



## The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 21 May 2023

### Exploring The WORD

*All authority in heaven and on earth  
has been given to me*

Ascension is not just a feast that happens to fall in Eastertide: it is an integral part of the Easter mystery. Remember the Lord's words at the Last Supper: I am going to prepare a place for, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me. The resurrection presumes the Lord's return to the Father. This is therefore a feast of hope: our hope in the Lord's return, as he went. Our hope that he will take us with him, when our bodies are raised as his was. Our hope that we will take our place in heaven, where he sits on the Father's right.

*“And behold, I am with you all days  
till the end of the age.”*



Lord Jesus,  
when you ascended,  
you took all your (and our) humanity  
into the fullness of the divine being.

All is holy now. We belong to you.

We ask you to give us  
the “new ways of thinking, acting, living, loving, and being.

A new way of being human.”

We need your love, courage, understanding,  
knowledge, and your wisdom.

Be with us all days.  
Let your Spirit never leave us alone.  
Amen

## EASTER SPIRITUALITY

### The Mission In The World

Having ascended into heaven, Jesus can now say that “I am in the world no more, but these are in the world.” He is not physically present in the world the way he was in the first third of the first century. It is now up to us to deal with the world. During the period dominated by Trent and Vatican I, the Catholic Church was defensive in its approach to the world, which was regarded as an occasion of sin. Vatican II heralded a new approach based on dialogue rather than confrontation. The world is viewed not as the enemy but rather as the object of service. This positive approach is much closer to our biblical roots: “I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.” “Time is the unfolding of truth that already is.” The world and its history are where we encounter the eternal God, “reaching from end to end of the universe.” We are not called to abandon the world but to remain in it and to take responsibility for its well ordering. The paschal mystery is a challenge to us to lift the world to the heavens.

Gerald Darring/ <https://liturgy.sluhostedsites.org>

## Confirmation Mass

34 children of our parish will be confirmed by  
**Bishop Steve Lowe at 10am on Sunday 21 May 2023**  
at St Thomas More. **All welcome.**



## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

**Mass of the Neophytes** All those baptised or received into full communion at Easter or throughout the last 12 months are invited by Bishop Steve to join him at the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph for this Mass celebrating the gift of faith and acknowledging these newest members of the Church. Family, sponsors, RCIA team members and members of the diocese are all invited.

Combined prayer for the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** Friday 26 May, 7pm, Takapuna Methodist Church, 427 Lake Road, Takapuna, Auckland 0622. **All are welcome.**

Seminar at Mary MacKillop Centre Chapel Mission Bay **Liturgy for a New Church: the Challenge of Real Participation** Facilitators: Jo Ayers and Fr Neil Darragh, Saturday 17 June; 10am – 2pm, \$30 waged/ \$20 unwaged. Registrations: Sr Julian Ph 09 528 1801.

**The NZ Catholic Medical Association** provides pastoral care and chaplaincy for people involved in health care. We extend an invitation to doctors, nurses, midwives, carers, pharmacists, physiotherapists, psychologists, counsellors, social workers, chaplains, dentists, health administrators, lawyers, and anyone in allied roles. Retreat and Seminar 9-10 June 2023, based at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay, Wellington. Register for this event at [www.newzealandcatholicmedical.co.nz](http://www.newzealandcatholicmedical.co.nz) For general inquiries and updates for future events, email: [newzealandcatholicmedical@gmail.com](mailto:newzealandcatholicmedical@gmail.com) (NZCMA formation committee).

**Free Books:** As a result of the cull of the library the Diocese has a number of books available for collection from Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New Street, Auckland. The books will be available for collection between 9.30am and 3.30pm Monday to Friday until Friday 26 May. More details at: [aucklandcatholic.org.nz/books/](http://aucklandcatholic.org.nz/books/)

**G.I.F.T. Pentecost Mass Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm** at the G.I.F.T. Centre, 28 Telford Ave, Mt Eden. Intellectually disabled people, families, and support workers **welcome**. Supper afterwards.

**Executive Secretary of the Justice & Peace Commission** The Diocese seeks an enthusiastic committed person to work as Executive Secretary of the Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission to promote, encourage and support justice and peace initiatives in the Diocese. The position is full time, with some flexibility around this. For full details & requirements please visit <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/> Applications close 5pm Wed 24 May 2023.

**SUMMIT Young Leaders' Weekend, Friday 26 May – Sunday 28 May 2023**

Youth ministry leaders and young adult ministry leaders, you're invited to an incredible weekend of FORMATION, FELLOWSHIP and being spiritually FILLED! Join us at SUMMIT Young Leaders' Weekend from Friday 26 May, 6pm – Sunday 28 May, 2pm at Sunshine Ranch, Clevedon. Registrations close 21 May. Find out more at [Facebook.com/AKCYM](https://www.facebook.com/AKCYM)

### Fulfilled: The Promise of the Christian Life

is a beautiful series that delves into the first pillar of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. We start by looking deeply at the 'ache' of human longing and finish by delving into the Apostles Creed. This series opens the eyes of our hearts to the hope of infinite bliss and fulfilment in Christ. **Sat 27<sup>th</sup> and Sun 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023**, 8am-6pm, Mission Bay, Auckland.

For more information and to register please visit:  
[www.theologyofthebody.nz](http://www.theologyofthebody.nz)



**Kids Korner** <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/The-ASCENSION-of-the-LORD.pdf>

**Parent Ponderings** <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/The-Brick-boy-and-a-wheelchair.pdf>

If you have received this newsletter via email you should be able to right click on the link and then click Open Hyperlink.

## THE WORD OF GOD

### The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11  
Ephesians 1:17-23  
Matthew 28:16-20

#### Monday

Acts 19:1-9  
John 16:29-33

*St Rita of Cascia, religious*

#### Tuesday

Acts 20:17-27  
John 17:1-11

#### Wednesday

Acts 20:28-38  
John 17:11-19

*Our Lady Help of Christians*

#### Thursday

Acts 22:30, 23:6-11  
John 17:20-26

*St Bede the Venerable,  
St Gregory VII, pope,  
St Mary Magdalene de Pazzi*

#### Friday

Acts 25:13-21  
John 21:15-19

#### Saturday

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31  
John 21:20-25

*St Augustine of Canterbury*

**NZCatholic** \$4  
The national Catholic newspaper


Sensitive negotiations over state-integrated schools 3  
How to live through change in your parish 14



**All welcome to share**  
in a cuppa after the 10am Mass hosted by the **Filipino** community

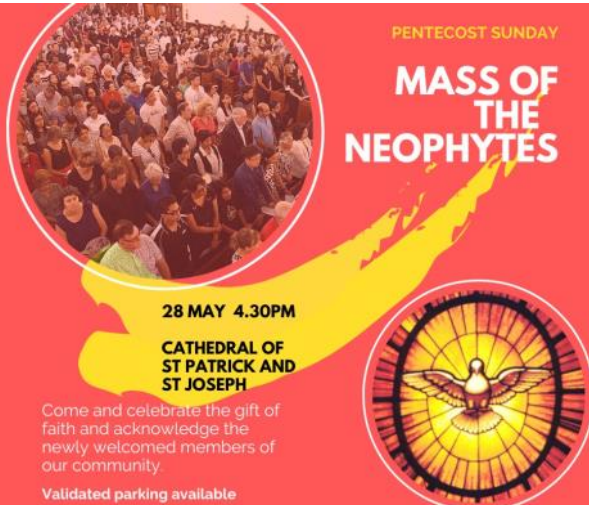
**Baptism Preparation Courses**  
11 June & 2 July 2023  
To book, phone or email parish office.  
Ph: 444 8624 or office@stthomasmore.org.nz

**Please pray for our sick parishioners & their families**  
Simone Choromanski,  
Mary Baker, Israel Nathan,  
Tamar Mathews,  
Mark Delaurier,  
Mary Anne Clark  
Contact the Parish office if you wish to add names  
office@stthomasmore.org.nz

 **Holy Cross Seminary**  
www.holycross.org.nz

PENTECOST SUNDAY

## MASS OF THE NEOPHYTES



28 MAY 4.30PM  
CATHEDRAL OF ST PATRICK AND ST JOSEPH

Come and celebrate the gift of faith and acknowledge the newly welcomed members of our community.  
Validated parking available

## Consecration to Jesus through Mary




Wednesdays starting 10 May 7-8.30pm.  
**It's not too late to join!** Holy Family Parish Hall, 94 Taikata Road, Te Atatu Peninsula. Based on the method of St Louis de Monfort. This is a course that covers different topics regarding the role of Our Lady and learning more about the teachings and practices of the Catholic church. Come join us! To register or for more information 021 201 4603 email: [bml.auckland@gmail.com](mailto:bml.auckland@gmail.com)




**Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass on Friday 2 June 7:00pm** St Mary's Church, 20 Kitenui Ave, Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass, followed general blessing of St Faustina's relic. **All welcome**

## TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy




**Mary in the Scriptures** with Kieran Fenn fms. Mondays, 19/26 June & 3/10 July, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Free. Donation/Koha welcome.  
**Focus on Target - Draw Fresh Momentum** with Laetitia Puthenpadath Tuesdays, 27 June & 04/11/18 July, 12.30-1.30pm. ZOOM. Fee: \$20/session or \$70/4 sessions. For more information: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.nz)




**Student Service : Carmel College**  
Each year our Year 7-13 students carry out service activities  
\* in their own time \* unpaid  
\* beyond their immediate family  
... as part of living the Mercy values and as part of their personal development as a member of the community. Read more about the programme here : <https://www.carmel.school.nz/student-life/service-programme/>  
We are always looking for age-appropriate opportunities for our students to be of service. If you have a person or project that needs helpers, please contact us: [service@carmel.school.nz](mailto:service@carmel.school.nz)

**Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministry**  
[www.facebook.com/AKCYM](http://www.facebook.com/AKCYM)  
[www.instagram.com/acym2](http://www.instagram.com/acym2)  
Contact Sam Brebner – [samb@cda.org.nz](mailto:samb@cda.org.nz)

**Catholic University Chaplaincy**  
Visit us at 110 Symonds Street  
10am – 6pm, Mon – Friday  
[www.facebook.com/AucklandCatholicChaplaincy](http://www.facebook.com/AucklandCatholicChaplaincy)  
[www.instagram.com/AucklandCatholicChaplaincy](http://www.instagram.com/AucklandCatholicChaplaincy)  
Contact Robbie De La Vega – [robbiedlv@cda.org.nz](mailto:robbiedlv@cda.org.nz)



The St Vincent De Paul are here to help if you or someone you know are struggling to make ends meet and a food parcel would help. Please contact the parish office.  
Phone: 09 444 8624 or [office@stthomasmore.org.nz](mailto:office@stthomasmore.org.nz)



**Reflecting on St Luke's Gospel** A Social Justice Retreat focusing on social justice aspects of the Gospel of Luke will be held 9.30-4pm on Saturday 10 June 2023 at St Francis Retreat Centre 20 Hillsborough led by Bible Scholar Br Kieran Fenn, FMS who has taught the Scriptures in New Zealand and overseas for more than 40 years. Cost: \$30 including lunch. Applications Peter Garrick phone 022 1300 730 or email [peterg@cda.org.nz](mailto:peterg@cda.org.nz) by 31 May.

## Mums & Bubs

Socialise / cuppa / play / songs



Mums and Grandmas bring along your preschoolers for some fun social time together.  
St Thomas More Hall, Glenfield  
Wednesday 24 May 2023 10.30am to about noon.  
For information contact Sylvia: 021 088 22990 or email: [aldonsylvia@gmail.com](mailto:aldonsylvia@gmail.com)

## PROLIFE FACTS

For more than 10 years, the ACTIV8 Pro-Life Training week has been equipping Kiwis to become a more effective & compassionate voice on abortion, euthanasia and other pro-life issues. Everyone from politicians, to lawyers, to doctors, to teachers, to nurses, to pastors and Church leaders, to university students, to mums and dads, have been inspired and empowered by attending ACTIV8. The training is open to anyone over eighteen who wants to grow in their knowledge, and become more effective at living and building the culture of life in New Zealand. There will be two training courses offered this year. The first will be in the South Island from 3 - 7 July, and the second in the North Island from 21 - 25 August. Every year some participants are sponsored by Voice for Life, and this has led to an increase in young people joining the ranks of pro-life witnesses in New Zealand. They have taken on roles such as helping organise the March for Life, prayer vigils, and even taken on leadership roles at national and local level. According to previous participant Abigail Baines: "ACTIV8 definitely gave me plenty of opportunities to think about ways I can be active in the pro-life movement...I hope many more people are blessed by future ACTIV8 events & inspired to actually take action in saving lives." More information and registration is available at [activ8nz.org](http://activ8nz.org). Visit [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz)

**What's happening in the diocese?** Find out what has been happening around the diocese and details about what is coming in the latest edition of the CDA Connect [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/services/cda-connect/](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/services/cda-connect/)



**Situation Vacant De Paul House Property Maintenance**  
Full time position for a team player to support the property maintenance team who oversee 45 properties on the North Shore. Practical skilled handyman to cover all aspects of maintenance to ensure the properties are kept to a high standard. A varied role for a physically fit and motivated person. Must be eligible to work in NZ. Have a full, clean NZ Drivers Licence. For a full job description [amin@depaulhouse.org.nz](mailto:amin@depaulhouse.org.nz) or visit the website <https://www.depaulhouse.org.nz/work-with-us/> Closes 14 June 2023