

*Living out the love of Christ in our worship and service to all people.*

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## **Welcome**

A warm welcome to everyone. We are glad you have joined us in this celebration of our life of faith in God. There is a special church area to help children feel at home here, and we hope you will join us for morning tea after the Service.

### **The Bible Readings for today - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 35: 1-10

James 5: 7-10

Matthew 11: 2-11



## **INTRODUCTION**

From Bishop Peter:

This coming **Sunday, 14 December 2025** is **Advent 3**. The epistle reading is **James 5:7-10**. It is impossible to escape the words “patient/patience/endurance” when reading this passage (6x in the NRSV). In Advent we are challenged, as years go by and the Lord does not return, to “Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord.”

## Sentence

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*

## Collect

**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.**

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## Notices

**Vestry meets today** – in the Oswald lounge at 11.45 am.

**Bible Study for Advent** – the last meeting **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**, cuppa and chat at 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start (approx. 1 hour), reflection on the readings for Advent 3 - "Joy" and Advent 4 – "Love"; to be held at St Chad's Church, 1 Carnarvon Street, Linwood.

**The Women's Coffee Group** meets on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December** at 2pm in the Eastgate Mall food court. All welcome. Contact Carole on 021 0504 811.

**Christingle Service at St Chad's Church** - At our next Sunday Service (on 21<sup>st</sup>) we will be making Christingles. Please bring two oranges – one for yourself and one to give away.

**Market Day last Saturday (29<sup>th</sup>)** – once again, a big thank you to Julie Williams for organising the market and to all those who helped in any way. We raised \$1126.60 for the day, which is about 10% more than we made in the market day a couple of months ago, and three times what we made in the market day this time last year. Very pleasing – thank you all.

Weekly activities at both Church sites & bookshop		
Day	Activity	Time
<b>(A) = St Ambrose site</b>		<b>(C) = St Chad's site</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Morning Prayer	<b>(A)</b> 9.45am
	Food Bank and Cafe	<b>(A)</b> 10am—12 Noon
	Handiscope	<b>(A)</b> <i>Closed reopens 11/2/26</i>
	Foot Clinic	<b>(C)</b> <i>Closed reopens 13/1/26</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Op Shop	<b>(C)</b> 9am to 12 noon
	Eucharist	<b>(C)</b> 10am
	Parish Prayer Group	Temporarily in abeyance
<b>Thursday</b>	Elder Care Group	<b>(A)</b> 10am—12.30pm
<b>Friday</b>	Op Shop	<b>(C)</b> <i>Closed reopens 14/1/26</i>
	Morning Prayer	<b>(A)</b> 9.45 am
	Food Bank, Café and Firewood	<b>(A)</b> <i>Closed reopens 13/1/26</i>
	Te Reo Service	<b>(C)</b> <i>Will restart 16/1/26</i>
	Community Lunch - cost of meal \$5.00	<b>(C)</b> <i>Closed reopens 9/1/26</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	Messy Church	<b>(A)</b> <i>Will restart 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in February 2026</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	Eucharist	<b>(C)</b> 10am
<b><u>At the Barnabas Bookshop site - at 121 Seaview Road, New Brighton, in the mall there behind the Happy Feet shop.</u></b>		
<b>Days open</b>	Tuesday through Saturday inclusive (excludes Public Holidays)	Tuesday 10am to 4pm

<b><u>Next Week's Bible Readings — 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</u></b>		
Isaiah 7: 10-16	Romans 1: 1-7	Matthew 1: 18-25

## **PARISH DIRECTORY for Linwood - Aranui**

**Website:** [www.linwood-aranuianglicanparish.com](http://www.linwood-aranuianglicanparish.com)

**Deacon - Curate:** Rev'd Dr André Muller 022 027 5913

**Supervising Priest:** Ven Katrina Hill 029 770 3098

**Messy Church Co-ordinator:** Rev'd Anne Russell-Brighty 027 436 6828

**Parish Recorder:** Adrian Brighty 027 824 3607

**Bishop's Warden:** Max Joines 384 1934

**People's Warden:** Billy Pamatangi 022 618 8420

**Parish Manager:** Martin Witty 021 222 2007

**Community Worker:** Menna Harries 022 691 3261

***St Chad's Church is at the corner of Carnarvon Street and Buckleys Road***

**Office – at St Chad's:** Hours 9-noon Wed, Fri 389 5833

**Email:** [linwoodstchads@gmail.com](mailto:linwoodstchads@gmail.com)

***St Ambrose Church is at 309 Breezes Road, just off Pages Road***

**Office – at St Ambrose:** Hours 10-noon Tues, Fri 388 6699

**Email:** [stambrose@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stambrose@xtra.co.nz)

***If you want to make a donation to the Parish, our bank account is:***

***Name : Parish of Linwood — Aranui; No: 03-1700-0214522-00.***

### **Humour**

As it was such a nice day, the priest called the church to say he was too sick to take morning service that Sunday. He loaded up his fishing gear and went down to the beach.

God, watching from above, didn't think the Priest should get away with this. He called one of the angels over to watch what he was going to do.

The priest cast his line and immediately caught a 100 kilogram fish, the biggest he had ever seen in his entire life, let alone caught.

"I thought you were going to punish him?" said the angel, disappointed.

"I have", replied God. "Who is he going to tell?"