



# 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 16 July 2023

## Exploring The WORD A Sower Went Out To Sow

The Gospel today is the beginning of a new section in Matthew, called 'The Parabolic Discourse' - a section of parables Jesus tells the crowd, which we will read over the next three weeks. A parable is a story with a hidden meaning: we can easily remember the story, and gradually the true meaning becomes clearer and clearer. Today is a famous example: the Parable of the Sower. In itself it is a story that would easily be understood by Jesus's audience - people who lived in an agricultural economy. Jesus uses their understanding to make an important teaching about the message he has brought: it is like a seed that is thrown out and received in different ways - the ideal is when the seed finds good soil, and produces a crop that can be seen and harvested: so the ideal listener to the word is one who allows it to lodge in the heart, but also produces a visible result. What is the harvest we should yield, when we have heard the word?

### Prayer This Week

Lord, plant my seed in good ground!

Help me to grow in faith so my relationship with you is not shallow and weak, but a deep and mature faith. Grant me a faith that can move mountains of doubt and oceans of fear. Teach me to triumph over temptation.

Help me to believe in you, even when I do not understand the capricious nature of the weather and the cruelty in some people.

Lord, I am yours. Take me as I am. Shape me. Make me. Mold me into the person you would have me to be. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior we pray. Amen.

### GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

#### Respecting Creation

The parable of the sower is a story about the fruitfulness of the earth. It assures us that the harvest will come in spite of the many obstacles that stand in the way. In the end, the rocks and birds and trampling feet cannot nullify the fact that "the seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest."

Paul talks about the salvation of the world, pointing out that "the world itself will be freed from its slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God."

Meanwhile, "all creation groans and is in agony": we pollute the clear air and the fresh water; we drive plants and animals to extinction; we clear-cut forests and we strip-mine, leaving ugly scars in the land.

The opening prayer calls on us "to reject what is contrary to the gospel." Isn't it contrary to the "good news" to waste and destroy God's creation? The Creator has "greatly enriched the land." How dare we impoverish it! (THE SAME SOURCE)

If you missed Deacon Harold's inspiring talk on Friday you can now watch it on this link <https://youtube.com/live/5Vb0hxN5XOs>



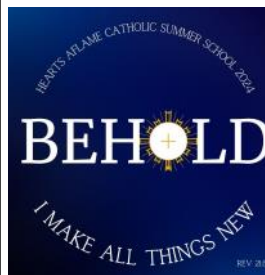
### RITE of CHRISTIAN INITIATION (RCIA and RCIC)



Are you or do you know anyone who is thinking about becoming Catholic? Or perhaps has missed receiving the Sacraments since their baptism? If so, invite them to join us on a remarkable journey of discovery, discernment and study about the

Catholic faith and how to live it.

The RCIA programme for adults and children starts soon. Invite them to an informal inquiry session **Sunday 30 July or 6 Aug or 13 Aug 3:30-4:30pm** in the parish hall to seek clarification, to know more about the programme or to enrol for it. Following on from that, formal weekly sessions will start during Sunday 10am Masses. For more information contact the parish office phone: 09 444 8624 or email: [office@stthomasmore.org.nz](mailto:office@stthomasmore.org.nz) or **Ghassan Emmanuel** mobile: 021 23 44 339.



### Hearts Aflame Catholic Summer School 2024:

#### Bishop Basil Meeking Scholarship

While Hearts Aflame Catholic Summer School 2024 has now sold out, we are excited to announce the opening of the inaugural Bishop Basil Meeking Hearts Aflame Scholarship! There are two scholarship spaces available for the 2024 School for any young adult aged 18 to 35 who wants to know more

about their faith, have an authentic encounter with Christ, and meet other Catholic young adults from all over New Zealand. One of the scholarship places is reserved for a young adult involved in Catholic Education (teaching, teacher training or chaplaincy). The Scholarship covers the full registration fee for the 2024 School (\$645) Visit [heartsaflame.org.nz](http://heartsaflame.org.nz) to apply before 15 August 2023.

### World Youth Day Auckland Sancta Maria College. 6 August 2pm



Join us for an incredible experience at World Youth Day Auckland 2023!

Young people aged 13-30yrs old (and their youth leaders!) are invited to join us at Sancta Maria College for this unforgettable celebration of our Catholic Faith. Get ready for uplifting music, inspiring speakers, mass with Bishop Steve Lowe,

delicious (FREE) dinner, reconciliation, adoration & HUNDREDS of young people. Spread the word, tell your youth group, and register now for this taste of the international World Youth Day taking place in Lisbon, Portugal!

**Go to [facebook.com/AKCYM](https://www.facebook.com/AKCYM) to register. Poster in foyer**

### Healing of the Family tree with Fr Rory & ACCPGN.

Preparation on zoom 7.30-9pm on Tuesdays 1 and 8 August, followed by Mass on Saturday 12 August at Sacred Heart Church, Ponsonby at 10am. Registration compulsory on <https://catholiccharismatic.org.nz/>



Our stocks are low! Please donate non-perishable food items for the St Vincent de Paul basket in foyer eg breakfast cereals, coffee, tea, pasta, rice, tin fruit/vegetables, tuna, spaghetti, soups, pasta sauces.

**Thank you for your generosity.**

### PARISH BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER CHANGE

St Thomas More Parish has changed it's bank account number. This change was necessary to comply with the latest banking regulations.

From 1 July 2023 St Thomas More's Parish account is

**BNZ 02 0108 0708668 000**

**Donations Online.** If you have an automatic payment set up to the old number, **you don't need to do anything!** BNZ is arranging to transfer your automatic payment to the new number. However, if in the future you set up a new automatic payment or make a one-off payment, direct credit or cash deposits to the parish, please use new account number **02 0108 0708668 000**

## THE WORD OF GOD 15th Sunday Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:10-11  
Romans 8:18-23  
Matthew 13:1-23

### Monday

Exodus 1:8-14, 22  
Matthew 10:34-11:1

### Tuesday

Exodus 2:1-15  
Matthew 11:20-24

### Wednesday

Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12  
Matthew 11:25-27

### Thursday

Exodus 3:13-20  
Matthew 11:28-30

*St Apollinaris*

### Friday

Exodus 11:10-12:14  
Matthew 12:1-8

*St Lawrence of Brindisi, priest*

### Saturday

Songs 3:1-4  
John 20:1-2, 11-18

*St Mary Magdalene*


### Alpha for Couples via zoom

Are you a dating, engaged or a married couple and want to improve and deepen your communication with your partner/ spouse? Marriage & Family Life are offering an opportunity to improve communication with each other and at the same time deepen our friendship with God. You don't have to be Catholic to attend. This **free course** is only available to couples. Registration open until **25 July**. To register or find out more, see this link: [https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/alpha\\_couples/](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/alpha_couples/). Contact Gerry 021-02247442 for more info.



### Seniors Morning

**Tuesday 18 July after the 9.15am Mass**  
Morning tea, BINGO and Surprises.  
*All are welcome to join us.*



### 175 Campaign – reflecting on our past by supporting those in need!


As we reflect on the diocese's 175th Anniversary, please join Bishop Steve's 175 campaign through the Caring Foundation. By donating \$175 as a parish, a family, a group of friends, or individually, you will support families and people in need throughout our diocese. To donate, please pick up a donation card from your parish foyer or visit [www.caringfoundation.org.nz](http://www.caringfoundation.org.nz) to donate online or to find out other ways to donate.

### PROLIFE FACTS

Men tend to be the forgotten factor in abortion. They have no rights under the law to intervene and in a real sense they are the "forgotten fathers". There are fathers who grieve in silence for their lost son or daughter and there is no public recognition of their anguish. During July, August and September, three events with a special focus on these fathers are being hosted by Focus on the Family, in conjunction with Buttons Project and Rachel's Vineyard. These are free events, but a koha is welcome to defray expenses. Entitled *Forgotten Fathers: Hope and Healing after Abortion*, the events feature key speaker Greg Mayo via livestream, and include art pieces and digital displays. Auckland venue: Windsor Park Baptist, 550 East Coast Bays Rd, North shore on 24 August. For more information call 027-655-6325 or [info@buttonsproject.org](mailto:info@buttonsproject.org) **For more pro-life info, visit Voice for Life at [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz).**

### Mums & Bubs

**Socialise / cuppa / play / songs / fun**  
Mums and Grandmas bring along your preschoolers for some fun social time together.  
**St Thomas More Hall, Glenfield**  
**Wednesday 19 July 10-12 noon**  
For info: Sylvia: 021 088 22990

### The Women in the Bible with Kieran Fenn

fms. Mondays, 07/14/21 Aug and 04/11/18 Sep, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Fee: \$20/session or \$90/series (incl. study material).  
For more information: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.nz)



### Out with the old and in with the new!

Mary, our parish secretary will be retiring after nearly 8½ years in the parish and welcomes **Trevlyn Lutchman** to the role of Parish Office Co-ordinator starting Tuesday 25 July 2023.




### CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

**Kids Korner** <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Fifteenth-SUNDAY-of-OT.pdf>  
**Parent Ponderings** <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/The-Seed-in-the-Mud.pdf>

### NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

#### Situations Vacant

Seeking a methodical, cheerful, dedicated, and highly efficient person for the role of **PSG Administrator & Communications Officer** to provide administration and operational support to the Leader Pastoral Services Group and providing communications support for the Diocese. This is a full-time role. Although there is some flexibility around this. For a full position description, please visit the Diocesan website <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/> Applications close 12 July 2023.

### Catholic Diocese of Auckland IT Systems Administrator/Technician

We are looking for an IT Systems Administrator/Technician to join our team. The role is responsible for first and second level support of the Diocese's IT systems, design, and implementation of solutions to meet our needs and assist our people using technology to deliver mission. The role may also assist with the creation of videos (filming and editing) to support our Diocesan ministries. The position is full time, with some flexibility around this. For full details and requirements please visit the Diocesan website <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/> vacancies. Applications close 21 July.

### Role vacancy: Prison Chaplaincy Director

New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference  
Can you help us show the love of God inside the prison walls?  
Applications are invited for the position of Prison Chaplaincy Director for the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference (NZCBC). The Prison Chaplaincy Director is a full-time national role, providing pastoral and professional leadership and support to the Catholic chaplains who provide chaplaincy services in New Zealand prisons. This is a critical role, leading an important national ministry of the Church. If you or someone you know has experience as a prison chaplain (or in other pastoral or chaplaincy roles) and team leadership experience combined with theology and pastoral qualifications,

Our North Shore Regional Talent showcase **StarLight** is on 22 July at Rosmini College. More details on the StarLight FB page <https://www.facebook.com/starlighttalentshowcase> Questions? call Quintin Fialho 021 188 8847

### Young Adults Ball 26 August 7pm

**McHugh's of Cheltenham**  
The theme for this year is 'Starry Night'. Here's your chance to put on your best formal attire for an unforgettable evening. Get ready to dance the night away with our live band, The Velvet Tones. Cocktail style canapes will be served throughout the night and your favourite drinks will be available at the bar (with one free drink included in your ticket!). Tickets \$110 (Sales close midnight 17 August). \*This is an 18+ event. Go to [facebook.com/AKCYM](https://facebook.com/AKCYM) for tickets.



### Centennial Celebration

The **Knights of the Southern Cross of New Zealand** will be celebrating their centenary on **Saturday 12th of August 2023** at **St Francis Retreat Centre**, 50 Hillsborough Road, Hillsborough, Auckland beginning with a retreat during the day led by KSC Chaplain Fr Ezio Blasoni on the theme of the Sacrament of Anointing, followed by the Centennial Mass led by Bishop Steve Lowe, then a banquet dinner. Anyone who has had some connection with the Knights and may be interested in attending please contact Mathew Bland at [knightsauckland@gmail.com](mailto:knightsauckland@gmail.com) or 021 811 444



**NZ Catholic**  
The national Catholic newspaper  
July 2 - 15, 2023 • No. 064

Christchurch priest is Bishop-elect for Palmerston North  
Auckland diocese celebrates 175 years since formation

**Wellington Archbishop Installed**

**Just \$4**

The good news is still with us pg 3

Six times judged Australia's leading Catholic newspaper

### All welcome to share in a cuppa after the

10am Mass hosted by the **Filipino** community



### Baptism Preparation Courses

**6 August**  
**10 September**  
**1 October & 5 November 2023**




To book, phone or email parish office.  
Ph: 444 8624 or [office@stthomasmore.org.nz](mailto:office@stthomasmore.org.nz)

### Please pray for our sick parishioners & their families

Simone Choromanski,  
Mary Baker, Israel Nathan,  
Lyn Cotter, Tamar Mathews,  
Mark Delaurier,  
Mary Anne Clark



Contact the Parish office if you wish to add names  
[office@stthomasmore.org.nz](mailto:office@stthomasmore.org.nz)



### Holy Cross Seminary

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