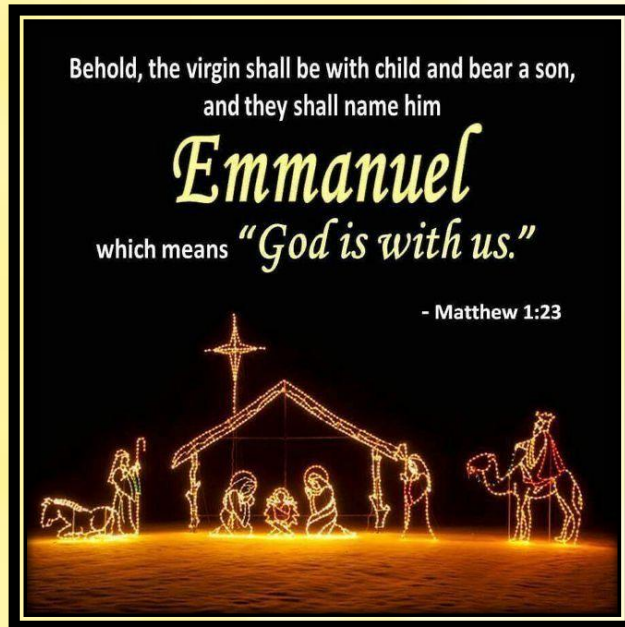




**NEWSLETTER**  
December 2024



**Chairperson's message**

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding path shall be made straight and the rough ways made smooth and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' Luke 3:4b-7

Seasons greetings. As we go through Advent, I pray that you are all finding time in the midst of the busyness to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Here are some extracts from Mons Frank Eggleton's homily given at Charis NZ NSC meeting on 8/12/24.

John the Baptist hammered home a basic message, over and over. "The Messiah is among you. Prepare for Him by repenting of your sins." When John proclaimed, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight and smooth, fill in every valley, flatten every hill," he wasn't talking geography. He was talking religion....

Advent marks the beginning of a new Church Year. It is a time for new beginnings. During Advent, we open ourselves to John's preaching. We look deeply into our hearts and repent of all self-absorption, of all rebellion and of all sin. Our focus must be on our own sin, not the sin of others...Prepare well for the Sacrament of Reconciliation...What valleys separate you from God and need to be filled in?

### **Our Vision**

To lead people into a deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and develop the fullness of the Holy Spirit in the lives of all believers, especially by restoring the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as a normal part of Catholic Church life.

### **Mission Statement**

ACCPGN seeks to serve the Catholic Church by being one of the agents and instruments of the Holy Spirit working for the ongoing renewal and growth of the Church today.

You can still register for the pray more Advent retreat and get 12 talks to listen to in your own time. <https://praymoreretreat.org/2024-advent-retreat/> As we come to the end of the year let us give thanks and praise to God for all the grace and blessings we have received from Him this year. It was great to see so many prayer group members praising God and having fun together at our end of year event on Saturday November 30th. Many thanks to service group members and all those who helped with various tasks. You can see some photos on our facebook page.

I would like to thank my team, Engelbert, Anne, Elsa, Nigel and Noel, also Fr Rory and all prayer group leaders and core team members for all the prayer, time and effort they have put into activities this year.

Our congratulations go to Engelbert and Debra on the recent marriage of their daughter Gabrielle to Dan Fraser.

### **Here is a preview of events planned for early 2025.**

Noel and Nigel will host a prayer meeting every Tuesday evening in January 2025 at Sacred Heart Hall, Ponsonby, 7- 8.30pm. While your leaders take a break come and praise God with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Family and friends are welcome.

We are planning to start the year with a Retreat for everyone, on Saturday Feb 22, at Sacred Heart Church and hall, Ponsonby. We will send out a flyer in the New Year.

There will be a Healing of the Family Tree seminar during Lent. The Praise and Worship event proposed for late February or early March 2025 has been postponed until later in the year.

Olivia and I will continue to host zoom sessions for all those wanting ongoing prayer ministry training. We will be using Michael Powells B-school prayer ministry course.

Wishing you and your families a blessed and safe Christmas and New Year, and a time of refreshment. Please continue to keep all members of the Renewal in your prayers.

Deidre and team.

## **Opportunities for those who have free time over the holiday break.**

### **January 2025 Prayer Group:**

Every Tuesday 7pm – 8.30pm. As many prayer groups go into recess over Christmas and New Year.

Some Service Group members are hosting these meeting as Sacred Heart Hall, Vermont St, Ponsonby for everyone interested. Come and see, 7pm-8:30pm, Tuesdays 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Check out these free video series for individuals or small groups.**

1. Setting the Captive Free: Spiritual Warfare and Discernment of Spirits
2. Finding peace through prayer: Into the deep.

To access these video series, go to <https://spiritualdirection.com/nZ>

Dan Burke is also here in Auckland to run live sessions on 4-7<sup>th</sup> Jan. See

<https://spiritualdirection.com/nZ>

### **Spend time with God**

Listening to the Voice of God An extract from Pray More Advent Retreat talk by Andrew Swafford. <https://praymoreretreat.org/2024-advent-retreat/>

Mental prayer. What I mean by that is listening prayer. For me, before the blessed sacrament, it's been so, so powerful. It doesn't have to be before the blessed sacrament. It could just be at home with scripture. But the key thing is you are asking the Lord personal questions and you're listening. Because the reality is we can do a lot of vocal prayer and live a double life. Sad to say, but it's true. But it's really hard to enter into this kind of listening prayer and live a double life because the silence is just too loud. Generally, for most people if you go before the Lord in that silence and you ask the Lord, "What in my life needs to change?" And you listen. "How are you prompting me? How are you calling me?" It won't be riveting every time, but if you do that over a period of time, I promise you your life will never be the same.

And I learned to pray this way in college, kind of as my conversion was happening. And I had a big decision to make about a relationship with a girlfriend from high school. Good girl that she was, it was clear it wasn't good for either one of us. Wasn't leading either one of us toward Christ. And this was really the last vestige of my old life that had to go. And as I began to pray this way, over time, it wasn't all at once, but over time, two things happened. The clarity of exactly what I had to do became so resoundingly clear that I couldn't deny it.

And not just clarity, but strength to do what I couldn't have imagined doing just a few months prior.

### **Update on CharisNZ**

Various charismatic leaders met for the Chariz NZ NSC meeting in Wellington on 6-8<sup>th</sup> December.

Leaders of different groups sent in annual reports and these were shared. Helen Smithson, and Bill Kornman stood down from their roles as National coordinator and treasurer and Mons Frank Eggleton as national liaison priest.

The new national exec team is

Coordinator: Josie Olsen - Wgtn

Vice coordinator: Vanessa Nathan – Auckland COG coordinator

Secretary: Gloria Stafford – Wgtn

Treasurer: Mike Conroy - Hamilton

Liaison priest: - to be confirmed by the Council of Bishops

## A testimony from Josie, the new Charis NZ coordinator.

During the NSC Meeting we experienced God's Glory.  
Monseigneur Frank mentioned we are to take this glory to others. Maybe not quite in these words.

It resonated with me. So, on Monday following the NSC meeting Oasis had its Community Christmas lunch. I approached each table and explained how I experienced this glory and would they like to share in this. The first lady I spoke to said yes. I prayed she would receive God's glory. I could see the Holy Spirit at work. She shared she wasn't a Christian but she has never experienced such love and peace. The lady beside her said, "I want that." I prayed over her and nearly every person in the room. Over 30 broken and lonely people.

They all shared they experienced such love and peace.

One lady who had given me a very hard time for years agreed to this blessing. She shook with God's presence. She didn't cry but saw her try to control her emotions. She shared that she saw a horizon that was dark, but the sun was just above it. She asked what it meant.

A pacific island man in his 40s had just popped in, I asked him also and he said yes. He said he felt the weight of burdens he was carrying being lifted. He shared his troubles. He said he had hope, and felt a great peace. I am so glad I didn't sit back and hold this to myself but shared it.

All glory to God

## International events in case you are thinking of travelling in 2025

Charis International invite you to register for the 2025 CHARIS Jubilee meetings in Rome, March 31 – April 6, 2025

- 1- Meeting of Priests, Pastors and Ministers – Walking together towards Unity
- 2- Global Training in Prophetic Intercession
- 3- RCC World Prayer Group Meeting - Joyful Witnesses of Hope

To register: <https://www.charis.international/en/calendar/> then click on the event you want to register for.

### Please calendar these ACCPGN dates

January 7, 14, 21 and 28 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	<b>PRAYER MEETING</b> open to all at Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Vermont Street, Ponsonby
Feb 22	<b>RETREAT FOR ALL</b> at Sacred Heart Parish Hall / Church, Vermont Street, Ponsonby
March - April	<b>HEALING OF THE FAMILY TREE</b> Prayer Ministry Training continues on Zoom

Website:

[www.catholiccharismatic.org.nz](http://www.catholiccharismatic.org.nz)

Email: [aucklandccr@gmail.com](mailto:aucklandccr@gmail.com)

Address:

Sacred Heart Church  
16 Vermont Street,  
Auckland 1011