



# 25th Sunday In Ordinary Time A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield 20 September 2020

## The WORD This Week

We can never hope fully to understand God: especially God's generosity. We are very good at working out who is deserving of good fortune and who is not - unfortunately for us, God's gifts go to those God chooses, not those we choose. An example is forgiveness: those who have done the most wrong are those who receive the greatest forgiveness when they turn to God - perhaps at times we begrudge this gift. Today's lesson is simply this: God's ways are not our ways, God's thought are not our thoughts.

## Today's Prayer

Seek the Lord  
while he may be found,  
search for him at break of day,  
call to him in the night,  
look for him in  
work and play.

Lord God,  
let us look for you  
always and everywhere ...  
in your call to us to fix our planet  
and broken social justice systems,  
missing not one detail  
of your presence in our life..

Anne Osdieck

## SUNDAY GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY God's Justice

The parable of the workers in the vineyard is rather startling. People who work an hour in the late afternoon are paid the same as those who work all day long. Obviously God doesn't think like we do. We think of justice in terms of what is fair, of what people deserve. So we would say that the people who worked longer deserved more. But God doesn't see it that way. God thinks of justice in terms of people's dignity, their right to a decent life. The people who came late had the same right to a decent life as those who had worked all day, so they are all treated equally. Nothing is taken from anyone, but all are treated in accord with their dignity, their right to a decent life. Such is God's justice. "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord." Perhaps we would have a better world if we were to adopt some of God's ways. After all, "the Lord is just in all his ways," and that is something which cannot be said of all our ways. "Father, guide us according to your law of love." Free us from our law of vindictive justice. *G.D. liturgy.slu.edu*

## QuoteMeal Saint Francis of Assisi

*"Nothing can tend so much to humble us before the mercy and justice of God as the consideration of His benefits and our own sins. Let us, then, consider what He has done for us, and what we have done against Him; let us call to mind our sins in detail, and His gracious benefits in like manner, remembering that whatever there is of good in us is not ours, but His, and then we need not be afraid of vainglory or of taking complacency in ourselves."*



## 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 Parish RCIA program. The schedule of the Inquiry Sessions will be announced after the "lockdown." For more details contact the Parish office or the Parish Priest, Fr Alfredo.



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](mailto:alfred5garcia@gmail.com) to arrange a time.

All masses are still suspended under Alert Level 2.5

When Masses resume under Alert Level 2- 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.

Masses will resume as usual once we move to Level 1.

Check out our parish website

[www.glenfieldcatholic.org.nz](http://www.glenfieldcatholic.org.nz) or

Fr's Facebook page or

Diocese website [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://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.

## A slippery slope

There is concrete evidence from the countries which have introduced euthanasia that the availability and application of euthanasia expands to situations not initially envisaged. When a newly-permitted activity is characterized as a 'human right,' the overseas experience is that there is an inevitable push to extend such a 'right' to a greater number of people, such as those with chronic conditions, disabilities mental illness, those simply 'tired of life', or even children.

## Can you help distribute flyers to letterboxes?

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.**

## 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*

**THE WORD OF GOD**  
**25th Sunday Ordinary time**

**Sunday**

Isaiah 55:6-9  
Philippians 1:20-24, 27  
Matthew 20:1-16

**Monday**

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13  
Matthew 9:9-13

**St Matthew, apostle, evangelist**

**Tuesday**

Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13

Luke 8:19-21

**Wednesday**

Proverbs 30:5-9

Luke 9:1-6

**St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest**

**Thursday**

Ecclesiastes 1:2-11

Luke 9:7-9

**Friday**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Luke 9:18-22

**Saturday**

Ecclesiastes 11:9 - 12:8

Luke 9:43-35

**“LOCKDOWN” donations  
to our Parish**

On behalf of Fr Alfredo, our Parish Priest and the Parish Finance Council, thank you very much for your untiring support to the parish with your donations during the lockdown.

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 the parish office [st.thomas.more@xtra.co.nz](mailto:st.thomas.more@xtra.co.nz) and Mary 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

**QUESTION:**

Do you support the proposed Cannabis  
Legalisation and  
Control Bill?



In the October elections, voters will be asked to vote on two referendums. Each week we

will highlight a reason to **vote NO to Cannabis**

**Promises of a tax windfall are grossly overstated**

Drug supporters and the marijuana industry are quick to **overestimate** large amounts of revenue from marijuana sales, but **underestimate** the societal costs of legalization. Societal costs not referred to or underestimated by drug supporters include: greater other drug use, greater marijuana use among underage students, property and other economic damage, controlling an expanded black market, public intoxication and traffic fatalities, and other financial burdens. Legalization also results in administrative and enforcement costs, similar to alcohol regulation. Our experience with alcohol and tobacco already shows us that tax revenue from marijuana sales will fall well short of the costs.



**Billings Ovulation Method Natural Fertility Training Seminar 2020**

Auckland Friday/ Saturday 2 - 3 October. The Billings Ovulation Method is a means of natural fertility regulation used by couples to prevent or achieve pregnancy & protect reproductive health. It is highly effective if used correctly. This seminar will be beneficial to Health professional, and those wishing to become accredited teachers of the Method. It will also be beneficial to those wishing to use the method and those involved in pre-marriage counselling. For further information: Phone: 0800 693 378 or Email: [info@billingslife.org.nz](mailto:info@billingslife.org.nz)

**CONFERENCE** – Worshipping under Southern Skies: Weaving Together Liturgy and Life **POSTPONED UNTIL 7– 9 OCTOBER 2021**. Starting from Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd October we plan to offer a series of **digital presentations from Conference** presenters. Please subscribe to the Liturgy Conference newsletter via the website <https://wuss.org.nz/> if you want to receive the link.



**6 day residential silent individually guided retreat.**

In the dynamic of the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius 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](mailto:chair@ignatianspirituality.nz)

**2020 Election Statement  
Catholic Bishops  
of Aotearoa New Zealand**

**An excerpt**

**What kind of nation do we want?**

Who would have believed at the beginning of 2020 that our nation would experience a lockdown as never seen before? In the past seven months, we have all been challenged by the global Covid-19 pandemic and its ongoing consequences for individuals, for families, for our country and for the world. Now, as we prepare for New Zealand's general election, we want to invite you, the voters and our politicians, to reflect beyond party policies and political personalities and consider: "What kind of a nation do we want Aotearoa New Zealand to be as we journey together?"

As Bishops it is not our role to tell you who to vote for. We are called to assist in forming consciences in the light of the Gospel, not to replace them. It is our role to guide people to look to the wellbeing of everyone in our political decision-making-especially the most vulnerable-as well as the wellbeing of our planet. Rather than thinking about what will benefit each of us personally regarding the election and referendum choices we face, we ask you to pray and discern what will protect the poor and vulnerable and what will uphold the dignity of creation so that we create a connected future for all, without discarding any of us.

**Referendums with the  
2020 General Election**

The 2020 General Election presents voters with two referendum questions related to euthanasia and recreational cannabis. The euthanasia-assisted suicide law (End of Life Choice Act 2019) will become the law if a majority of voters support it in the referendum. If a majority of voters support the Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill referendum, the next Government would need to introduce further legislation to legalise recreational cannabis.

**End of Life Choice Act  
Referendum Question**

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

The key questions to ask yourself before voting on this referendum are: Does the proposed law have adequate safeguards? Can the safeguards be effectively implemented in the society of today? Are there examples of safer and better laws in other countries?

**Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill  
Referendum Question**

**Do you support the proposed Cannabis  
Legalisation and Control Bill?**

The cannabis referendum is about whether or not to legalise recreational cannabis. It is not about medicinal cannabis. Regulations to provide and improve access to quality medicinal cannabis products were passed in April 2020. A 2018 law change already allows terminally ill people to use cannabis for pain relief without being prosecuted. If a majority of people vote "Yes" in the recreational cannabis referendum then, after the election, the incoming Government "can introduce a Bill to Parliament that would legalise and control cannabis." A majority "Yes" vote will not make recreational cannabis legal without that extra step.

**READ THE FULL STATEMENT  
AVAILABLE AT  
[www.catholic.org.nz](http://www.catholic.org.nz)**

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/2a61ed4c-b19f-4f67-9d49-728df7acf784>

**Baptism  
Preparation  
Courses**

**4 October &  
1 November 2020 at  
11.30am in  
Parish office.**

Phone parish office 444 8624 to book.



**Holy Cross Seminary**  
[www.holycross.org.nz](http://www.holycross.org.nz)

**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.**