

24th Sunday In Ordinary Time A



St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield 13 September 2020

The WORD This Week

Jesus tells a dramatic story in the Gospel, to make a very important point: the desperate need in our world for forgiveness and reconciliation. How many chances do we give each other? As many as seven? How often do we shut doors on people, even family and friends, saying 'That's it; you've just gone too far this time: never again?' When Jesus says that we must forgive seventy-seven times, he implies that we never stop forgiving, whatever happens. He doesn't just say this, however: even when they do the worst thing that could be done to him, nailing him to a cross, Jesus puts these words into practice: 'Father, forgive them... As his disciples, we must do likewise.'

Today's Prayer

To receive forgiveness can be cheerful for us.
We can feel great peace and joy,
like walking out of jail!
But forgiving others, not so easy.

Lord Jesus, please help us
break those bonds
of our refusal to forgive!

Grant us your strength
to remove our shackles.

Teach us to forgive others
in the way that you forgive us.
Forgive, and then forget.
No strings attached.

Anne Osdieck

SUNDAY GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

The Challenge Of Forgiveness

"Forgive your neighbors' injustice." How often must I forgive the brother who wrongs me? "Not seven times, I say, seventy times seven times." Some of the social ills that we struggle against result in part from the refusal of people to forgive. Wars are fought and innocent people are killed, maimed, or displaced because people cannot forgive their neighbors for their actions or those of their ancestors. Our own society shows its own refusal to forgive in its obsessive clinging to the death penalty. The world of social evil stands in need of forgiveness. Those of us who are African-American are challenged by the gospel to forgive the slave masters of their ancestors as well as the racist descendants of those slave masters. Those of us who are women are challenged by the gospel to forgive the sexist men who have colluded, through action or inaction, in the creation and maintenance of a 'man's world.' The victims of war are challenged by the gospel to forgive all the militarists of the world. "The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion." The challenge is for us to become like God, who is our creator and guide. *Gerald Darring/liturgy.slu.edu*

QuoteMeal: Saint Faustina Kowalska

*"He who knows how to forgive
prepares for himself many graces from God.
As often as I look upon the cross,
so often will I forgive with all my heart."*

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA)

If you know anyone who is interested in the Catholic faith and wishes to know more, please invite them to our RCIA sessions starting **Sun 6 September**. We meet each Sunday at **9.00am** for 45 minutes. For more information contact the Parish Priest - Fr Alfredo or the Parish Office.

PRAY MASS

SUNDAYS @ 2.00pm SHINE TV

Free-to-air TV Channel 25
SKY TV Channel 201

Our church is open for personal prayer between 10am and 5pm.

Reconciliation will be by appointment. Please email Fr Alfredo: alfred5garcia@gmail.com to arrange a time.

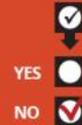
At the moment all masses are suspended until Auckland moves to Level 2. When Masses resume - whether it is for 50 or 100 in the congregation - we will **NOT be taking bookings** for seats. It will be on a **first come, first in basis**. You will still have to contact trace via the app or sign in and social distance in the church. Daily Masses will resume as usual once we move to Level 2

In the meantime check out our parish website www.glenfieldcatholic.org.nz or Fr's Facebook page or Diocese website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz for up to date information.



QUESTION:

Do you support the
End of Life Choice Act
2019 coming into force?



In the October elections, voters will be asked to vote on two referendums. Please inform yourself as these are important issues that will affect all New Zealanders for many years. Each week we will highlight a reason to **vote NO to Euthanasia** in 2020.

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The increased risk of elder abuse

Elder abuse is already a significant problem in New Zealand. About 80% of it remains hidden and unreported. We cannot ignore the possibility that dependent elderly people may be coerced into assisted suicide/euthanasia. Elderly and ailing patients are also all too aware that their increasingly expensive rest home and geriatric care is steadily dissipating the inheritance that awaits their children. Sadly, some unscrupulous and callous offspring might not be slow in pointing this out.

Can you help distribute flyers to letterboxes?

Thank you to the volunteers who have offered to distribute anti-euthanasia flyers to letterboxes in the Glenfield area.

We need more volunteers!!

I have left bundles of the anti-euthanasia flyers in the church foyer. If you wish to take some and deliver to letterboxes in your street, please do so. Please do not put in letterboxes marked 'no junk mail' and 'no circulars'. You can deliver them anytime up until the 3 October 2020.

Thank you so much, this referendum is IMPORTANT to ALL New Zealanders.



Engaged? or know of someone who is thinking of marriage?

Did you know the Diocese of Auckland runs a superb pre-marriage course.

Contact **Gerry Smith** ph: 360 3025

THE WORD OF GOD
24th Sunday Ordinary time

Sunday

Sirach 27:30 28:7
 Romans 14:7-9
 Matthew 18:21-35

Monday

Numbers 21:4-9
 John 3:13-17

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Tuesday

Hebrews 5:7-9
 John 19:25-27

Our Lady of Sorrows

Wednesday

1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:13
 Luke 7:31-35

Sts Cornelius, pope, martyr and Cyprian, bishop, martyr

Thursday

1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Luke 7:36-50

Friday

1 Corinthians 15:12-20
 Luke 8:1-3

Saturday

1 Corinthians 15:35-37, 42-49
 Luke 8:4-15



INSPIRED BY THE TRUE STORY

FATIMA

FEATURING THE ORIGINAL MUSIC OF ANDREA BOCELLI

IN NZ CINEMAS SEPTEMBER 10



ENCOUNTER New Zealand

On Saturday 19 September at 7.30pm Encounter NZ will be having our second event this year for youth and young adults at St Thomas Moore. We will have one of our very own, Andrew George from our Parish sharing about his travels abroad a year ago to Nigeria to working with a Catholic community. This will be followed by adoration and praise worship. For those who are able, we will all meet afterwards at the pub, "**The Postman's Leg**". Anyone is welcome; however you must be over 18 to go to the pub afterwards.



North Shore Dove Fellowship

meeting date is changed to **Wednesday, 23 September** provided the lockdown level is changed and gatherings up to 50 are permitted.

The meeting will be at St Thomas More Church hall at 7:30pm and the speaker is BEV McDONALD topic **I BELONG TO CHRIST**

Be informed about the End of Life Choice Act Referendum:

- The End of Life Choice Act is not an option of 'last resort'. It will not just apply to the 'exceptionally difficult cases'. It does not require that a person first make use of available treatments or counselling, nor that they first receive palliative care. A person does not need to be in physical pain.
 - If euthanasia becomes legal in NZ, people will access it because they think they lack other choices. Even though quality palliative care is effective, there is no corresponding legal right to access palliative care. Under current law, people can already say 'no' to treatments and can receive whatever level of pain relief they need. These days, no-one need die in pain.
- The EOLC Act is badly drafted and seriously flawed. Whatever one's views about the idea of euthanasia, it is not 'compassion' to vote for a dangerous law.**
 See www.riskylaw.nz or www.votesafe.nz or www.carealliance.org.nz or www.nathaniel.org.nz

Authorised by John Kleinsman,
 15 Guildford Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington

NZCatholic

The national Catholic newspaper
 September 6 - 13, 2020 • No. 507

Akld Catholic housing providers facing soaring demand 3
 Pandemic sees Chch ordination delayed twice 8

Ministry at works



Blessings at City Rail Link project pg 2

The latest version of NZ Catholic is being made available free of charge for you to read. The link to the free issue is below.

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/3d006405-1cb7-4d8a-9bf7-b0c140727602>

Baptism Preparation Courses



13 September, 4 October & 1 November 2020 at 11.30am in Parish office.

Phone parish office 444 8624 to book. These courses are still going ahead as there will be less than 10 in the group.

Pregnant Mums and their unborn babies are at risk

Legalisation of marijuana has led to major concerns around pregnant mums using the drug, and more newborn babies failing drug tests. Doctors caution that marijuana's effects on a fetus could include low birth rate and developmental problems. A recent study of half a million women found that marijuana use doubled among pregnant women between 2002 and 2017 and is most common in the first trimester. This is due to increasing acceptance of cannabis use and decreasing perceptions of cannabis-associated harms.

Important Note: "The Medicinal Cannabis Scheme, effective from 1 April 2020, aims to increase access to medicinal cannabis products. Medicinal cannabis is not included in the proposed law that will be voted on in the referendum" - NZ Government referendums website.



6 day residential silent individually guided retreat.

In the dynamic of the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignace of Loyola 25 October 10am - 30 October 4pm. Cost: \$770 St Francis Retreat Centre, 50 Hillsborough Rd, Akld. There are still a few places available on this retreat. chair@ignatianspirituality.nz

Thank you from the Caring Foundation

The Foundation is so grateful for the wonderful support they have received from St Thomas More parish for Caring Sunday. Thank you for helping us support families & communities in need during these uncertain times. www.caringfoundation.org.nz

CONFERENCE – Worshipping under Southern Skies: Weaving Together Liturgy and Life POSTPONED UNTIL 7– 9 OCTOBER 2021.

Starting from Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd of October we plan to offer a series of **digital presentations from Conference** presenters. If you have registered for the Conference or subscribed to the Conference newsletter, the link to this portal will be emailed to you. Please subscribe to the Liturgy Conference newsletter via the website <https://wuss.org.nz/> if you want to receive the link.

Support to visitors to NZ on temporary visas

NZ Red Cross is working with the DIA to provide support to visitors to NZ on temporary visas, (i.e. not citizens or Permanent Resident visa-holders) who are experiencing financial hardship due to being stranded in NZ due to COVID 19. The flyer provides links and information. **See flyer in foyer**

Donations to our Parish

If you already have envelopes and want to change to internet banking please put your name and pledge number as reference. If you wish to set up internet banking for your donations please email Mary at parish office st.thomas.more@xtra.co.nz and she will give you a pledge number for tax receipt purposes for 2021.

Parish Bank account details: **BNZ RC Bishop of Auckland Glenfield**
 02 0100 0120966 04

Please pray for our sick parishioners and their families

Peter Marshall, Tamar Mathews, Israel Nathan, Eloise McFadden, Cathy Sigley, Tom Cotter and Troy Angelo Madrigal.

Contact Parish office for any name changes.



Holy Cross Seminary www.holycross.org.nz