



Catholic Parish of Whangarei

www.whangareicatholic.org.nz

(09)437 7902

Gaudete Sunday

Today we light the Pink Candle.

The first two readings speak to us of the Joy and Happiness God wants to give us.

To **Exalt** God is to praise and thank our God. When we **Exult** we jump for Joy. Amidst the uncertainties of this time St Paul says not to worry and to pray to God for what we need.

In Today's Gospel the people ask "what must we do"?

The response is to do deeds of justice and care for one another.

John the Baptist baptised with water. We share in the Baptism of Jesus – we are baptised in the Holy Spirit and Fire. The fire is the fire of love. I pray for the healing love and forgiveness for all.

Gathering for Masses:

I want to express my gratitude to the Parish teams who provide the welcome and check in for our Masses. Without you we cannot gather.

Thank you also to Deacons Jim and Nimo who prepare a LoWHC for any overflow for Weekend Masses.

A reminder, if you have booked in for a Mass – please don't be late. We have had some "no shows"!

Christmas Masses

We currently have a 100 persons limit for Masses.

Christmas being a Saturday – you could consider attending one of the Sunday Masses rather than all trying to go on Christmas Eve or Christmas day.

Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family.

Prayers for the Sick:

Bettie Niemand (South Africa) mother of Erna Laubsher.

Pandemic Prayer

Mary Most Holy and Beloved Mother, help us realise that we are all members of one great family and to recognise the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves,
O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

Excerpt from Pope Francis' prayer to Mary for the end of the pandemic
May 04, 2021.