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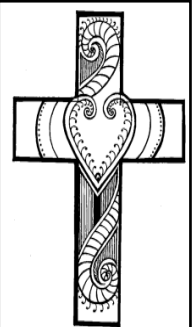
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"If you should fail, be humble, make a resolution to be submissive to God's will and then get up, and carry on"-Padre Pio

14th of December 2025— Third Week of Advent (Year A)

	Responsorial Psalm Ps 146 Response: Lord, come and save us!	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
	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".	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



Rejoicing in the Cross!

"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." *Matthew 11 : 4-6*

Imagine being our Blessed Mother who witnessed it all, stood by her Son as He endured His Cross, and rejoiced with Him when He rose. Unquestionably, if we asked our Blessed Mother whether she preferred to see a few miracles from her Son or to witness His perfect sacrifice that brought salvation to the world, her holy and sorrowful heart would choose the latter.

Reflect today on these questions within the context of your own life. When you pray, do you primarily ask for favors, blessings, or miracles? Or do you primarily pray for the Cross? Do you see greater value in having God remove some suffering from your life or in transforming your suffering by the power of His Cross? Ask for the grace to die with our Lord, to become a living sacrifice of love, and to have the strength to lay down your life for others. By choosing that which has eternal value, you choose the better part and will rejoice in that better part forever.

My sacrificial Lord, You invite me to take no offense at Your suffering and death; to see beyond the pain, blood, and physical death; and to discover the unfathomable riches of Your Sacrifice. Please give me the eyes of faith to see the value of not only accepting Your Cross, but also to see the value of living Your Passion in my own life by laying down my life with You. Jesus, I trust in You.

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

Scripture Readings for the week			
Monday	Ps 25	Num 24: 2-7, 15-17	Mat 21: 23-27
Tuesday	Ps 34	Zep 3: 1-2, 9-13	Mat 21: 28-32
Wednesday	Ps 72	Gen 49: 2, 8-10	Mat 1: 1-17
Thursday	Ps 72	Jer 23: 5-8	Mat 1: 18-25
Friday	Ps 71	Jud 13: 2-7, 24-25a	Luke 1: 5-28
Saturday	Ps 24	Isa 7: 10-14	Luke 1: 26-38

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 **19th December 2025 and will reopen on 27th January 2026.**

For any church enquiries during this period, please contact:

Fr Praveen Lobo via email at hccasstpriest@gmail.com or by text message only on +64 22 171 5669

From 20th January onwards, please contact:

Fr Daniel Sitanggang via email at hccasstpriest@gmail.com or by text message only on +64 22 171 5669.

Priest—Fr Ephrem will be on holiday from 27th December. Fr Daniel will be assisting in Papakura until the 20th January. During this time, Fr Praveen will be managing the parish on his own until 19th of January (then he will be covering Meadowbank), then Fr Daniel will take over by himself until the 14th of February; **therefore, there will be no preference signing and unscheduled baptisms.**

Devotions:

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

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

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

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

Others:

Morning Tea Drop In—Last Day 25th of November and will resume 3rd of February

Sacrament of the Sick— Last Day 25th of November and will resume 17th of February

Preference Signing—Last day 16th of December and will resume 10th of February

Baptism Course—Last course 19th of December and will resume 20th of February

Brown Robe Bulletin—Last publication 21st December will resume 1st of February

Vinnies Food Bank—Close on 15th December and will resume 16th of February

St Vincent de Paul Society—The St Vincent de Paul Society, Henderson would like to thank you for your ongoing support & prayers. Members will be outside the church accepting donations after all masses next weekend. If you wish to donate online, 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.

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.

Unfortunately the Website is down and we are trying to get it up and running. Our Facebook page is up as well as the WhatsApp group chat. Please scan the QR Code above to get information regarding the Bulletin and Office close.



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 Prophecy 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 Angel’s Candle (Peace) Colour: Purple. **Meaning:** Peace. **Symbolism:** Reminds us of the angels’ message: “Peace on earth and good will to all.”. **Message:** Christ comes to bring peace to our hearts and to the world.

Third Candle – The Shepherd’s Candle (Joy) Colour: Rose. **Meaning:** Joy— Gaudete Sunday. **Symbolism:** Reflects the joy the shepherds felt when they heard the good news of Jesus’ birth. **Message:** In the midst of Advent’s penitential spirit, we rejoice that the Lord is near.





Parish Contacts

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Asst Capuchin Priest
Fr Praveen Lobo OFM Cap.
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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

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



Third Sunday of Advent 13th & 14th 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 Ivcevich
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
	Joissee 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:	Musica Christy	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	

Fourth Advent Sunday 20th & 21st December 2025					
Mass	Vigil Sat 6pm	Sun 7am	Sun 9 am	Sun 10.30am	Sun 6pm
Leader :	Warren Herrera	Bonita Smith	Janice Borsos	Sr Ake Nun Toon	Anora D'Coata
Reader 1:	Ingrid D'Silva	Mary Turnwald	Cheryl Sinclair	Maria Kumitau	Kimberley Suan
Reader 2:	Maria Elena Evans	Frances Ah Ken	Yolanda D'Rosario	Gemma Dominguez	Griselda Baptista
Ministers of Holy Communion:	Michael Mckeown	Geraldine Sequera	Frank Borsos	Celino Orquejo	Beatrice Wilsor
	Josephina Kim	Selestina Levave	Piet Bakker	Maria Faleusu	Anna Manoharan
	Lloyd de Melo		Clare Connoly	Malia Seufatu	Neil Fernandes
			Pearlie Judd	Suzette Orquejo	Mary Sarunija Moh...
Collector:	Phyllis, Mark, & Elridge	Soniega Family	Men's Fellowship	Filemoni & Celino	Michael Eade / Flocy Membrere
Altar Servers:	Zephan Saldanha	Amanda de Jesus	Caroline Cibi	Jordan Solomon	
	Joseph Seo	Titoa Smith	Lawrence Lolesio	Keyondre Uale	
	Liam Kim	Isabel de Jesus	Frencheska Perlas	Joseph Uale	
Music Ministry:	Secular Franciscan	Quiet Mass	Lesatele Family	Akl Choral Ensemble	Legion of Mary
Offertory					
		Cleaning Secular Franciscans Men's Fellowship Legion of Mary	No Flowers for Advent	Children's Liturgy Missionaries of Charity Sisters	