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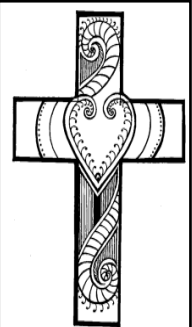
HOLY CROSS CHURCH - Henderson

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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

21st of December 2025— Fourth Week of Advent (Year A)

	Responsorial Psalm Ps 24 Response: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory !	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

Saint Joseph, Our Patron and Protector!



Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her." Matthew 1 : 20

As our Advent season enters its final week, we are reminded of the role that Jesus' foster father played not only in the life of the Holy Family, but also about the role Saint Joseph continues to play in the life of the Church and in each one of our lives. His intercessory power from Heaven is great, and we should not hesitate to call upon his prayers, especially when we need protection, struggle with fear, or face some grave challenge.

Reflect today on your personal devotion to Saint Joseph. Ponder, especially, his deep faith and obedience to the will of God as was communicated to him in a dream. Strive to imitate that obedience in your own life, never hesitating to undertake the mission God has given you. Turn to Saint Joseph in prayer and know that his powerful intercession will help protect you and win God's grace in the areas you need it the most.

Saint Joseph, you were a holy and righteous man, entrusted with the guardianship of the Mother of God and the Son of God. You fulfilled your role faithfully and continue that role from Heaven, protecting all of God's children through your intercession. Please pray for me, that I will imitate your obedience and will be protected from all sin so as to fulfil the unique role God has given me.

Saint Joseph, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Readings This Sunday	Readings Next Sunday	Scripture Readings for the week																								
First: Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm: 24 Second: Romans 1: 1-7 Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-24	First: Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14 Psalm: 128 Second: Col 3: 12-21 Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23	<table> <tr> <td>Monday</td> <td>1 Sam 2</td> <td>1 Sam 1: 24-28</td> <td>Luke 1: 46-56</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday</td> <td>Ps 25</td> <td>Mal 3: 1-4, 4: 5-6</td> <td>Luke 1: 57-66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday</td> <td>Ps 89</td> <td>2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16</td> <td>Luke 1: 67-79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday</td> <td>Ps 98</td> <td>Isa 52: 7-10</td> <td>Heb 1: 1-6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>Ps 31</td> <td>Acts 6: 8-10; 54-59</td> <td>Mat 10: 17-22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>Ps 97</td> <td>1 John 1: 1-4</td> <td>John 20: 1a & 2-8</td> </tr> </table>	Monday	1 Sam 2	1 Sam 1: 24-28	Luke 1: 46-56	Tuesday	Ps 25	Mal 3: 1-4, 4: 5-6	Luke 1: 57-66	Wednesday	Ps 89	2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16	Luke 1: 67-79	Thursday	Ps 98	Isa 52: 7-10	Heb 1: 1-6	Friday	Ps 31	Acts 6: 8-10; 54-59	Mat 10: 17-22	Saturday	Ps 97	1 John 1: 1-4	John 20: 1a & 2-8
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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

HOLY CROSS PARISH HENDERSON END OF YEAR MESSAGE

As we come to the close of this year, we extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your generous support of Holy Cross Parish. Through your donations, your faithful service in our ministries, and the many hours of voluntary work you have shared, our parish has continued to grow as a living community of faith, hope, and love.

Your kindness and commitment have touched many lives and strengthened our mission to serve God and one another. We are deeply grateful for all that you do—often quietly and humbly—for the good of our parish and the wider community.

As we celebrate the joy of Christmas and look ahead to the New Year, may God bless you and your families abundantly. May we continue, together, to walk in faith and carry on these good works in the year to come. Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled, joyful New Year.



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 hccasstparishpriest@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

RCIA—Close on 9th December and will resume 20th January

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.*

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 goodwill 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.

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



Parish Contacts

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Asst Capuchin Priest

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

Text Messages only
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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

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



VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- THE NATIVITY SCENE AND THE CHRISTMAS TREE ARE SIGNS OF FAITH AND HOPE, POPE LEO XIV SAID.

"As we contemplate them in our homes, parishes and town squares, let us ask the Lord to renew in us the gift of peace and fraternity," he said, calling for prayers for all those who suffer because of war and violence. "We must eliminate hatred from our hearts."

The pope was speaking Dec. 15 during a meeting with the government representatives, artisans and donors responsible for providing the Christmas decorations in the Paul VI Audience Hall and in St. Peter's Square.

Pope Leo thanked the Costa Rican artist who created the Nativity scene for the audience hall, titled "Nacimiento Gaudium." Created by Paula Sáenz Soto, it features a pregnant Virgin Mary and 28,000 coloured ribbons, each representing a life saved from abortion thanks to the prayers and support provided to many mothers in difficulty by Catholic organizations, according to a press release by the Vatican City State's governing office.

Pope Leo XIV stops to pray in front of the Nativity scene in the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican Dec. 15, 2025. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

On Christmas Eve, the statue will be replaced with a different image of Mary kneeling in adoration of the newborn Baby Jesus, and 400 ribbons will be placed in Jesus' manger containing prayers and wishes written by young patients at the National Children's Hospital in San José.

"I thank the Costa Rican artist who, together with the message of peace at Christmas, also wanted to launch an appeal for the protection of life from the moment of conception," Pope Leo said.

"The Nativity scene and the Christmas tree are signs of faith and hope," he said to all those present. "Let the tenderness of the child Jesus illuminate our lives. Let God's love, like the branches of an evergreen tree, remain fervent in us."

The pope thanked those from a small town in the northern autonomous province of Bolzano who donated the 82-foot-tall Norway spruce weighing 8.8 tons that was to be lit in a special ceremony Dec. 15 when the large Nativity scene in the square would be unveiled.

"For pilgrims from all over the world who will gather in St. Peter's Square, the Nativity scene will remind them that God draws close to humanity, becomes one of us, entering our history in the smallness of a child," the pope said.

"Before every Nativity scene, even those made in our homes, we relive that event and rediscover the need to seek moments of silence and prayer in our lives, to find ourselves and enter into communion with God," he said.

The Nativity scene in St. Peter's Square for 2025 came from a diocese south of Naples, not far from the Amalfi coast. Among the gifts being offered by the shepherds are agricultural products famous from the region, such as San Marzano and Corbarino tomatoes, walnuts, spring onions and artichokes.

Both the creche and the tree were to be in St. Peter's Square until Jan. 11 -- the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Actors take part in a live Nativity scene at Rome’s Basilica of St. Mary Major Dec. 13, 2025. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

The Vatican City State governing office said that the tree's needles and green branches will be sent to an Austrian company to extract its essential oils, and the wood will be donated to a charity.

When Pope Leo met Dec. 13 with hundreds of people acting in a living Nativity scene being held at Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major, he said the creche "is an important sign: it reminds us that we are part of a wondrous adventure of salvation in which we are never alone". "Spread this message and keep this tradition alive. They are a gift of light for our world, which so badly needs to be able to continue to hope," he said.