



## 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 30 July 2023

### Exploring The WORD

*“He sells everything he owns  
and buys the field.”*

What a gift it is, to be able to recognize the true value of things, and choose those which will last forever and bring us true happiness! Solomon, renowned for wisdom, is able to make the right choices when offered the chance to have anything he wants. What would we choose? The parable in the Gospel tells us that, in a sense, the choice is already before us: we can see the kingdom of heaven waiting for us: it is of greater value than anything else, and so all our hearts should be set on it. Nothing should stand in our way. .

### Prayer This Week

Gracious and Holy Father,  
give us the wisdom

to discover You,  
the intelligence  
to understand You,  
the diligence  
to seek after You,  
the patience  
to wait for You,  
eyes to  
behold You,  
a heart  
to meditate upon You,  
and a life

to proclaim You,  
through the power of  
the Spirit of Jesus, our Lord.  
Amen.

Prayer attributed to St Benedict

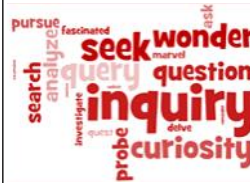
### GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

#### One Really Valuable Pearl

Jesus likens the kingdom to a man who finds a buried treasure and sells all that he has so that he can buy the field containing the treasure. He likens the kingdom to a merchant who sells all that he has in order to be able to buy one really valuable pearl. What is the one really valuable pearl that we are willing to sacrifice everything in order to have? What is that buried treasure for which we would be willing to sacrifice everything? The thing that Solomon wanted most was “an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong.” Isn’t it possible that what we want most is something very selfish: possessions, security, power, pleasure, comfort? What would the world be like if, instead of these, our one really valuable pearl was something like world peace based on justice for all? or the development of a classless society based on respect for all and the priority of need over want? Or the worship of God through prayer, service, and a preferential option for the poor? What would the world be like? Jesus says it would be like the kingdom. .

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 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!**

### Staff needed

#### Voting Places

We will need staff to help us at our Voting Places during the dates each voting place will be open.

#### Other Staff

We will also need support staff in the days before and after the election at our Head Quarters in Rosedale.



### 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**

### 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**  
17th Sunday Ordinary Time

1Kings 3: 5, 7-12  
Romans 8: 28-30  
Matthew 13:44-52

**Monday**

Exodus 13:1-35  
Matthew 13:31-35  
*St Ignatius of Loyola*

**Tuesday**

Exodus 33: 1-23  
Matthew 13: 36-43  
*St Alphonsus Liguori*

**Wednesday**

Ex 34:1-10, 29-35  
Matthew 13:44-46

**Thursday**

Exodus 40: 1-38  
Matthew 13:47-53  
*St Dominic, priest*

**Friday**

Leviticus 23:11.15-16.27,34-37  
Matthew 13:54-58  
*St John Vianney, priest*

**Saturday**

Leviticus 35:1.8-17  
Matthew 14:1-12



Just \$4

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



**Youth Group**

**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)

**MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS**

The Auckland wide group of Marian Movement of Priests will have the monthly Cenacle on Saturday, 5th Aug after the 9:15 a.m. at St. Thomas More Church, 336 Wairau Road, Glenfield and thereafter a short meeting and shared morning tea. The Cenacle will be in the Church and the meeting at the Youth Centre at the top. Please bring finger food to share.  
Contact Sylvia Hartley [aldonsylvia@gmail.com](mailto:aldonsylvia@gmail.com) or 021 088 22990



**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/).

**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, please visit [www.catholic.org.nz/news](http://www.catholic.org.nz/news) for more information. Role closes Monday 28 August.



Our stocks are low! Please donate non-perishable food items for the St Vincent de Paul basket in foyer

e.g breakfast cereals, coffee, tea, pasta, rice, tin fruit/vegetables, tuna, spaghetti, soups, pasta sauces.

**Thank you for your generosity.**

**PROLIFE FACTS**

A writer in a Christian magazine in the USA recently came up with a theory as to why abortion enjoys such widespread support. He outlined the usual arguments for and against abortion that most people are familiar with, but suggested that there is a deeper underlying reason why abortion is considered a necessary backup, or convenience. He suggested that with the decline of Christian values, sexual freedom is regarded as an essential part of modern life and sexual activity is viewed as "recreational". Therefore, the Christian belief that sexuality is sacred within marriage and concerned with rearing children, has little or no standing in the modern secular world. The fact that accidental pregnancy can occur from "recreational" sexual activity is regarded as a problem demanding a solution – and abortion is viewed as the solution. No other consideration should be allowed to get in the way. How to change such attitudes is a challenge for both churches and the pro-life movement. Britain for example, regards access to abortion as essential to living in the modern world. For more pro-life information, visit [Voice for Life at www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz).

**SAFE CHURCH ~ SAFE GUARDING**

As Catholics we believe that every person is created in the likeness and image of God. Therefore, we continue to ensure that our parish is a place where everyone is treated with respect and dignity. We foster an environment which is welcoming, and in which all our parish family feel safe. If you have any complaints or concerns, contact the National Office for Professional Standards 0800-114-662.

**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>



**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)

**TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy**

**Women in the Bible** with Kieran Fenn fms. Mondays, 07/14/21 Aug & 04/11/18 Sep, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM.

Fee: \$20/session or \$90/series. All sessions are connect but also stand alone. <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/07/10/women-in-the-bible/>

Liturgical Spaces with Prof Thomas O'Loughlin. Series on Muffin Talk radio programme freely available online at: <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/07/17/liturgical-space-thomas-oloughlin/> For more information: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.nz)

**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.

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