

19 DECEMBER 2010 : 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

Thank You

This is the final newsletter before we celebrate the birth of Christ. The invisible God has chosen to speak to us in and through the person of Jesus.

‘He who is ‘God’s Word, made flesh’.

Whatever God has to tell us has been made real in the words, actions and personality of Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem, grew up in Nazareth and was put to death in Jerusalem.

We have been preparing for the entry of our Saviour into our world through the very rich liturgical time of Advent. I hope each of us has prepared well to receive Christ into our lives this Christmas.

As a Parish we have already begun that preparation when we joined the parishioners of St John’s Presbyterian Church to celebrate our combined Advent liturgy. Then last Wednesday evening the Church was full as we sung with our own Choir, the Young Angels Voices, the Salvation Army Band and Father Chris Skinner at ‘Carols with the Angels’. On Friday evening we will begin celebrating the beautiful liturgies of Christmas.

All of these liturgies involve enormous amounts of work by many people. In fact the whole running of the Parish involves so many generous individuals and groups. It is impossible to name each of you.

However, I sincerely thank you all. You are ‘the parts’ which make up the ‘Body of Christ’. You ensure that St Mary of the Angels continues to function as a vibrant and beautiful place of worship; ‘an oasis in the middle of our city’.

May God abundantly bless you all this Christmas and richly reward you for your commitment and generosity to this wonderful Parish of St Mary of the Angels.

Father Barry Scannell s.m.

Give God 9 months and let Him equip you for the rest of your life

The Catholic Discipleship College in Takapuna is taking applications for the 2011 residential year. Spaces and financial assistance are available but are limited. See www.cdc.ac.nz for details.

Praying Advent for Christmas

You are invited to contemplate the Mystery of Christ in Song and Silence Through the *O Antiphons* and *Marian Hymns* Of the Church’s ancient Advent Liturgy

**Thursdays of Advent (Dec 23)
12.30 to 12.50pm** (after 12.05 Mass)

Singing will be led by the choir of St Mary of the Angels

Recently Deceased: Peter van Zijl

Anniversaries: Paul Jenkins, Dorothy Martin, Ray McKone, Marie Giles, Diana Bartram, Pat Henry, Mary Gilmore, Josefina Adelaida.

Special Intentions: 4

Prayers for the Sick: Patricia Smyth, Ron Blair, Cecilia Dickson, Da Van Luyn, Oinah Macpherson, Paul Gibbs, Maria Kasperowicz, Dulcie Campbell, David Campbell, Mary Egan, Des Cartright, Paul Carr, Jan Tuinman, Carolyne Collins, Anna Zonotti, Marion Hyland, Helen Havasi, Nomaza Sidima-Jacob, Paul Rajan, Peter Schmidt, Mary Jarvis, Angela Hong, Peter Tawhaki, Imelda Reeve, Stephanie Carr, Paul Giles, Edward Gibbs, Vicki McPhee, Kathleen Roskam, Alexandra Southeran, Marianna Grinskis, Jameson Sinclair.

Sunday 30 January to Thursday 3 February, 2011.

Fr Laurence Freeman OSB returns to New Zealand to lead a 4-day CHRISTIAN MEDITATION SILENT RETREAT WAIKATO UNIVERSITY, HAMILTON Seeing the World for the First Time: Meditation, Ecology, and the New Creation Accommodation: Single rooms, with key. All linen provided. Shared bathrooms for every 6 bedrooms. Kitchenettes with tea, coffee, & milk. There is a chapel on the campus. Travel: Waikato University is situated on Knighton Road and is easily accessible from Hamilton Airport. For further information and for Registration Forms call Raewyn (07) 549 4005 or raewynblair@netsmart.net.nz or Jane (09) 361-4657 or Jenny n.keating@clear.net.nz

The Latest Album from **Chris Skinner** is now available from the Parish Office for \$33. The Album contains 14 original songs inspired by his recent overseas renewal time. ‘God comes to us Like A Beautiful Day’
