



Your Parish, *Your Home.*

Te Whare Karakia o Hato,
Maaka, Pakuranga

St Mark's Catholic Mission Parish

Year A Second Sunday of Advent Our Baptism with The Holy Spirit and Fire 7 December 2025

Mass Times:

Tuesday – Saturday:
9.00am
Wednesday: 7.00pm
Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm
Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am,
6.30pm

Rosary:

Tuesday – Friday: 8.30am
Saturday: 8.00am

Exposition & Holy Hour:

Monday to Saturday:
8.00am – 9.00am
1st Friday: 7.30pm – 9.00am

Liturgy of the Word:

Monday 9.00am

Divine Mercy Devotion:

Tuesday – Friday: 9.30am

Confession: On request

Saturday: 9.30am &
4.30pm – 5.15pm

Email:

admin@stmark.org.nz

Website: stmark.org.nz

Instagram: [stmarkpakuranga](https://www.instagram.com/stmarkpakuranga)

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/stmarkpakuranga/

Phone: (09) 572 0489

Address: 334 Pakuranga Rd, PO Box 51184: Pakuranga

Office Hours:

Mon to Fri:
8.30am – 3.00pm

Parish Priest

Fr Austin Fernandes
fraustin@stmark.org.nz

Assistant Priest

Fr Alain Fares
alain@stmark.org.nz

Pastoral Co-Ordinator

Deacon Mannix Lopez
mannix@stmark.org.nz

Parish Secretary

Evie Green-Thompson
evie@stmark.org.nz

Accounts

Besky Fernando
accounts@stmark.org.nz

Deacon Chris Sullivan
admin@stmark.org.nz

St Mark's Mission Statement

To promote a loving, caring, Christlike Community which accepts all people. And inspired by the Holy Spirit to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

1ST Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10 *He judges the wretched with integrity.*

Psalms: 71: 1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17 *In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.*

2ND Reading: Romans 15: 4-9 *Christ is the Saviour of all men..*

Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12 *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*



Reflection

Recently we discovered that our family tree has a new branch that has been hidden from view. A large extended family living down country who previously were strangers to us, have now become our cousins, aunts and uncles.

“From the stump of Jesse, a shoot comes forth and from its roots a branch”.

The image being used in the first reading is clearly a family tree, but it appears to be a chopped down tree that along with its roots is refusing to give up and is putting out shoots. Jesse's son David established the Kingdom of Israel which was later divided and conquered. The stump of Jesse seemed to be cut off, but below the stump were hidden roots; much like the experience of my family and maybe yours where division and brokenness cut us off from each other though we shared the same roots and the youngest shoots of our family tree uncovered the truth. Christ is the SHOOT that comes forth to restore the Davidic Kingdom; He is the everlasting king. The first reading concludes, “The root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to all the peoples, the nations shall inquire of him and his dwelling shall be glorious.”

St Paul in the second reading emphasizes this in saying Christ has saved all people so that “The Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy”. We are those Gentiles praising God for His mercy to us. Most of us are not of Jewish descent but through Christ we are brought into God's family line and become the Catholic (universal) people of God, welcoming all nations.

However, the Gospel reading warns that we His lineage must now bear “fruit worthy of repentance” otherwise “the axe is lying at the root” of “every tree that does not bear good fruit”. St John the Baptist continues, saying “The one who is coming after me,... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and Fire”.

From our Baptism into Christ, we have received the first fruits of Grace, the gifts of the Holy Spirit – Knowledge, Counsel, Fortitude, and fear of the Lord. We pray this advent that these gifts continue to make us docile to the Holy Spirit and pliant in our Lords hands so that we may bear abundant good fruit for His Kingdom.

Tina Payne

IMPORTANT NOTICES

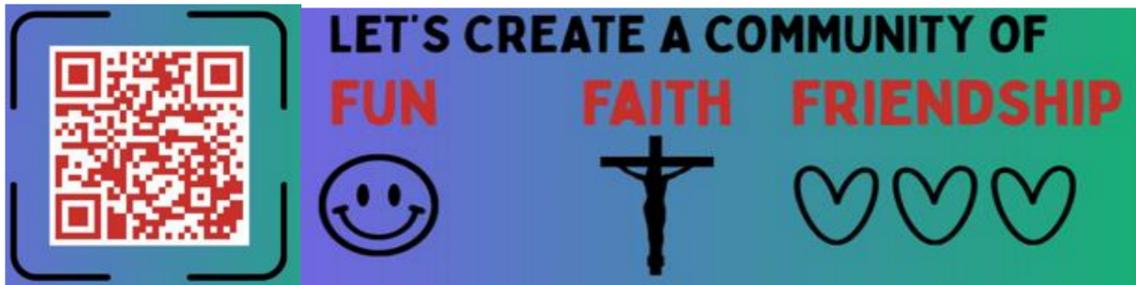
- **Thank you to all those who helped with the Working Bee Clean Up On Saturday, 29 November 2025**
- Anyone wanting to join the **Gospel Choir for Christmas Eve Mass**, are welcome to join their practice on **Thursdays @ 7.30pm – 8.30pm**
- **Mass with Anointing** every second Saturday of the Month
- **Daily Mass Calendar's** available in the Parish office @ **\$5.00**
- **SVDP Christmas Cards** for sale from the Parish office @ **\$5.00**
- **2026 Columban Calendars** available in the Parish Office @ **\$15-00**
- **Bible Diary 2026 @ \$20.00** – You may pay by cash or EFTPOS and also online via internet banking. **Account Details:- Name:** Jaya Somu - **Account No.:** 02-1258-0104207-00 – **Reference:** Bible121 – available from the Parish office, proof of payment needed when picking up the diary if you have paid online.



New to our Parish - Welcome to the Family of St Mark's Catholic Mission Parish, follow this link [New Parishioner Registration - St. Mark \(stmark.org.nz\)](#) to register. New Parishioner Record Forms are also available in the church foyer.

Our Vision: “To be a vibrant missionary parish, empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the light Christ to all.”

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS



LET'S CREATE A COMMUNITY OF
FUN FAITH FRIENDSHIP

'Hi Saints!
 Follow our social media to stay up-to-date with all the latest news and updates from the youth and young adult space at St Mark's. We hope to keep you inspired and encouraged in your journey of faith!
 Be disciples and join the mission! 🙏

EVANGELISATION

 <p>Legion of Mary –Tuesday @ 6.00pm – 7.30pm in the Lyon's Den. New members are always welcome. Contact Hata – 021 0220 4171 Email Hata – Akuhata.nahi@gmail.com Please contact the following members if you would like the statues of Our Lady or the Sacred Heart visiting your homes. Our Lady of Fatima Statue – Tui Peasmeno – 021 0820 9880 Big Our Lady of Fatima Statue – Dong Dela Cruz – 021 165 9471. Small Our Lady of Fatima Statue – Tina Payne – 027 405 3968. Sacred Heart Statue – Hata Nahi – 021 0220 4171</p>	<p>The Life in the Spirit Prayer Group will have their shared lunch to end the year on Thursday 11 December at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Their meetings will commence on the Thursday, 5 February 2026 @ 7.30pm .</p>
<p>Joshua Men's Fellowship St Marks Invites you to an evening of purpose and prayer. Come along and bring a friend. Next Meeting 8 December 2025 @ 7.00pm Guest Speaker Tet Woo, Topic: TBA All Welcome – Supper will be served and don't forget to bring a friend. For more information contact Dakshi – 022 039 7212</p>	 <p>CGS – Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Saturday during School Term Level 1: 3 – 6 years old : 9.30am to 11.00am Enrolment is now opened for children born in the year 2021 & 2022 to start in 2025. Enrolment form is available at the foyer. Session is on Saturdays during school term.</p> <p>St Mark's Padre Pio Prayer Group will take a break in December and January 2026 for Christmas and New Year. The next prayer meeting will be on the First Friday in February (6th February 2026). ' All the feasts of the Church are beautiful but Christmas has a tenderness, a child -like sweetness that captures my whole heart!' - St Padre Pio , Letters Vol 1.</p>

Engaged / Planning a wedding? Catholic Diocese of Auckland – Approved Marriage Preparation Course Book your Marriage Preparation Course early 1 year for NZ and 18 months for overseas weddings For information contact Gerry 021 0224 7442 gerrys@cda.org.nz Register & Book: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/our-courses/>

<p>The platform is suitable for all ages and includes Catholic movies, TV programmes, audiobooks, e-books, online masses and catechesis (we recommend 'The Search' as a starter). These programmes make a great alternative to watching TV and are extremely informative and engaging, teaching us more about our faith and helping us on our journey and relationship with God.</p>		<p>Formed - The Catholic Faith. On Demand. We have a parish registration for Formed. This means that all parishioners can gain access to Formed from any device for free. Email admin@stmark.org.nz for instructions on how to get Formed today!</p>
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ALTAR

Rosters – 13th & 14th December 2025

	5.30pm	8.30am	10.30am	6.30pm	Flowers
Music	Tawag-Awit	Cheryl & Choir	Gospel Choir	Carolyn McGivern	ADVENT
Data Projector	Abby Martis	Evie Haigh	Jannine Eeson	El Shaddai	
Altar Servers	Louie Guevarra Sylvia Tan	Aziz Tapelu Timothy DumDum	Dayanya Andrahennedy Eona Shaij	Romuel T. Cabana Jr Caleb Ensil	Recording/Counting
Commentators	Adam Martis	Anika Haigh	Francis Coutinho	Angela Tarn	Genevieve Tham Gene Smallwood
Readers	Cherise Didier Serre Imelda Guiang	Woodylayne DumDum Muna Hallis	Gabrielle Puther Ezekial Bulay	Wilma Fernandes Xena Lasam	
Gifts	Genevieve & Family	Maria Belinario	Request a Family	Peter Binnie	Cleaning
Communion Ministers	Henny Gussenhoven Joseph D'Silva Alan Chant Nicholas Tan Juliet Martis	Ina Karl Ethan Karl Henry Tan Jane Tan Kurt Meyer Tiana Meyer Andrea Jurgens	John Bulay Catherine Rivers Kaylee Ong Emmanuel Tsang Jonathan Pang Jemima Bulay Florinda Petterson Cady Lim	Kirk Gaabucayan Carmel Gaabucayan Karen Gaabucayan Khyle Porquez Donamae Dela Cruz	Michael Cheng Vivian Li Elsa Hyland Alelie Misa Julius Osuyos

Happy Anniversary to all couples celebrating their Wedding Anniversary in November. The Anniversary Mass for November & December will be held on the 10 December 2025 @ 7.00pm Please contact Hazel hderozario@gmail.com or Yasmina mynsr8@gmail.com if you will attend the Anniversary Mass

Elizabeth & Stuart Bauld , Pearl & Pravin D'Silva, Bryan & Jeramie Dela Cruz, Christine & Kyle Donnelly, Imelda & Ramille Guiang, Patrick & Julie Hee, Carmelita & Lloyd Kyd, Jose & Nicole Lachica, Alfonso & Ethaleen Lanuza, Errol & Iona Lazrado, Margaret & Michael Li, Mike & Philomena Lobo, Stella & Mannix Lopez, Carolyn & Llewellyn McGivern, Suzana & Michael Noth, Mary & Rob Pepping, Cecelia & Noel Saquin, Jane & Henry Tan, Danilo & Lolita Tolentino, Angus & Adlin Gomes, Jeremy & Michelle Youmans, Adelyn Wong & Vincent Soh, Horace & Vivien Wong, Paul Lim & Angela Ng, Ana Veitoyaki & Lai Waqa, Candice & Wesley Simmers, Shanti & Desmond Barboza, Josefina & Harvey Rush, Monica & Raj Churi, Noella & Sai Krishnamurthy, Charmaine & Russel D'Lima, Juliet & Malcolm Martis, Coradele & Magno Gulle,

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day – 24th & 25th December 2025

	7.30pm	10.30pm	8.30am	10.30am
Mass Co-Ordinator	Grace Rowland	Kirk & Carmel Gaabucayan	Zita, Myra & Kim D'Souza	Patrick Sih
Music	Gospel Choir	Nicole Tan	CFC	Musica Christi
Data Projector	Thomas Haigh	Andrew Jurgens	Matt Lopez	Madeline Wu
Altar Servers	Keshiya Perera Evelyn Haigh Logan Ensil Nicko Bulanadi Miguel Bulanadi Ethan D'Silva	Aden Karl Gabriel Divinagracia Gabiella Coutinho Yehan Jayawardena Sofhia Lorraine Solis	Aden Karl Aziz Tapelu	Leonna Chivasa Lessley Chivasa Sofhia Lorraine Solis Ethan D'Silva Oneshi
Commentators	Sydney Causer	Francis Coutinho	Ted Loughman	Jean Garcia
Readers	Cherise Didier Serre Cyprus Causer	Suzana Noth Averille Schmidt	Stela Lopez Andre van Heerden	Andrea Jurgens Snjenjeza Brkan

Our Vision: "To be a vibrant missionary parish, empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the light of Christ to all."

Gifts	Anika Haigh	Gaabucayan Family	Request a Family	Request a Family
Communion Ministers	Imelda Guiang Ramille Guiang Lorraine Anderson Dakshita Perera Philomena Lobo Jonathan Pang	Sanjay Macwan Alfred Pushpakumar Aaron William Kelly William Harini Pushpakumar Kirk Gaabucayan	Puaina Teo Vaelua-Karl Cheryl van Heerdan Brian FitzPatrick Dong Dela Cruz Alma Dela Cruz Kim D'Souza	Gloria Lai Catherine Rivers Jozy Cutaran Genevieve Tham Patrick Sih Jessie Lo

Recently Deceased

Genaro Empuerto, Marcia Bahrends, Ceferina Pangilinan, Joe Zahra

Anniversary of Death

Ida Silveira, Oliver Jayawardena, Kumar Perera, Roshini Perera, Anushani Naran Gummana, Anthonysamy Francis, Selvan Rasiah, Brian, Palmer, Colin David Jarvis, Santiago Venzon, Leoncia Dadiz, Philomena D'Souza, Michael Jordan, Chun Allan Kuo, Sheng Kun Wu, Ji Feng Song, Juan Wu, Ling Wu, Chun Wu, Vaelua Te'o, Joseph Pei

For the Sick: Prayer requests for the sick whose names appear here, will be replaced on a monthly basis.

Jerome Maragh, Cecilia Lee, Jhun Negrado, Kaiden Eeson, Paul Oliver, Rosario Nemenzo, Nahid, Pacita Santos, Caleb Santos, Philip Lenton, Mathew Koshy, Malcolm Dobbs, Julie Prince, Veronica White, Julie Hee, Ella Donald, Julianna Noranha, Pam Moriris, George Peterson, Pam Morris, Ramille Guiang, George Yeow, Arnold Goh, Graeme Kearns, Leo De Guzman, Brodie, Wong Shui Ling, Annika Wolfkamp, George Yeow, Lawrence Falzon, Nirmala & Shirani, Suisami Tauiva, Arnold Goh, Fr Magdala Maria, Rose Kainzer, Joseph Chan, Heather Faulkner, Suzanne, Jessie Camilleri, Mafatia, Kay Harrison

New Years Day – 1st January 2026 @ 9.00am

Music	Data Projector	Altar Servers	Commentator	Readers	Communion Ministers
		Gabrielle Coutinho Yehan Jayawardena Bozidar Ban	Jean Garcia	Francis Coutinho Patrisia Vuicakau	Lorraine Anderson Henny Gussenhoven Sr Geraldine

 **Sewing With Friends** Join us while we all do our own mending and enjoy each other's company. Machines, scissors, threads, and needles, etc. all made available for you. And, of course, tea and cakes to keep us going. On the **second Saturday of every month** in the Lyons Den from **2pm to 4pm on Saturday, 13th December 2025**.



SVDP Thank you for your ongoing support of our foodbank. To ensure the safety and well-being of the people we serve, we kindly request that you donate only **non-expired and unopened/undamaged food items**. Please email your request for a food parcel to svdpfoodbank@stmark.org.nz before Friday.

For All donations to SVDP please do a direct debit into their bank account:- **ASB Acc No.: 12-3056-0661768-00** Include your name as reference. Please call SVDP Otahuhu when donating clothing, blankets, or furniture **09 270 4088**. **SVDP Food Bank needs rice, pasta, breakfast cereals and tinned food.**

TEMPORALITIES

Finance Ministry – Besky Fernando – Chairman, Fr. Austin Fernandes, Aaron William, Alice Sung

Facilities Ministry - Dean Saunders, Nicholas Tan, Alice Sung, Paresh Macwan, Michael Earl

We need your Help... Please support us via:

Direct Debit: **St Mark's Pakuranga Ecclesiastical Goods Trust**- BNZ Acc No.: **02-0108-0708684-00**

EFTPOS donations can be made when lighting candles



EFTPOS machine is on the right-hand side as you enter the church. Donations can be made using your credit or debit card. Set the amount to donate

Thank you for your continued support!

How to set up a recurring donation via online direct debit.
Login to your bank account
•Click on payments Set up automatic payment
•Account Number - **02-0108-0708684-00**
•Reference – Your name e.g. (P.J. Banks)
Amount - How often – weekly, fortnightly or monthly
•Choose a date you would like the donation deducted.

Collection 23 November 2025

Envelopes & Loose Collection \$2,427.30
Automatic Payments \$4,307.00

KID'S CORNER

Gospel: Mt 3,1-12 <https://youtu.be/Ub7jg5ULbT4?t=44>

Hymene: Advent Song- <https://youtu.be/HZCtyhOU2qw>

I am Jesus' cousin.
I went out to preach
And say to all the people:

**PREPARE
THE WAY
FOR THE LORD**



**JOHN
THE
BAPTIST**

Trace the letters above to reveal my name.



Colour in the two lit candles on the Advent Wreath.

**TODAY IS THE
S _ _ _ D
SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

OTHER

Bishop Steve invites everyone to celebrate the **Closing Mass of the Year of Jubilee. 4 January 2026** at the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph. All welcome.

Please find attached the ninth edition of the **NZCBC Catholic Diocese of Auckland** newsletter, also available in the following link: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/NZ-Catholic-Issue-9.pdf>

Mission Hub – Reconnecting with the Disconnected This Advent we are invited to extend the Father's welcoming heart toward those who may feel distant or disconnected from parish life. Our next *Mission Hub* Online gathering will focus on practical, gentle ways to intentionally invite and authentically reconnect. We will share a time of prayer, be inspired by others on mission, and explore our own context and response in small groups with others across Aotearoa New Zealand. Monday 8 December 2025 7.00–8.30pm (NZ time) Online via Zoom. Prayer, inspiring content, discussion. Everyone is invited to register here: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/yt0PYvtFQUyduht_z6I9Eq

Catholic Caring Foundation's Christmas Appeal Give a gift to help families and people in need. Please support the Caring Foundation's Christmas appeal through your donations and prayers. Your donation will have double the impact! "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." Take home our newsletter, and donation card, or visit www.caringfoundation.org.nz or call (09) 360 3012.

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CATHOLIC KIWI PODCAST: Six episodes of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference's new podcast series have now been released, sharing stories of faith, ministry and mission of Kiwis and visitors to our shores. Guests in the opening episodes include Carmelite Sister Lauren of the Cross, broadcaster and policy expert Tim Wilson and Wellington Archbishop Paul Martin SM. More episodes will be released before Christmas to complete season 1, with season 2 set for 2026. Search "Catholic Kiwi Podcast" on YouTube or Spotify now.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS THIS ADVENT: You are invited to prepare for Sunday Mass by reading and reflecting on the Scripture we will hear that weekend. Marist priest Fr Frank Bird has for several years been helping people make those preparations through his Living the Word project. As the name suggests, Living the Word is an invitation for Catholics and others to allow the Word of God to shape their lives. You can download the resources, and access other rich content, at www.livingtheword.org.nz/pray

Food For Faith for Advent 2025. Daily reflections for those seeking greater maturity of Christian Faith in preparation for Christmas. Sign up to receive daily emails during Advent at www.foodforfaith.org.nz.

Musical Instruments for Samoa Students at Marist Brothers Primary in Apia are keen to learn music but lack musical instruments. If you have any spare ones at home - particularly recorders, ukuleles, guitars, keyboards and small speakers or anything brass please contact the parish office or Peter Garrick petergarrick20@gmail.com ph +64 22 1300 730 who will be visiting Auckland from Samoa from 6 December.

At Family Life Catholic Gifts, we have many lovely Christmas gifts as we begin the Advent Season and move closer to the birth of our Saviour. We have a good variety of Nativities and other Christmas gifts. In addition, we have a great new selection of Bibles and Books for both Children and Adults. All proceeds from sales, support our life-saving work defending Life, Faith and Family. Our last day of business for the year is 24th December, (9am-2pm).

Ponsonby/Herne Bay parish is looking for enthusiastic and organised individuals to fill two admin roles: **1. Parish Administrator** - 15-20 hours per week - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings **2. Finance Administrator** - 5-8 hours per week - Flexible - work at a time that suits you If you have strong administrative skills and a heart for supporting parish life, please contact the parish at: office@phbcatholic.org.nz

St Mark Catholic Mission Parish Council – Email: missioncouncil@stmark.org.nz - Chair – Malcolm Martis, **Council Secretary** – Myra D'Souza, **Youth & Young Adult Ministry** – Donamae dela Cruz & Raewyn Tan, **Evangelisation Ministry** – Andre Van Heerden, **Altar Ministry** – Kurt Meyer, Ethan Karl **Social Services Ministry** –Melania Jurgens, **Temporalities Ministry** – Alice Sung, **School Principal** -Tracey Kopua, **School Representatives** – Aaron William, **Pastoral Coordinator**- Mannix Lopez, **Parish Priest** – Fr Austin Fernandes

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4cm x 12cm @ \$520 + GST

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For More Information Contact
Venetia Ryan
Foster Parent Recruiter
027 263 4549
Venetia.Ryan@ohf.org.nz



HOUSE PARENTS NEEDED

Supporting Children with Disabilities
A Christian Community Response
www.ohf.org.nz

Parents and Caregivers

For the safety and well-being of your Tamariki, please ensure children are supervised by an adult at all times when they are visiting the Parish.

Concern/Complaint about Harm or Abuse

If you have a concern or complaint of harm involving someone within the church, please contact:

National office for Profession Standards: 0800 114 622 - email: prof.standards@nzcbc.org.nz

Deacon Mannix Lopez – Safeguarding Officer – Phone: 027 248 4232 - email mannix@stmark.org.nz

You can also report your complaint directly to the New Zealand Police or to Oranga Tamariki

BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY, WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE.

'THAT EVERY PERSON HAS A VALUE AND DIGNITY FROM HIS/HER CREATION IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD'

SAFE CHURCH-SAFEGUARDING

Our Vision: "To be a vibrant missionary parish, empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the light of Christ to all."