free, a gift for you from Te Kupenga - the Catholic Leadership 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: Margaret Te Ahuan Desmond Christopher Armstrong, Eileen Ruth Walsh, Prea Havea, Mande Jones, Margaret Leah, Harry Hill, Bill McNamara, Minnie Shields, Winnie Bew, Delia Fix, Andrew Lockhart, Maggie Elsie Brown, Mande Bacon, Bridget Coyne, Henry Berkhout, Raul Del Castillo, William Forde, Mildred Cadman, Bill Tate, Mary Te Ahuro, 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.



### **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