



# 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 29 January 2023

## Exploring The WORD

### How happy are the poor in spirit.

Last week we heard Saint Matthew describing the beginnings of Jesus public ministry. This week Saint Matthew begins the most important summary of the proclamation of the kingdom of God what we refer to as the Sermon on the Mount. This great collection of Jesus teachings begins with the Beatitudes the Charter of the Kingdom. It is essential to understand these, if we are to understand what we will read in Saint Matthew during the rest of this year: the key, as underlined by the First Reading, is that the values of this world are not the values of the Kingdom of God the Kingdom will see things turned upside down: happiness and blessing belong to those whom this world would ignore or mistreat. If we truly wish to live out the Gospel, we would do well to reflect on the virtues laid out in this familiar passage.

## Today's Prayer

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:1-3*

*Lord of perfection,  
You call me to journey with You  
up the high mountain of holiness.*

*May I always see this journey  
as one that is glorious and fulfilling.*

*I choose the life of perfection  
to which I am called and pray  
that I will always be open  
to the deepest moral truths You wish me to live.  
Jesus, I trust in You!*

*John Paul Thomas*

## GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

### The Journey to Perfection

The Sermon on the Mount begins with today's reading in Chapter Five of Matthew's Gospel and continues through Chapter Seven. This beautiful sermon presents us with many familiar teachings of Jesus, such as the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer and the Golden Rule. Jesus begins His sermon by going up a mountain and sitting down. The mountain is believed to be just north of the Sea of Galilee, just a few miles from Capernaum where Jesus often stayed during His public ministry. Today's Gospel presents us with the glorious and very high calling of the Beatitudes. This teaching on the Beatitudes sets the stage for the many other lessons Jesus taught. The Beatitudes are certainly a teaching about morality, but the lessons are not the same as many of the moral teachings that the people were familiar with. Up until that time, morality was primarily seen as a list of forbidden practices. "Thou shall not..." was the general tone. However, the Beatitudes take morality to a much higher level. In this new teaching, Jesus did not start with that which was forbidden or that which was a violation of God's Law. Instead, He explained that reaching for these ideals brought forth the greatest fulfillment in life. Morality was not only a list of regulations one needed to avoid. At the heart, morality was now presented by our Lord as a glorious journey to perfection. The result of this journey was the attainment of the Kingdom of Heaven. When you consider the moral life, how do you look at it? Do you see it more as a list of things you can't do? Or do you see it as a journey up the mountain of true holiness and fulfillment? The Christian life certainly forbids us to engage in many forms of sin and violations of God's Law. But unless we understand that the highest form of morality is given to fulfil us on the deepest level, then it will be easy to become discouraged by our calling. *John Paul Thomas / mycatholic.life*

# Pilgrimage to the HOLY LAND

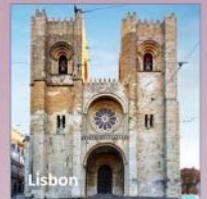
with Fr Alfredo Garcia



- Israel
- Jaffa
- Caesarea
- Megiddo
- Nazareth
- Magdala
- Sea of Galilee
- Tabgha
- Capernaum
- Cana
- Bethlehem
- Jerusalem
- Dead Sea
- Rome
- Cascia
- Assisi
- Lisbon
- Fatima



Join us...  
11—28 September 2023



Contact Fr Alfredo for general information email: [alfred5garcia@gmail.com](mailto:alfred5garcia@gmail.com)  
For costings contact: Marc Alexander email: [marc.alexander.nz@flightcentre.co.nz](mailto:marc.alexander.nz@flightcentre.co.nz)  
For itinerary information contact: Thad D'Souza email: [groups@globusfamily.co.nz](mailto:groups@globusfamily.co.nz)

### PROLIFE FACTS

With the introduction of the Abortion Legislation Act 2020 decriminalising abortion, and the passing of the End of Life Choice Act 2019 legalising assisted suicide and euthanasia, New Zealand desperately needs political leaders who are committed to promoting a culture of life. Chris Hipkins is now our Prime Minister and the leader of a government that purportedly practises kindness, compassion, fairness and social justice. However, during the two terms that Labour has been in power, the killing of more than 50,000 defenceless unborn New Zealanders and the killing of 214 seriously ill patients has been funded by the State under the pretext of health care. The newly appointed Prime Minister and his deputy Carmel Sepuloni have Parliamentary voting records that have supported these practices. Chris Hipkins and Carmel Sepuloni have similar Parliamentary voting records with regard to life issues. In 2020 they both supported aborting unborn children up to 20 weeks for any reason and beyond 20 weeks if a doctor considers it "appropriate." In 2019 they supported permitting doctors to kill terminally ill patients with a lethal injection or to assist in their suicide. **For pro-life information, visit [voiceforlife.org.nz](http://voiceforlife.org.nz) or [righttolife.org.nz](http://righttolife.org.nz)**

## Mark your Calendar for 2023!

# PARISH CULTURAL DAY

Sunday 10 September 2023  
Postponed - date to be confirmed later.  
Learn with Bishop Emeritus Pat Dunn +DD

followed by food and fellowship.



**THE WORD OF GOD**  
**Fourth week Ordinary time**

**Sunday**

Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13  
1 Corinthians 1:26-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

**Monday**

Hebrews 11:32-40  
Mark 5:1-20

**Tuesday**

Hebrews 12:1-4  
Mark 5:21-43

*St John Bosco, priest*

**Wednesday**

Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15  
Mark 6:1-6

**Thursday**

Malachi 3:1-4  
Hebrews 2:14-18  
Luke 2:22-40

*Presentation of the Lord  
Candlemas Day*

**FRIDAY**

Hebrews 13:1-8  
Mark 6:14-29

**Saturday**

Hebrews 13:15-17  
Mark 6:30-34



**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.**

The weekly Thursday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will resume on 9 February 2023. There is a roster on the table at the back of the church that needs to be filled with your name. Each slot is for half an hour to pray before the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

**Inner-City Accommodation possibilities** Units for Rent at Holy Cross Seminary, Ponsonby: Holy Cross Seminary have units available for rent next year, from 06 February 2023 for 1-year. The units are 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom units (1ensuite). All have an internal access double garage, with dedicated space in the garage for indoor washing machine/dryer as well as internal storage. \$730 per week. If interested, please send an email to [office@holycross.org.nz](mailto:office@holycross.org.nz)

**Working together in Faith to help save the environment.** 12 February 2023 11am meet at Mayfield Park, Hills Road, Otara. Tikun HaYam, The Auckland Interfaith Council (AIFC) and Youth Leadership Council (YLC / LinkedIn) are joining forces to take action on the environment.  
**An invitation to join in as people of faith.**

**Diocesan Vacancies** The diocese currently has a number of staff vacancies

- Chancellor for the Bishop's Office
  - Archivist/Archives Manager/Privacy Officer.
  - Project Manager – Property Maintenance Delivery, Education
- Social Workers – 2 Roles in Catholic Social Services Auckland – new graduates welcome.  
For detailed information including closing dates and application procedures please access the website <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/>



Brother Peter Bray, FSC.  
The experiences and challenges of students at Bethlehem University.

**Greetings from Palestine.** NZCBC in association with Caritas and CEC invite all to come and meet Brother Peter Bray, FSC. He will talk about the experiences & challenges that his students face today. Brother Peter is the Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University the only Catholic/Christian university in Palestine.  
**Wednesday 8 February, 7.00pm.** Poynton Room, Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New Street (please come in via the back entrance)

**R.I.P. Fr John Bland**  
Parish Priest at St Thomas More 1998 to 2009.  
Fr John passed away peacefully at his home in England on 15 January 2023. Lindy (*sister*) is happy to hear from anyone via her email at: [tandwilson@gmail.com](mailto:tandwilson@gmail.com)



**TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy**

Online Sessions from Study and Joy (Evening): **Genesis – In the Beginning...** ZOOM.  
**Part 1:** The Creation Story (*including study material*) Kieran Fenn fms. Monday, 27 February, 7-8.30pm.  
**Part 2:** The Creation of Adam (Michelangelo) with Dr Christopher Longhurst. Monday, 6 March, 7-8.30pm  
Fee: \$25 (NZD)/session or \$40 (NZD)/2 sessions  
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/01/16/genesis-in-the-beginning/>



**First Wednesday – 1 February 2023**  
**Mass 9.15am**



**Feast of Presentation of Our Lord**  
**Thursday 2 February**  
**Mass 9.15am**

Please bring your own packs of candles for blessing and place them on the table in the front.



**First Friday - 3 February 2023**  
**Mass 9.15am**



Join us after the 9.15am Mass on Friday 3 February to farewell and thank Fr Nathaniel for looking after our parish during January.

**NB:** Please bring a small plate of food to share.

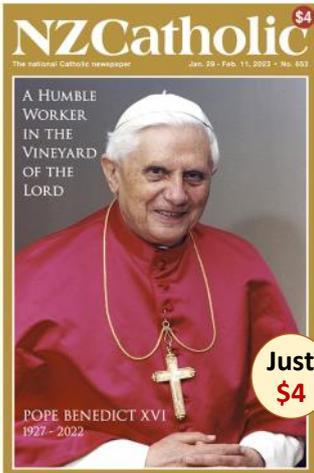
**PLEASE NOTE:**

There will be **NO** more livestreaming of the Sunday Mass.  
There will be **NO** evening Masses or devotions (including Exposition) until 6 February 2023.

**22 February 2022 is Ash Wednesday**



We need your last year's palms to be burnt for ashes before this date. Please bring your Palms from last year and place them in the green bin at the back of the church. Please take your wrapping and/or packaging home with you.



**For sale in church foyer**



Our cuppas after the 10am Mass will recommence in February

**Please pray for our sick parishioners & their families**  
Mary Baker, Elena David, Tamar Mathews, Israel Nathan, Mark Delaurier Mary Anne Clark  
**Contact Parish office for changes.**



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



**Catholic Diocese of Auckland**  
**Welcome to Kids Korner!**

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Fourth-SUNDAY-OF-OT.pdf>  
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/THE-HOMELESS-PERSON.pdf>



**Journey to the Holy Land** with Bishop Steve Lowe 20 days commencing 5 March '23  
For more information and costs: [www.harvestjourneys.com](http://www.harvestjourneys.com)



**Flat for rent: Sunnynook.** Own bathroom and kitchenette, suitable for working couple. Interested? Please call **021 054 6500**.

**Flat for rent:** Two double bedrooms. Please call Rosa **027 278 7403**.