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# The Brown Robe

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"If you should fail, be humble, make a resolution to be submissive to God's will and then get up, and carry on"-Padre Pio

#### 30th of November 2025— First Week of Advent (Year A)

#### Responsorial Psalm Ps 122

**Response:** Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord!

#### Mission Statement of Our Parish

"We the Catholic Community of the Holy Cross Parish Henderson, empowered by the Holy Spirit, accept and proclaim the Good News and strive to be one in God's love and to be of service to others".

#### **Being Prepared!**

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come. "Matthew 24: 42-44

How does one "stay awake" as our Lord commands us? We receive this holy exhortation as we enter into a new liturgical year. In Advent, we begin at the beginning. We ponder the Incarnate Son of God dwelling as a human Child in the precious womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We anticipate the celebration of His birth into the world at Christmas. As the liturgical year progresses, we will prayerfully walk through each moment of His life, from the events of His childhood, to His public ministry, and ultimately His death, resurrection, and

ascension into Heaven Reflect today on Jesus' exhortation to be awake, vigilant, attentive, and ready to love Him in the smallest ways. To stay spiritually awake, cultivate habits that keep you attuned to God's presence: set aside time for daily prayer, receive the sacraments frequently, and be mindful of opportunities to serve others. These practices will help you remain vigilant and ready to encounter Christ at any moment. Search for Him this Advent, and never tire of loving Him in your prayer and in those around you. The Son of God continuously comes to you "at an hour you do not expect." By building a spiritual habit of being prepared, you will meet and love Him throughout your day.

My ever-present Lord, You surround me with Your grace and flood me with Your mercy day and night. Please give me a heart that is attentive and receptive to You so that I can receive all that You wish to bestow and love You and others with Your Sacred Heart. Jesus, I trust in You.





#### MASS TIMES

Tuesday & Thursday - 9am

Wednesday Morning - 9am

Wednesday Evening Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help at 7:10pm followed by Mass at 7:30pm

Friday Morning - 9 am

First Friday of the month: Blessed Adoration at 6.30pm followed

by Holy Mass at 7:30pm

Saturday - 8am and 6pm Vigil Mass

Sunday - 7am, 9am, 10:30am, 6pm

#### CARING COMMUNITY

Drop-in every Tuesday after 9am Mass

#### SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Every **3rd Tuesday** of the month at 11am followed by a shared lunch

#### 20 DECADE ROSARY

Wednesday - After 9am Mass

#### RECONCILIATION

Wednesday - 6:45pm to 7:15pm. Also by appointment

#### **EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Thursday- After 9am Mass until 12pm

#### **MEDITATION**

Last Friday of the month at 10am

#### **BAPTISM COURSE**

Every 3rd Friday of the month 5:30 pm at pastoral centre

#### **BAPTISM SCHEDULE**

Saturday 10:30am, 11:30am, and 12:30pm

#### HOLY CROSS CHILDREN'S MASS

Every First Saturday of the Month at 6pm

#### HOLY CROSS CHILDREN'S LITURGY CLASS

Every Sunday 9:00am and 10:30am Mass

#### **FAITH SHARING**

Every 4th Sunday of the month at 11.45am

#### **DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET NOVENA & ROSARY**

Every 4th Sunday of the month 2pm-3pm

#### **PREFERENCE SIGNING**

Every 1st, 2nd, and 4th Tuesday from 11 am to 12 pm only

Readings This Sunday	Readings Nex
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First: Isaiah 2: 1-5 **Psalm**: 122

**Second:** Romans 13: 11-14 Gospel: Matthew 24: 37-44

# ext Sunday

First: Isaiah 11: 1-10 Psalm: 72

Second: Romans 15: 4-9 Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12

#### **Scripture Readings for the week**

Monday	Ps 122	Isa 4: 2-6	Mat 8: 5-11
Tuesday	Ps 72	Isa 11: 1-10	Luke 10: 21-24
Wednesday	Ps 23	Isa 25: 6-10a	Mat 15: 29-37
Thursday	Ps 118	Isa 26: 1-6	Mat 7: 21, 24-27
Friday	Ps 27	Isa 29: 17-24	Mat 9: 27-31
Saturday	Ps 147	lsa 30: 19-21, 23-26	Mat 9: 34-10:1, 5a

Church Office: 9:30am-12:30pm (Tue-Fri) Tel: (09) 835 3355 Address: 2 Lavelle Road, Henderson Auckland 0612 Email: secretary@hendersoncatholic.org.nz, accounts@hendersoncatholic.org.nz Website: www.hendersoncatholic.org.nz St. Vincent de Paul—Over the past month, your prayers & monetary support, helped create 19 food parcels - that's a smile on the dial of 63 adults & 21 children across Henderson & neighbouring communities. If you wish to contribute to this worthy cause, you can do so by way of Bank transfers can be made to St Vincent de Paul Holy Cross: 12-3020-0488780-00. Please add your full name as reference. Tax receipts will be issued at the end of the year.

Contact hendersonsvdp@gmail.com or Ph 022 687 4694 for your receipt.

Caring Community—would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all members, sponsors, helpers, & parishioners who join us for our weekly cup of tea, as well as to the priests who celebrated the Sacrament of the Sick. We sincerely hope that you will continue to support us in this Ministry. Tuesday Morning tea will commence again on the 3rd February and Sacrament of the Sick is the 17th of February. Thank you to all those who generously supported of the Caring Christmas Raffle; the winners 1st prize Noeline, 2nd prize Sr Ake, and 3rd Prize Marsters.

**Children's Mass**— We would like to extend a special invitation to all guardians & parents with children to attend our monthly Children's Mass on Saturday, 6th of December at 6 pm. This Mass is specifically tailored for the children, and we encourage you to bring your little ones along.

New PPC Members Commissioning—will be on Sunday the 7th December at the 10:30 am Mass

**Immaculate Conception**—Monday 8th of December, we will have a morning Mass celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother.

#### **Devotions:**

20 Decades of Rosary—Last day 3rd of December and will resume on the 11th of February

Wednesday Reconciliation and Novena—Last day 17th of December and will resume on the 4th of February

Adoration—Last day 18th of December and will resume on the 5th of February

First Friday Devotion—Last day 5th of December and will resume on the 6th of February

Vacancies—Holy Cross Parish is seeking a Part-Time Local Youth Minister to coordinate our youth and young adult ministries. This is a meaningful opportunity to make a positive impact in the lives of young people while growing in faith, leadership, and community. Applicants must be willing to undergo Police Vetting and Drug Testing.

To apply, please visit the Parish Office in person to collect an application form.

**Diocese Caring Foundation** In the build up to Christmas, we know that more families will be seeking help to provide the basics. Sadly, at a time when families should be looking forward to the blessing of Christmas, the Foundation receives an increase in requests for support. **How you can help us, help them?** The Caring Foundation's Christmas appeal, please contact Ann Marie Parker we'll get something out to you.

Details are (09) 360 3012 or annmariep@caringfoundation.org.nz

Misa de Gallo—We are delighted to announce that our parish will once again celebrate *Simbang Gabi* (Misa de Gallo), the traditional Filipino dawn novena preparing our hearts for Christ's coming at Christmas. The novena will take place from December 16 to 24, with Mass each morning at 5:30 AM. Simbang Gabi is a beautiful way to deepen our Advent journey through prayer, community, and devotion, joining millions of Filipinos worldwide in this cherished tradition. Each day will feature a special theme (please see posters at the foyer bulletin boards, with various parish groups and families serving as sponsors, musicians, and ministers. Everyone is warmly invited—Filipino or not—to join us in prayer and joyful expectation. Some mornings will also include simple hospitality. Please mark your calendars: December 16–24, 5:30 AM daily. Let us gather as one community and welcome Christ with humble and joyful hearts.



#### **Advent Season**

Advent is a sacred season of waiting, preparation, and hope. It marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year and invites the faithful to prepare their hearts for the coming of Christ—both in His birth at Christmas and in His promised return at the end of time. At its core, Advent reminds us of God's faithfulness throughout history and His ongoing presence in our lives. It calls us to slow down, reflect, and make room for Christ through prayer, repentance, and acts of love. The importance of Advent

calls us to slow down, reflect, and make room for Christ through prayer, repentance, and acts of love. The importance of Advent lies in its threefold focus:

- 1. Remembering Christ's First Coming We look back to the Incarnation—God becoming man in Jesus—to save and dwell among us.
- Welcoming Christ into Our Hearts Today Advent invites a spiritual renewal, encouraging us to grow in virtue, deepen our prayer, and live out the Gospel.
- 3. Awaiting Christ's Second Coming We look forward with hope to the day when Christ will come again in glory to bring God's kingdom to fullness.

Through its prayers, Scripture readings, and symbols such as the Advent wreath, the season teaches us to watch, wait, and stay faithful. Advent is a time of joyful expectation—a journey that prepares us to celebrate Christmas with renewed faith, gratitude, and peace.





**Parish Contacts** 

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Asst Parish Priest:

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Fr Praveen Lobo OFM Cap.
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Capuchin Friary Unmanned Mobile No.

Text Messages only +64 22 171 5669 **Principal Holy Cross School** 

Janice Borsos

borsosj@holycross.school.nz

**Liturgy & rosters:** Sr Akenese Nun Toon **akeholycross@gmail.com** 

Music: Tai Asiata taiholycross@gmail.com

Technical support: Mario Tionko

marioholycross@gmail.com

Donations/planned-giving: Jasmine Prem

accounts@hendersoncatholic.org.nz
Mass intentions & office queries:

Warren Herrera

secretary@hendersoncatholic.org.nz

Holy Cross Parish Henderson Baptism Program— We welcome families wishing to have their child baptised in our parish. Please note the following requirements: Child must be less than 7 years of age, Parents (or at least one) are Catholics, Parents (or at least one) must attend, Sponsors/Godparents (or at least one) need to attend. A Baptism Preparation Course is held every 3rd Friday of the month from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm and facilitated by the Missionaries of Charity Sisters. After attending the course, the Sisters will provide you with a form to email to the Parish Office to arrange a Baptism date. Baptisms are held on Saturdays only, at 10:30 am, 11:30 am, or 12:30 pm. For any inquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

First Advent Sunday 30th November 2025									
Mass	Vigil Sat 6pm	Sun 7am		Sun 9 am		Sun 10.30am		Sun 6pm	
Leader:	Julia Macuja	Lydia Ah-kuoi	•	Janice Borsos	•	Vui Tai Asiata	•	Anora D'Coata	
Reader 2:	Stephanie Alimagno •	Jean Soniega	•	Maria Jose	•	Maria de Hoog	•	Griselda Baptista	•
Reader 1:	Amy Macuja	Anita Gupta	•	Yolanda D'Rosario	•	Fisiílose Dolora Veatupu	•	Scarlet Baptista	
	Renante Alimagno •	Selestina Levave	•	Cherl Sinclair	•	Ngalo'afe Nau	•	Charmaine Monteiro	
Ministers of	Maria Alimagno •	Geraldine Sequera	•	Frank Borsos	•	Maria Faleusu	•	Kiara Monteiro •	
Holy Communion:	Jessica D'Silva		•	Chantal Sieglaar	•	Malia Seufatu	•	Neil Fernandes •	ð
	-		•	Malia Seufatu	•	Celino Orquejo	•	Beatrice Wilsor	
Collector:	Phyllis, Mark, & Elridge	Soniega Family		Men's Fellowship		Filemoni & Celino		Michael Eade / Flocy Membrere	
	Joseph Seo	Isabel de Jesus	•	Caroline Cibi	•	Jordan Solomon	•	Lui Alabastro -	)
Altar Servers:	Zephan Saldanha	Amanda de Jesus	•	Frencheska Perlas	•	Joseph Uale	•	Feeba Corray	
	Liam Kim	Titoa Smith	•	Lawrence Lolesio	•	Keyondre Uale	•	Jacob Alabastro •	
Music Ministry:		Quiet Mass						Couples for Christ	
Offertory									_
		Cleaning Tongan Community		No Flowers fo Advent	r	Children's Liturgy Missionaries of Charity Sisters			

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Second Sund	ay of Advent 6th	k 7th December 202	5		
Mass	Vigil Sat 6pm	Sun 7am	Sun 9 am	Sun 10.30am	Sun 6pm
Leader:	child •	Jean Soniega ▼	Fiona Tuffs (Pua) ▼	Sr Ake Nun Toon ▼	Gafatasi Endemann ▼
Reader 1:	child ▼	Seprina Veatupu ▼	Michael Smith ▼	Fisiílose Dolora Veatupu	Maria de Hoog ▼
Reader 2:	child	Nikolao Whyte ▼	Donalyn Dizon ▼	Agnes Benavides ▼	Gavin Colaco ▼
	Joisse Cueva ▼	Michael Mckeown ▼	Sherry Smith ▼	Ngalo'afe Nau ▼	Kiara Monteiro ▼
Ministers of	Miguel Padilla ▼	Ann Mckeown ▼	Noelene Earlly ▼	Malia Veatupu ▼	Charmaine Monteiro ▼
Holy Communion:	Renante Alimagno •	•	Piet Bakker ▼	Celino Orquejo ▼	Danielle Monteiro 🔻
	Maria Alimagno ▼	•	Pearlie Judd ▼	Jennifer Baptist ▼	Michael Eade ▼
Collector:	Phyllis, Mark, & Elridge	Soniega Family	Men's Fellowship	Filemoni & Celino	Michael Eade / Flocy Membrere
	Joseph Seo ▼	Amanda de Jesus ▼	Lawrence Lolesio ▼	Keyondre Uale ▼	Francewill •
Altar Servers:	Zephan Saldanha	Titoa Smith ▼	Caroline Cibi ▼	Jordan Solomon ▼	Ana Fernandes ▼
	Liam Kim	Isabel de Jesus ▼	Frencheska Perlas	Joseph Uale ▼	Feeba Corray ▼
Music Ministry:	Musica Christi	Quiet Mass	Sr Ake and friends	Tongan Community	Legion of Mary
Offertory	D'Silva Family				
		Cleaning Couples for Christ Redfern Family Sagote Family Samoan Family	No Flowers for Advent	Children's Liturgy Missionaries of Charity Sisters	