



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
Third Sunday of Advent



14th December 2025

Notes from Yukiko's Desk



Dear AGAC whanau,

Last Sunday, our parishioners, Amanda, Angela and Bob were confirmed together with 26 other candidates from 12 parishes across Auckland at the Holy Trinity Cathedral. Several parishioners from AGAC were there to join this special occasion.



The service was a beautiful reminder of God's faithfulness and the Spirit's ongoing work among us. As I watched each candidate step forward, I was struck by the courage it takes to publicly affirm one's faith in

today's world. Regardless of their age, they stood before us, not as perfect disciples, but as willing ones, ready to journey deeper with Christ. The laying on of hands and anointing with oil spoke powerfully of God's blessing and commissioning.

It was not just a moment for them, but for all of us, as we were invited to renew our own baptismal promises and remember that the Spirit equips us for service, witness, and love.

In my culture, there is a saying, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step".

Confirmation is one more step on the

journey we are making with God. Confirmation is in fact not the



beginning of that journey. We begin our walk with God before we can crawl. Many steps lead us to know God and there are many new discoveries to be made following the commitment of Confirmation. Yet, this is an important landmark where the public declaration is

made of our willingness to follow Christ and serve the Church and the community. Congratulations on making that step, Amanda, Angela and Bob!

Next year, the Bishop will come to our parish to do the confirmation service for Jonathan and Dorothy S. If you have not done yet, I am inviting you to consider joining.

Joyfully in Christ,

Yukiko

News and Upcoming Events



We had our 2nd graduation for our Space programme. The participants received their certificate and wore a graduation cap! It is such a joy to see babies glowing. Thank you for your support and prayers. We will begin our third programme in the second term next year.



Morning Tea @ Settler's

Next meeting: **10am Wednesday 17th December** at Settler's Lounge. This will be the last morning tea for the year. Beginning again 10am Wednesday 18th February 2026. All are welcome!

We are collecting food items for Auckland City Mission this Sunday, 14th Dec.

Donated items should be non-perishable items such as canned food, spread, and pasta. Also, it would be nice for the food parcels to include treat food such as Christmas mince pies, biscuits, and nuts. I will take whatever we have collected to the City Mission office on the 18th December.

We pray for:

- Our administrator, Roger Sharp, who had a stroke last week. Also pray for his family, especially Dot.
- Those people experiencing loneliness and bereavement as Christmas approaches. May they receive comfort and support in this time of year.
- the Christian community in Pakistan, as they are mourning after Pastor Kamran was martyred in a targeted shooting by unidentified assailants last week.

This Week's Bible Question

What does James encourage the brethren to establish in their hearts? A. Fear B. Doubt. Patience. Anger

This Week's Service Songs at Holy Cross

Opening: The First Noel
Gospel: O Come Ye Faithful
Offertory: It came upon a Midnight Clear
Recession: Joy to the World
Music: Stephanie and Trish Gosper

Sentence for the day

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.
Isaiah 35:3-4

Readings this week

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm Ps 146: 5-10
2nd Reading: James 5: 7-1-
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-2-11

Summary of the Scripture

- 1st Reading: In a time of political, social & spiritual uncertainty the prophet declares a message of hope and confirms the status of Mt Zion in Jerusalem
- 2nd reading: The writer, in expectation of Christ's Second Coming, pleads for patience.
- Gospel: John the Baptist, now in prison, seeks reassurance regarding the ministry of Jesus as Messiah.

Collect for the Day

**Terror and doom, and wrath to come,
John your herald preached
to bring us to repentance;
open our eyes, almighty God,
show us our sin, and grant us forgiveness.
Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.**

Liturgical Colour: Violet

This Week's Bible Question Answer :C



Christmas Services at AGAC



Rosters

Holy Cross

	<u>14th December</u>
Sacristan	Karenne
Welcomer	Alison Thompson
1 Readings	Diane Harris
2 Readings	Patrick Harris
Presiding	Les
Prayers	Rhona Stace
TV Setup & Slides	Gary Wells
Morning Tea	Gary & Linda
Flowers	Diana
Music	TBC

St Michaels

	<u>14th December</u>
Prayers& Presiding	Les
Readings	Brian Simpson

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Feedback welcome:

If you have feedback on any aspect of our church activities, please contact the wardens, Dorothy & Trish – contacts as above – or via the office at the email above.

Albany Greenhithe Anglican Parish

Bank details: ASB – 12-3136-0041622-00

www.agac.org.nz

Third Sunday of Advent

Jesus, Messiah,
help us to see you at work in our lives,
especially in the moments
where we feel alone and discouraged.

Help us to cry out your coming,
and to hear the prophets of the good news
whom you send to encourage and remind us
you are already here.

Amen.



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