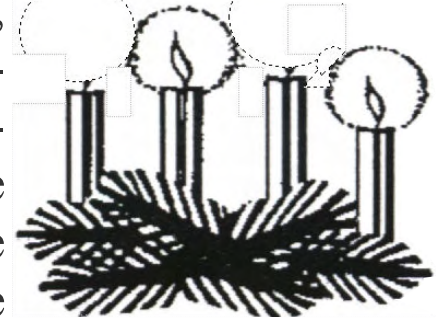




The Parishioner

St Mary's Parish, Nelson
Second Sunday of Advent - 9 December 2007

At Marsden House last Tuesday, 4 December, was a celebration of remembrance and dedication of the memorial tree. It was a very powerful rite that paid tribute to those who have gone ahead to the next life and to all those who have shared comfort and consolation during those times of mourning and bereavement. Those who have died challenge us to become the living legacy of their goodness and righteousness. Those who support and encourage us bring healing and comfort, signs of the Lord's spirit present and active in our world.



We have begun the season of Advent crying out "prepare ye the way of the Lord". We look for that spirit which brings joy and enthusiasm as we move about our daily routine. John the Baptist and Isaiah remind us this weekend to live in that spirit which brings God's justice and integrity. Ours should always be a time to be filled with the Spirit of Jesus and to be burning with its fire.

Let this Sunday be a timely reminder for all of us not to get lost in the many harbingers of Christmas. May we allow all these outward decorations and great Christmas parties to bring about the essence of the season – the Saviour comes "that the darkness of sin and the night of unbelief vanish before the light of the world and the Spirit of grace, and that his heart would live in the hearts of all."

May you continue to enjoy the fullness of this grace-filled season.

- Fr Raymond

NEEDED URGENTLY

Flowers - especially red-hot pokers and tortured willow for the Garin College prizegiving. Please ph Nicky Sowry 547 8278 or Garin 543 9488

ADVENT GIVING

Please contribute non-perishable FESTIVE food items as a gift to the less fortunate through St VdP, Night Shelter, Seafarers' Mission etc. No need to giftwrap. Please put tins, packets etc in the box under the tree in the foyer.

CARWASH

It was a success. Thank you for your support and the helping hands. We raised \$108 which Helen has banked for us. We hope to have two more fund-raising events next year so we can hold the fun day for children (bouncy castle, sausage sizzle etc) following a Sunday Mass (date to be arranged). Thank you to the ladies of St Vincent de Paul who donated a large bag of rags for washing the cars.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

the sick

the recently deceased: Mary Satherley, Milne Jellie (ChCh), David Huggins, Mary Cotterell, Val Mead, Wynand Schryvers, Frank Tourell, Faye Glausiuss, Leslie McGirr

those whose anniversaries are near: Ray Romano, Polly Schryvers, Nora McLeod, Hugh Cronin, Pat Dobbin, Hilda Cronin, Adrian Kelly, June Del Favero, Ivan Hill, James Costello, Catherine Brown, Zoe Coman

deceased family and friends: Salve and Tomica Frika, Ante and Elizabeth Milin, Tony Amitrano, Giuseppe and Teresa Albano, dec'd mebers of Lauria and Monahan families



PARISH YEARBOOK



We are compiling a Parish Yearbook to be distributed to all parishioners at Christmas.

We would like to include details of all groups and organisations within the Parish, with a brief paragraph on what each group does, as well as who to contact, when it meets etc etc

If your group would like to be included, please get the information to the Parish Office
BY THIS FRIDAY 14 December

Phone: 546 8442

Email: nelson.stmarys@paradise.net.nz

Mail: PO Box 37, Nelson
or drop it into the Presbytery.

ADVENT RITE 2 RECONCILIATION

7.30pm

NEXT Sunday
16 December

**Come as you are -
Go away better !**



TAIZE HOUR

All (not just Catholics) are welcome to prepare for Christmas in a quiet reflective hour of prayer, scripture and gentle music at St Francis' Chapel, Stoke 7 30pm THIS Tues 11 Dec.

THE MASS - HOW MUCH DO WE APPRECIATE IT?

Video presentation to open eyes and ears to the beauty and value of the Mass in Richmond Parish Centre at 7.30pm THIS Mon, 10 Dec. All welcome. Supper follows.

HEARTS AFLAME



Anyone aged 18 - 35

Starts 3pm, Fri 28 Dec 2007

Ends 1.30pm, Sun 6 Jan 2008

Location: St Mary's Diocesan School, Stratford, Taranaki

\$390 per person covers all meals, accommodation and scheduled activities.

For more details contact

Perrin 027 2006590.

To register: info@heartsaflame.org.nz

This event needs 35 more registrations to go ahead!

www.heartsaflame.org.nz



FAMILIES

Will you be coming to Christmas Eve 6pm Mass ?

If your children would like to take part - Nativity scene, offertory procession, readers etc - ph Mandy 539 1221 asap





WALK BY FAITH

is a 3-yr adult
distance learning
course in Religious

Studies for those interested in
deepening their knowledge of Christ,
the Scriptures and the Church,
and growing in personal faith.

Enrolment forms are at the
Parish Office.

For further information contact:

Sr Eileen Brosnahan,
Catholic Education Centre,
P O Box 1937, Wellington;
Ph (04) 496 1718; Fax (04) 496 1715;
E-mail wcec@wn.catholic.org.nz



FROM

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Thank you for your support
and faithful generosity to the Society
and Centre during 2007.

Your kindness brings joy
and relief to others.

Our Centre closes at midday
THIS Wednesday 19 December,
and will re-open on Mon 14 Jan 2008,
so we would appreciate it if
donations of furniture, clothing etc are
held over until after 14 January.

WELCOME

NEW TO THE PARISH ???

Please give your contact details and drop this in the plate at Mass or call in to the Parish Office.

.....

ST VINCENT DE PAUL
meets Tuesday - 2.00pm - Parish Centre

NEW ROSTERS FOR GREETERS AND CLEANERS
will arrive in the next few days.

The 125th Anniversary of the
FIRST MASS CELEBRATED IN OUR CHURCH

falls on Sunday 30 December 2007.

To mark the occasion we will have
ONLY ONE morning Mass at 10.00 am
that day and then socialise
over morning tea provided by the Parish.



UNIQUE ROSARIES, GIFTS ETC FOR SALE

Ph Elizabeth 546 6469 or Stephanie 547 4544.

Proceeds to **WYD**

**PARISH TO PARISH
BED AND BREAKFAST**

a scheme whereby parishioners offer B&B
accommodation in their homes to people
from other parishes throughout New Zealand and
Australia at a cost of \$20 per person per night
which makes the possibility of a holiday much
more affordable as well as creating an opportunity to
make new friendships. Tom and Judy McInerney will
speak on the scheme at Masses next weekend.

An updated booklet detailing all properties
involved will be on sale at a cost of \$15.

If you are thinking of travelling within NZ or Australia,
it would be a very good investment. Makes a great
Christmas present too.

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PORCH NOTICEBOARDS

The St Mary's Parish Pastoral Council is keen to tidy up the noticeboards in the church porch.

As part of this we would like to allocate a section for various groups in the parish to display information on a monthly, rotational basis.

We envisage that each group could use the space to educate the Parish on what they stand for – goals, ideals, contacts, meeting dates, etc. During the month of their display, they could also draw attention in the *Parishioner* and perhaps write a reflection on one of the Sundays during the month, based on the readings for that Sunday, linked to their group.

If your group would like to participate in this, please contact Nicky Sowry 547 8278 or Patrick Cronin 548 2524 so we can coordinate and allocate a month. If there is a particular month that has special significance for your group, please let us know .

BISHOPS' CHRISTMAS APPEAL

envelopes have arrived and are inserted in approx every third *Parishioner*. If you are not going to use the one in your newsletter, please hand it to someone who will or put it in the porch for others to use.

As previously, one envelope covers the four weeks of Advent

PARISH CLERGY

Fr Raymond Soriano (PP), Fr Lou Leuthard

PRESBYTERY

195 Collingwood Street, Nelson

Ph: (03)546 8442

(incl PARISH OFFICE)

E.mail: nelson.stmarys@paradise.net.nz

Fax: (03)548 1951

PARISH SECRETARY

Helen Coleman

Mon/Tue, Thur/Fri

9.00am - 3.00pm

PARISH WEBSITE

www.stmarysnelson.org.nz

PARISH CONTACTS**ST VINCENT DE PAUL**

Shop: 77 Vanguard St;

548 9372

Mon - Fri: 10.00am-3.30pm; Sat 10.00am - 1.00pm

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

Principal: Mike Burton

548 4050

GARIN COLLEGE

Principal: John Boyce

543 9488

REGULAR PARISH SERVICES**RECONCILIATION**

After Saturday 10am Mass or by Appointment Ph 546 8442

ROSARY

Before Tues - Thurs 12.05pm and after Sat 10.00am Masses

EXPOSITION

Fridays: 11am - noon; Second Sunday each month: 4 - 5pm

THIS WEEK'S MASS TIMES AND READINGS*(except where a Requiem replaces the Mass of the Day)*

Mon - 8.00am - Is 35: 1-10/ Ps 85: 9ab and 10. 11-12. 13-14/ Lk 5: 17-26

Tue - 12.05pm - Damasus - Is 40: 1-11/ Ps 96: 1-2. 3 and 10ac. 11-12. 13/ Mt 18: 12-14

Wed - 12.05pm - Our Lady of Guadalupe - Readings from Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thur -12.05pm - Lucy - Is 41: 13-20/ Ps 145: 1 and 9. 10-11. 12-13ab/ Mt 11: 11-15

Fri - 12.05pm - John of the Cross - Is 48: 17-19/ Ps 1: 1-2. 3. 4 and 6/ Mt 11: 16-19

Sat - 10.00am - Sir 48: 1-4. 9-11/ Ps 80: 2ac and 3b. 15-16. 18-19/ Mt 17: 9a. 10-13

Sat (Vigil) - 6.00pm**Sun - 8.30am, 10.00am****THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT****Is 35: 1-6a. 10/ Ps 146: 6-7. 8-9. 9-10/ Jas 5: 7-10/ Mt 11: 2-11****LITURGY ROSTERS**

Counter	Lois Palmer	Gifted last wk (excl APs): Hse - \$462 Parish - \$924	
Vacuumping	K and V deCourcy		
15-16/12/07	Sat Mass - 6.00pm	Sun Mass - 8.30am	Sun Mass - 10.00am
Music	Organ	Choir	Dove
Greeters	J Persico, I Sowman	J Kelly L del Favero	Bateup Family
Readers	S Ellis, K Rose	B Tohill, A Oertly	A Bentley, D O'Regan
Ministers of the Eucharist	L Wright, M Smith, P Palmer, P Palmer, A Monti	M Monti, R Blackwell, P/W Schryvers, K Curtis, J Greaney <i>All CS</i> ; K Older - <i>Hosp</i>	H Robinson, P Schipper, A and M Achterberg, J McInerney