

19th Sunday of Ordinary Time A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 13 August 2023

Exploring The WORD

"Tell me to come to you across the water..."

How does God reveal himself to us?

Most of the time, in precisely the way we do not expect!

This is what happened to Elijah: we expect God - all-powerful, almighty - to appear in dramatic effects of nature; but no, God is in a gentle breeze. Similarly in the Gospel: the disciples do not expect Jesus to come towards them walking on the lake - but he does. And when God is revealed in the unexpected, he gives courage and strength:

Elijah was afraid when he went to Horeb, but was strengthened by his encounter with God to continue his mission; in the same way the disciples are given courage and faith by the Lord who walks to them on the waters.

Prayer This Week

Gracious God,
You call us to let go of the things we cling to
and step out in faith,
trusting in Your love and provision.

Give us courage
to step out boldly,
and sufficient faith
to follow without fear.

Take our lives and our gifts.
Use them to accomplish
more than we could possibly imagine,
so that, through us,
Your kingdom might come
and Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen.

GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY FEAR TRANSFORMED

Does Jesus frighten you? Or, better put, does His perfect and divine will frighten you? Hopefully not, but sometimes it may, at least at first. This story reveals to us certain spiritual insights and the way we may react to the will of God in our lives.

First of all, the context of the story is important. The Apostles were on a boat in the middle of the lake at night. The darkness can be seen as the darkness we face in life as we go through various challenges and difficulties. The boat has been traditionally seen as a symbol of the Church and the lake as a symbol of the world.

So the context of this story reveals that the message is one for all of us, living in the world, remaining in the Church, encountering the "darkness" of life. Sometimes when the Lord comes to us in the darkness we encounter, we are immediately frightened by Him.

It's not so much that we are frightened by God Himself; rather, we can easily become frightened by God's will and what He asks of us. God's will always calls us to selfless giving and sacrificial love. At times, this can be hard to accept. But when we remain in faith, our Lord will gently say to us, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." His will is nothing we should be afraid of. We should seek to embrace it with full confidence and trust.

This may be challenging at first, but with faith and trust in Him, His will leads us to a life of the utmost fulfillment.

John Paul Thomas/mycatholic.life



ALTAR SERVER FORMATION DAYS
Preferably BOYS
who have completed the
Sacrament of Christian Initiation.
**All Sundays of August at 4pm in the
Parish Church.**

A Journey of Faith

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.



**Rite of Christian Initiation
for Adults**

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 enroll 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.



Parish Seniors Group Morning Get-together

Fun for Seniors

Our next gathering will be on the
Feast of the Assumption:
Tuesday August 15.

We will meet in the Parish Hall as
usual for morning tea and
activities. We will have the options and costs for our outing now
planned for Tuesday September 19.

Sacramental Preparation



Sacramental Programme 2024

Registration for our 2024 Sacramental Programme is now open!

Requirements: Baptized children 8 years old and upwards to receive their First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist. Registration closes on 31 December 2023.

Enrolment Forms are available at the church foyer.

Submit completed Form to the Parish Office.

As your child grows closer to God in their preparation, it is hoped that in presenting your child and supporting them, your knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and your closeness to God will also grow. Our program seeks to assist you in the preparation of your child for the Sacraments.

To enable both faith and understanding to grow, it is presumed that your child's knowledge of the sacraments will be built upon by further instruction and example at home and or at school, and regular attendance at Mass.

Your understanding of the Mass as central to the Catholic faith and therefore the Sacraments is important.



The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Tuesday, 15th August

National Patronal Feast
for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Mass Times: 09.15am and 07.30pm

Special Collection for the upkeep of our retired priests!



TIN SUNDAY - Sunday 27 August

St Vincent De Paul Group requests for donation of
can goods and other non-perishable food items to
Replenish its food stocks. Please bring along:

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

Leave them in the Church foyer in the boxes provided

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



THE WORD OF GOD 19th Sunday Ordinary Time

1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:22-33

Monday

Deut 10:12-22

Matthew 17:22-27

St Maximilian Kolbe, priest

Tuesday

Apoc 11:19,12:1-6,10

Corinthians 15:20-26

Luke 1:39-56

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Matthew 18:15-20

Thursday

Josh 3:7-11,13-17

Matthew 18:21-19:1

Friday

Joshua 14:1-13

Matthew 19:3-12

Saturday

Joshua 24:14-29

Matthew 19:13-15

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Kids Korner <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/TWENTIETH-SUNDAY-of-OT.pdf>



Asia's Testimony <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Asia.pdf>

You're Invited to the **"Joy of the Gospel" Life in the Spirit Seminar!** Join us for a transformative two-day event designed to rekindle your faith and explore the good news of the gospel. *Saturday, August 19 – Sunday, August 20* Time: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm (both days) at St Joseph's Church Hall, Takapuna. *Seminar Highlights:* Praise & worship, Proclaims, Small group discussions Fellowship, *Registration fee:* \$20 Lunch and afternoon cuppa provided. To reserve your spot register at bit.ly/joyofgospel For further inquiries, please contact us: Phone: 027 226 19 OR 021 0234 6853

Position available

The Catholic Diocese of Auckland is 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 provide communications support for the Diocese. This is a part-time role of 25 hours per week with flexibility of hours between 9.am and 3.pm. For more details, and a full position description, please visit the Diocesan website <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/> Applications close on 18 August 2023.

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/.

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.

PROLIFE FACTS

Amnesty International has long enjoyed considerable status within the mainline churches for its sterling work on behalf of prisoners of conscience and those undergoing torture, unjust imprisonment and the death penalty. Amnesty International was particularly prominent during the Cold War and its work was openly supported by large Christian denominations, including the Catholic and Anglican churches. Unfortunately a new focus on promoting abortion rights was introduced when an American activist was elected as president and this stance was later ratified by the International Council of Amnesty International. Many Christian supporters found they could no longer in good conscience belong to Amnesty International and resigned. In 2017, the Irish Government announced a public referendum would be held on whether the Constitution would be amended to allow abortion. Ireland was transfixed by the debate and in May 2018, 68% of voters voted for legalising abortion. Amnesty International was actively involved in promoting vote "Yes" for abortion and openly commended the outcome, which has led to an estimated 30,000 abortions of Irish babies by mid-2023. **For more pro-life information, visit Voice for Life at www.voiceforlife.org.nz.**

Women in the Bible

with Kieran Fenn fms

The Bible—a book written by, for and about men?

The women who feature in the Bible are significant. They cover the different challenges of women in a patriarchal society. In this series we will learn more about women who were determined and strong.

They put their trust in God and went far beyond the expected behaviour.

We will explore the lives of key women in the Bible who chose unconventional methods to bear important leaders: women in Genesis, Exodus, Joshua-Judges, Ruth, Esther and Judith.



Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794-1872)

Kieran Fenn fms is a Bible scholar and has spent more than 40 years in Adult Education, teaching Scripture in New Zealand and abroad.



Women in the Bible with Kieran Fenn fms

Mondays, 07/14/21 Aug & 04/11/18 Sep 2023, 7-8.30pm (ZOOM)

Fee: \$20/session or \$90/series incl. study material.

For more information and registration: www.studyjoy.nz

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



If you missed filling out the Church Life Survey, we would still love you to do it.

A nationwide survey of church attenders and a confidential opportunity for you to have your say on the life of our church.

Please copy and paste this link

bit.ly/STMSurveynz and complete the survey online or scan the QR code to do the survey online

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.

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

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

NZCatholic

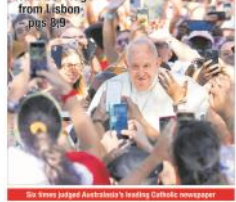
The national Catholic newspaper August 19, 16, 2023 - No. 817

Exorcisms suspended in Christchurch diocese 3

Minor exemption sought for bishops' conference 2

World Youth Day '23

WYD coverage from Lisbon - pgs 8-9



Just \$4

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

Tongan 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