



## 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 23 July 2023

### Exploring The WORD

#### Let them both grow till the harvest

There is no room in a good field for weeds and rubbish: so in the Kingdom of Heaven, there is no room for all things that provoke offences, and all who do evil.

They must be got rid of, for the sake of the good wheat, for the sake of the good subjects of the kingdom. But this weeding out will not take place until harvest time - in case one piece of good wheat is destroyed with the weeds.

This shows the mercy of God: everyone has chance after chance to prove that they are wheat, not darnel; there are no quick judgements in the kingdom of heaven, and things are never as black and white as we think.

Only at the end of time will evil stand out clearly, so that it can be disposed of, and only the Son of Man can judge.

#### Prayer This Week

Lord of the Harvest,  
help to remember that I am meant to be  
a wheat in your Kingdom.  
I am meant to grow and bear fruit.  
Help me to persevere,  
to gradually let goodness triumph.  
Help me to not be discouraged  
when weeds seem all around.  
Let me trust You always to be in charge of  
YOUR Kingdom."

Lord of the Harvest, give us the patience  
not to pull out the weeds before the right time.  
We can exhaust ourselves judging our fellow believers,  
deciding who's in and who's out.  
Forgive us, Lord, for our presumption,  
for doing that which is yours alone to do.  
Yes, we are to be careful  
in discerning truth from falsehood.  
And, yes, we are to hold each other accountable  
to live out our faith in this world.  
But may we do so without a critical or haughty spirit.  
Help us to be as gracious  
to those with whom we disagree  
as you have been to us. Amen

### GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

#### An Inclusive Church

Matthew is very concerned in his gospel with the unity of the Christian community. He does not envision the Church as an exclusionary organization, but rather as an inclusive community which is guided by the spirit of the parable of the weeds. "Let them grow together until harvest" (Gospel): since its earliest days, the Church has preferred to tolerate different levels of commitment and holiness.

Such an attitude is in line with the "wisdom" of the Hebrew Scriptures, which informs us that "those who are righteous must be kind; and you gave your children reason to hope that you would allow them to repent for their sins."

(First Reading) This attitude of acceptance is also in line with the revelation of God "as merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in kindness."

An inclusive Church that is kind and lenient toward its own members and toward everyone else should be an inspiration to a divided world that has a tendency to judge harshly, to be quick to anger, and to uproot weeds even at the cost of damage to the good plants. *Gerald Darring/liturgy.slu.edu*

### 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.



### World Youth Day Auckland Sancta Maria College. 6 August 2023 at 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! **Facebook.com/AKCYM to register. Poster in foyer**



#### CARING MASS – 1 August 2023 at 11.30am

Please join Bishop Steve and the Foundation team for the Caring Mass. Mass will be celebrated at Christ the King Church, 260 Richardson Rd, Owairaka. **All are warmly welcome!**

### ALTAR SERVER FORMATION DAYS

#### For new members.

Preferably **BOYS** who have completed the Sacrament of Christian Initiation.



**All Sundays of August  
at 4pm in the  
Parish Church**

#### 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 its 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**  
16th Sunday Ordinary Time

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19  
Romans 8:26-27  
Matthew 13:24-43

*World Day for Grandparents  
and the Elderly*

**Monday**

Exodus 13:17-14:31  
Matthew 12:38.42

*St Sharbel Makhluf, priest*

**Tuesday**

Corinthians 4:7-15  
Matthew 20:20-28

*St James, apostle*

**Wednesday**

Ecclesiasticus 44:1,10-15  
Matthew 13:16-17

*Sts Joachim and Ann, parents  
of Mary*

**Thursday**

Exodus 19:1-2,9-11,16-20  
Matthew 13:10-17

**Friday**

Exodus 20:1-17  
Matthew 13:18-23

**Saturday**

John 4:7-16  
John 11:19-27

*St Martha, Mary & Lazarus*



Just  
\$4

All welcome to share  
in a cuppa after the



10am  
Mass  
hosted by  
the **Iraqi**  
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

**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



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

**SECOND COLLECTION - 23 July 2023**  
**Catholic Caring Foundation**

Make an impact this winter and support the Caring Foundation's annual appeal this Caring Sunday. Your gift will support Bishop Steve's foundation to help those in need in the greater Auckland area and Te Tai Tokerau. To donate, please use your parish second collection envelope, or check out our website: [www.caringfoundation.org.nz](http://www.caringfoundation.org.nz)



**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.

**AGE TO AGE HE STANDS**

"With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation."  
Isaiah 12:3

North Shore Dove throughout the ages  
**Celebrate 35 years**

<b>Talks:</b>	<b>Includes</b>
Barbara Hines	Prayer ministry
Helen Reinen	Praise & Worship
Open mic- story sharing	Morning tea
	But BYO lunch

**Saturday 29th July 10am - 1pm**  
**St John's Church, Orewa**

Mass is available at 9.30am before the meeting starts

**PROLIFE FACTS**

Many Kiwis will have heard of the "Vinnies" through their op shops and work for the poor. Their founder St Vincent de Paul (born 1581) came from a very wealthy background but was captured by North African pirates and endured three years as a slave. He escaped back to France, profoundly changed, and resolved to dedicate his life to helping the poor. In 1652, he learned of a guild of midwives performing abortions in the slums of Paris. Vincent organised relief and medical supervision for those babies who had survived and women who had been injured. He also enlisted wealthy merchants to assist with financial support and lobby for a just application of the law, following a thorough investigation of the illegal trade. Vincent exhorted his fellow Christians: "Christ's gift to us as a people is life and that more abundantly. To protect the least of these, our brethren, with everything that God has placed at our disposal, is among the greatest and most satisfying of our sundry stewardships."  
**For more pro-life info: [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz)**

Please **DO NOT double park** in the main carpark and block access for drop-offs and emergency vehicles

**NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE**

**Maeve & Friends ~ A Farewell Concert St Patrick's Cathedral, Saturday 29 July at 7 pm.** A concert for Maeve Herd, our Cathedral Choir Director and Cantor. An invitation to music lovers of all ages for an evening of song spanning the operatic, sacred, art song and musical theatre genres. Repertoire will include works by Mozart, Strauss, Puccini, Rossini and many more! Entry to the concert is free with a retiring cash collection and digital donation options available. Money raised will support Maeve's study at the Royal Northern of Music College in Manchester. See the Facebook Event at <https://www.facebook.com/events/670604278240381/?ref=newsfeed>

**Maere & Friends**  
**A FAREWELL CONCERT**  
7 pm Saturday 29 July  
St Patrick's Cathedral  
43 Wyndham Street  
FREE ENTRY



**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).

**Liturgical Spaces** with Prof Thomas O'Loughlin. 4-part series on our YouTube channel. Online. No fee. Part 1: *Do we gather as consumers or celebrants?*  
For more information: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.nz)

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



**Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship North Shore**

All men are invited to a meeting on Wednesday 26 July 7.30pm at St Josephs Centre, Takapuna. Bishop Colin Campbell - National Chaplain of Joshua will give a talk centered on: *'Towards Understanding the Fatherhood of God and our Human Fatherhood Today'* We look forward to seeing you there and spending time with you sharing, praying and enjoying a cup of tea. For more information please contact Russell 022 034 5678 or see our Facebook page.

**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 \*This is an 18+ event. Go to [facebook.com/AKCYM](https://www.facebook.com/AKCYM) for tickets.