

# 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 1 October 2023

## Exploring The WORD

“Once a sinner, always a sinner.” That seems to be the attitude of the self-righteous in the first reading and the Gospel; they object that God is unjust, because he gives sinners another chance. But God tells them quite clearly that such attitudes are the real injustice - to allow prejudice and hardness of heart to come between repentance and forgiveness.

The words of Christ in the Gospel must have struck a chill into the hard hearts of the so-called righteous chief priests - even today they can make us stop and think: “Prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.”

All our outward show matters little, if it does not correspond with what is deep in our hearts; all our words are meaningless, if they do not correspond with the way we live our lives.

## Prayer This Week

Lord Jesus, Thank you for your Word.  
Thank you for teaching us, again and again,  
how to live a life that is pleasing to you.

We pray that you continue to reveal yourself to us.  
Help us to honor you not only with our words  
but also in our deeds.

We pray that we will obey you  
whether it is “convenient” or not.

We pray that we will serve you, honor you,  
glorify you, and show you respect  
by doing what we know pleases you.

We pray that our lives will reflect who you are.

We pray that our lives will glorify you  
and continually attract and lead others to you.

We pray that we will be children that you can count on.

Help us to be wise, not foolish, and to be aware that we are  
ineffective Christians when we “talk the talk”  
but do not “walk the walk”.

Help us remember that in obeying you,  
we really are doing ourselves a favor  
because you will bless those who obey you.

Thank you Lord, for being so patient with us,  
for forgiving us, for giving us  
chance after chance after chance.

We pray Lord, that we will never take your sweet grace for  
granted. We pray that our lives will be  
a sweet smelling aroma to you. Amen.

## GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY GOD’S JUSTICE

Two sons were asked to work in the vineyard of their father. One said he would do so, but he didn't. The other said he wouldn't, but he did. It was this second son who did what the father wanted. God, our Father, invites us all to work in the vineyard, preparing the world for the coming of the kingdom. Some of us talk about the work that needs to be done, calling attention to the social ills that divide us: the poverty and hunger, the discrimination and oppression, the militarism and war. Others of us do something about these problems: challenging the systems that produce poverty and hunger, struggling to overcome discrimination and oppression, agitating for peace and an end to militarism.

The challenge of Jesus Christ is to look to others' interests rather than only to one's own. It is to look beyond one's small world, which may be filled with satisfaction and fulfillment, to look out into that world where people suffer and die. And it is to go beyond talk and become involved in action for the transformation of the world. Two sons were asked to work in the vineyard of their father. One of them did what the father wanted. *Gerald Darring/liturgy.slu.edu*



**First Wednesday -  
4 October 2023**  
Exposition 6.30pm  
Novena to Our Lady of  
Perpetual Help 7pm  
Mass 7.30pm



**First Friday  
6 October 2023**  
Exposition 6:30pm  
Divine Mercy Chaplet  
Novena 7pm  
Mass 7.30pm

*“I, the Lord, am your healer.” Exodus 15:26*



**COMMUNAL CELEBRATION  
OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND  
THE ELDERLY WITHIN MASS**

Saturday, 7 October 9:15 am.

## Cy Kellett, Catholic Author and Apologist with CatholicAnswers.com, visits us to share on the 'Cycle of Christian Life'

Meeting Jesus is the beginning of a new life. From this, men choose to follow or return to former lives. If men follow, they are converted to be like Jesus. This allows men to enter into shared lives, which we call communion. Men in communion with Jesus have everything (the summit of the spiritual life), but cannot keep it to themselves, or it will die. From communion men go on mission to help others meet Jesus. In transmitting faith, the cycle begins anew both for sharer and receiver. This is the fundamental cycle of Christian life handed down by the Apostles:

Encounter, Conversion, Communion, and Mission.

Breakfast will be served at this ticketed event, which will run in the Parish Office -- door sale of \$25. Bring a friend.

**Cy Kellett**  
MEN'S BREAKFAST  
THE CYCLE OF CHRISTIAN LIFE  
TUESDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2023  
6.30AM  
ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
336 WAIRAU ROAD  
GLENFIELD  
AUCKLAND  
www.evangelion.co.nz  
Catholic Answers

**Cy Kellett**  
THE CYCLE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE  
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For automatic payments please use the new parish bank details.  
Thank you  
**PARISH BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER**  
**BNZ 02 0108 0708668 000**

**Session 3: Am I Saved?**  
Salvation is a gift from God through Jesus Christ that requires our “yes”.

**Jesus and the Eucharist Release Schedule**  
Session 4: Why a Church? – October 5  
Session 5: God Is With Us – October 12  
Session 6: The Story of the Eucharist – October 19  
Session 7: Bread for the Journey – October 26

**FORMED  
FAITH AT HOME**

**How do parishioners register for an account?**  
Registering for FORMED is easier than ever:  
1. Go to [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup)  
2. Select your parish by typing in 0629 & select St Thomas More, 336 Wairau Road, Auckland  
3. Register with your name and email address.  
4. Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED



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.**

**IMPORTANT:** Please collect your Pledge envelope packs for 2023/2024 from the church foyer.

## THE WORD OF GOD 26th Sunday Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 18:25-28

Philippians 2:1-11

Matthew 21:28-32

*Day of Celebration for  
Venerable Suzanne Aubert*

### Monday

Exodus 23:20-23

Matthew 18:1-5,10

*The Guardian Angels*

### Tuesday

Zechariah 8:20-23

Luke 9:51-56

### Wednesday

Nehemiah 2:1-8

Luke 9:57-62

*St Francis of Assisi*

### Thursday

Nehemiah 8:1-12

Luke 10:1-12

### Friday

Baruch 1:15-22

Luke 10:13-16

### Saturday

Acts 1:12-14

Luke 1:26-38

*Our Lady of the Rosary*



The Sisters of Compassion founded by Venerable Suzanne Aubert, and the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference agreed that the first Sunday of October would be marked as a day of celebration for the  
**Venerable Suzanne Aubert-Meri Hōhepa.**

The purpose of this important national day of celebration is to promote and celebrate the spirituality and good works of Venerable Suzanne Aubert-Meri Hōhepa to as many people as possible. This year it will be on **1 October.**

These resources are also available on our website.  
[Celebration Sunday 2023 - compassion.org.nz](https://www.compassion.org.nz)

### Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass on Friday 6th October 7:00pm at

St Mary's Parish, 20 Kitenui Ave, Mt Albert.  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass, followed by general blessing of St Faustina's relic.  
All Welcome.



**Letters to the Corinthians - who were they?** with Kieran Fenn fms.

Monday, 09 Oct, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM.

Fee: Koha.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/09/19/letters-to-the-corinthians-who-were-they/>

**Muffin Talk - Interviews on radio, podcast, video.**

Bible Studies, Ecumenism, Interfaith Relations  
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/muffin-talk/>

### St Francis Retreat Centre:

**St Francis Open Day** - Join us to celebrate the Feast of St Francis with the Blessing of Animals Service. Bring your pets and explore our grounds this Sun 1 Oct 2pm-4pm.



**Contemplative Prayer Retreat** - Come to learn about fruits of the journey of meditation in the Christian Tradition | Sat 7 Oct 10am-4pm (\$80 fee includes lunch, tea/coffee)

### PROLIFE FACTS

South Korea has the lowest birth rate in the world, closely followed by Japan. This raises fears that in future there will not be enough young people to support the majority of elderly citizens. However, one small town in Japan and a county in South Korea are reversing the trend. Hwacheon county near Korea's DMZ offers free post-natal care in a rest centre for two weeks, followed up with Plunket-like support for mother and baby. The cost of education is a major factor in South Koreans limiting their families. Hwacheon residents pay those costs in the interest of enabling young couples to afford to have children. The community also pays for college education, which would otherwise be a huge financial burden for families. Nagi is Japan's "miracle town", where the birthrate is way above the national average. Enabling child-rearing is the core of their council's 20-year policy encouraging family formation. Nagi provides generous financial inducements, including new apartments and three-bedroom homes available for cheap rents. The elderly help out with child-care centres. The result, 47% of Nagi households have three or more children. **For more pro-life information, visit Voice for Life at [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz)**

### CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

**Kids Korner** : : **Twenty Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Twenty-Sixth-SUNDAY-of-OT.pdf>

**Parent Pondering** : **The Art of Discernment**

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/THE-ART-OF-DISCERNMENT.pdf>

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

Also please **DO NOT** park along ST Thomas More Lane as the residents are inconvenienced by the weekly congestion.  
**Your vehicle will be towed away.** Thank you

## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

**The Season of Creation** A message from the CDA Justice & Peace Commission: In this Season of Creation, we pray: "that we grow as people, to harmonize our own rhythms of life with those of creation, which gives us life." Pope Francis  
—oOo—

### Vacancy Convent Security Office Baradene College, Remuera

The Baradene Convent is a long-established Auckland home of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart. This special role requires the night Security Officer to live onsite. Accommodation in lieu of salary is included in the 2 year contract. Work hours are from 7pm-7am including weekends, with the busiest tasks in the early stage of the shift. Flexibility is in place for agreed leave and other absences. This special position requires an entrusted person to align with Catholic faith teachings, the Sisters' values and their privacy. For full details please visit the CDA Website <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/>.  
Closing date: **20 October 2023**  
—oOo—

**Remembering Fr Julian Tenison Woods** Everyone is welcome to join in on an afternoon ritual to honour **Fr Julian Tenison Woods** the co-founder of the Sisters of St Joseph. At Mary MacKillop Chapel Mission Bay on Saturday 7 October at 2.30pm.  
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### Taize Prayer Evening

Please note change of evening for this month. Taizé Prayer will be Thursday 12 October at 7pm at Mary MacKillop Chapel, Mission Bay.  
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### Volunteers required

Our Diocesan Archives project records and artefacts dating back to the earliest days of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa NZ is moving from a paper-based catalogue to digital. We need volunteers to transcribe our lists into spreadsheets to be loaded into the new system. You will be familiar working with spreadsheets, an accurate typist with a keen eye for detail, and able to commit a half day each week. Though not a paid role, there is parking on site, we offer full training, including in care and handling of items, and if you have a passion for history there will be plenty to interest you. The role is based at the Pompallier Centre in Ponsonby. As part of diocesan policy, candidates need to be willing to undergo criminal conviction and reference checks. If you are interested in applying or would like to find out more, please contact Keith on 09 360 3064 or [keiths@cda.org.nz](mailto:keiths@cda.org.nz)  
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The Sisters of Mercy invited all those pondering religious life to **'Prayer and Meal' Evening**. Mass will be celebrated by Fr Chris Skinner. WHEN: Wednesday 4th October 2023 WHERE: Hou Mana Wai - Mercy Well-springs 104 The Drive, Epsom Time: 6.30pm All are welcome! Contact phone: 021 0360781  
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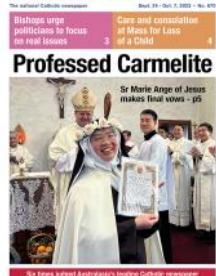
**Hāto Petera Hui-a-Whānau** Saturday 11 November from 3.00pm to 5.00pm at Te Kamaka Marae. For those who wish to stay there will be Miha Māori at 6.00pm.  
—oOo—

A message from the Justice and Peace Commission in the Season of Creation "to transform our hearts, lifestyles and public policies to heal our common home." *Pope Francis*

The Catholic bishops have updated and expanded for the 2020s **Te Kahu o te Ora - A Consistent Ethic of Life**; a significant document which inspires the active protection and promotion of all life.

Bishop Steve Lowe, NZ Catholic Bishops Conference President and Bishop of Auckland, says the revised and expanded version of Te Kahu o te Ora "reminds us that all life is a gift of God." It can be downloaded from the NZCBC website <https://www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Consistent-Ethic-of-Life-booklet-26-September-2023.pdf>

## NZCatholic



Just  
\$4

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



South  
African  
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



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