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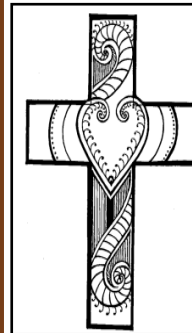
# The Brown Robe

**HOLY CROSS CHURCH - Henderson**  
*Served by the Capuchin Friars*



"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

## 7th of December 2025— Second Week of Advent (Year A)



**Responsorial Psalm Ps 72**  
**Response:** Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever!

**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".

### Repentance—the Foundation of Holiness!

*"I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."*  
*Matthew 3 : 11-12*

Though it is comforting to speak of the glories of Heaven and to anticipate being brought there by our Lord, it is necessary to also consider the reality of the unquenchable fires of hell. Pondering the reality of those unquenchable fires is something we should not neglect. Reflect today on the unquenchable fires of hell, and allow yourself to foster a burning desire to flee from every sin that leads to that end. As we enter the second week of the penitential season of Advent, ponder this warning from Saint John the Baptist. Hear him speak those words directly to you. We must fear sin and avoid it, as much as we want to avoid the unquenchable fires of hell. Start with this foundational truth, so that having fostered deep repentance, you are ready to turn your heart and mind toward the glorious promise of Heaven .

**Jesus, our Just Judge, You hold the winnowing fan in Your sacred hand and separate the righteous from the sinner. Please grant me the grace to see my sin clearly, so that I may humbly acknowledge it and turn from it with all my might. May I build this foundation of repentance during Advent, so that Christmas becomes an even greater time of union with You. Jesus, I trust in You.**



### Readings This Sunday

**First:** Isaiah 11: 1-10  
**Psalm:** 72  
**Second:** Romans 15: 4-9  
**Gospel:** Matthew 3: 1-12

### Readings Next Sunday

**First:** Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10  
**Psalm:** 146  
**Second:** James 5: 7-10  
**Gospel:** Matthew 11: 2-11

### 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 **Last day 17th Dec back 4th Feb**  
**Friday** Morning - 9 am  
**First Friday** of the month: Blessed Adoration at 6.30pm followed by Holy Mass at 7:30pm **Last day 5th Dec back 6th Feb**  
**Saturday** - 8am and 6pm Vigil Mass  
**Sunday** - 7am, 9am, 10:30am, 6pm

### CARING COMMUNITY

Drop-in every **Tuesday** after 9am Mass **back 3rd Feb**

### SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Every 3rd **Tuesday** of the month at 11am **back 18th Feb**

### 20 DECADE ROSARY

**Wednesday** –After 9am Mass **Last day 3rd Dec back 11th Feb**

### RECONCILIATION

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

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Thursday**– After 9am Mass till 12pm **Last day 17th Dec back 5th Feb**

### MEDITATION

Last **Friday** of the month at 10am

### BAPTISM COURSE

Every 3rd **Friday** of the month 5:30 pm at pastoral centre **No January**

### BAPTISM SCHEDULE

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

### HOLY CROSS CHILDREN'S MASS

Every **First Saturday** of the Month at 6pm **Back in February**

### 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 **back in February**

### DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET NOVENA & ROSARY

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

### PREFERENCE SIGNING None in January

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

### Scripture Readings for the week

<b>Monday</b>	Ps 98	Gen 3: 9-15, 2	Eph 1:3-6, 11-12	Luke 1: 26-38
<b>Tuesday</b>	Ps 96		Isa 40: 1-11	Mat 18: 12-14
<b>Wednesday</b>	Ps 103		Isa 40: 25-31	Mat 11: 28-30
<b>Thursday</b>	Ps 145		Isa 41: 13-20	Mat 11: 11-15
<b>Friday</b>	Jud 13		Zec 2: 14-17	Luke 1: 26-38
<b>Saturday</b>	Ps 80		Sir 48: 1-4, 9-11	Mat 17: 9a, 10-13

**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



**Office**—The parish office will be closed from 19 December 2026 and will reopen on 27 January 2026.

For any church enquiries during this period, please contact:

**Fr Praveen Lobo via email at [hccasstpriest@gmail.com](mailto:hccasstpriest@gmail.com) or by text message only on +64 22 171 5669**

From 20 January onwards, please contact:

**Fr Daniel Sitanggang via email at [hccasstparishpriest@gmail.com](mailto:hccasstparishpriest@gmail.com) or by text message only on +64 22 171 5669.**

**Priest**—Fr Ephrem will be on holiday from 27 December. Fr Daniel will be assisting in Papakura until the end of January. During this time, Fr Praveen will be managing the parish on his own throughout January; **therefore, there will be no preference signing and unscheduled baptisms.**

**Caring Community**—would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to Holy Cross Catholic School Year 2 students who entertain the seniors parishioners with their beautiful singing at the Christmas Celebrations.

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

**Immaculate Conception**—On Monday, 8 December, we will celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother with 2 Masses; Morning Mass at 9 am and Evening Mass at 7 pm.

**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

**The Road to the Manger (Little Hearts, Shine Bright: An Advent Adventure for Children)**—The Missionary of Charity Sisters along with Bro. Matthew, joyfully invites all children aged 3 and above to a fun-filled afternoon on Saturday, 20th December, from 2:00–4:00 PM at the Parish Pastoral Centre! Children under 7 must be accompanied by a parent, and if your little ones would love to join the celebration, please register at the Parish Office.

**Holy Cross Parish Henderson Rite II Reconciliation**—will be held on Tuesday 23rd December at 7 pm.

**10:30 am Mass**— **Starting the first Sunday of February, we will be moving the 10:30 am Mass to 11 am. This change has been approved by the Bishop and his approval letter is posted in the Notice Board.**

**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. Please see our notice board for more details.

**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](mailto:annmariep@caringfoundation.org.nz)

Advent Wreath & Meaning of Each Candle

The Advent wreath is a beautiful symbol the Church uses to help us prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Its circular shape represents God’s eternal love—without beginning or end. The evergreen branches remind us of the hope of eternal life.

The wreath holds four candles, each representing a key theme of Advent. Traditionally, three candles are purple (symbolizing penance and preparation) and one is rose (symbolizing joy).

First Candle – The Prophet’s Candle (Hope)

**Colour:** Purple. **Meaning:** Hope and expectation. **Symbolism:** Reminds us of the prophets—especially Isaiah—who foretold the coming of the Messiah. **Message:** We wait with hope for Christ, the Light of the world.

Second Candle – The Bethlehem Candle (Love / Faith / Preparation)

**Colour:** Purple. **Meaning:** Love, Faith, and preparation. **Symbolism:** Represents Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem and our own call to prepare the way for the Lord. **Message:** We prepare our hearts to welcome Christ.



**Parish Contacts**

**Parish Priest:**  
Fr Ephrem Tigga OFM Cap.  
[hccparishpriest@gmail.com](mailto:hccparishpriest@gmail.com)

**Asst Parish Priest:**  
Fr Daniel Sitanggang OFM Cap.  
[hccasstparishpriest@gmail.com](mailto:hccasstparishpriest@gmail.com)

**Asst Capuchin Priest**  
Fr Praveen Lobo OFM Cap.  
[hccasstpriest@gmail.com](mailto:hccasstpriest@gmail.com)

**Capuchin Friary Unmanned Mobile No.**  
Text Messages only  
**+64 22 171 5669**

**Principal Holy Cross School**  
Janice Borsos  
[borsosj@holycross.school.nz](mailto:borsosj@holycross.school.nz)

**Liturgy & rosters:** Sr Akenese Nun Toon  
[akeholycross@gmail.com](mailto:akeholycross@gmail.com)

**Music:** Tai Asiata  
[taiholycross@gmail.com](mailto:taiholycross@gmail.com)

**Technical support:** Mario Tionko  
[marioholycross@gmail.com](mailto:marioholycross@gmail.com)

**Donations/planned-giving:** Jasmine Prem  
[accounts@hendersoncatholic.org.nz](mailto:accounts@hendersoncatholic.org.nz)

**Mass intentions & office queries:**  
Warren Herrera  
[secretary@hendersoncatholic.org.nz](mailto:secretary@hendersoncatholic.org.nz)


**Christmas Mass Times**

**24th December**

Children’s Mass—6:00 pm  
Carols—10:00 pm to 10:45 pm  
Christmas Vigil Mass—11:00 pm

**Christmas Day Masses**  
7:00 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, and no evening Mass

**Boxing Day Mass**



9:00 am Mass


**New Years Mass Times**

**31st December**

Adoration—8:45 pm to 9:45 pm  
New Year’s Eve Mass—10:00 pm

**New Year’s Day Masses**  
9:00 am Mass only

**All morning Masses will be celebrated through out January**



Second Sunday of Advent 6th & 7th December 2025					
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	Fisiiflose Dolora Veatupu	Maria de Hoog
Reader 2:	child	Nikolao Whyte	Donalyn Dizon	Agnes Benavides	Gavin Colaco
Ministers of Holy Communion:	Joisse Cueva	Michael Mckeown	Sherry Smith	Ngalo'afe Nau	Kiara Monteiro
	Miguel Padilla	Ann Mckeown	Noelene Earlyly	Malia Veatupu	Charmaine Monteiro
	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
Altar Servers:	Joseph Seo	Amanda de Jesus	Lawrence Lolesio	Keyondre Uale	Francewill
	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	

Third Sunday of Advent 12th & 13th December 2025					
Mass	Vigil Sat 6pm	Sun 7am	Sun 9 am	Sun 10.30am	Sun 6pm
Leader :	Margie del Rosario	Lydia Ah-kuoi	Katie-Ann Vaka'uta	Lourdes Fonoti	Katherine Tanginoa
Reader 1:	Stephanie Alimagno	Anita Gupta	Brigid Ann McGrath	Sandy Mary Fonoti	Nikolao Whyte
Reader 2:	Wayne Coelho	Frances Martinez	Michael Smith	Joy Mati	Sue Ivceovich
Ministers of Holy Communion:	Maria Alimagno	Winnie Veikoso	Sherry Smith	Sandy Mary Finoti	Neil Fernandes
	Jessica D'Silva	Selestina Levave	Sione Vakauta	Frances Ieremia	Helan Roy
	Renante Alimagno		Teresa Malone	Elizabeth Tofeano ...	Michael Eade
	Joisse Cueva		Cheryl Sinclair	Melitta Cadelis	Mary Sarunija Mohan
Collector:	Phyllis, Mark, & Elridge	Soniega Family	Men's Fellowship	Filemoni & Celino	Michael Eade / Flocy Membrere
Altar Servers:	Joseph Seo	Titoa Smith	Frencheska Perlas	Keyondre Uale	
	Liam Kim	Amanda de Jesus	Lawrence Lolesio	Jordan Solomon	
	Zephan Saldanha	Isabel de Jesus	Caroline Cibi	Joseph Uale	
Music Ministry:	Secular Franciscan	Quiet Mass	Vakauta Family	Samoan Community	Betham Family
Offertory					
		Cleaning Ahio & Veatupu Family Siemsen Family Missionary Families of Christ	No Flowers for Advent	Children's Liturgy Missionaries of Charity Sisters	