



# 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 17 September 2023

## Exploring The WORD

**"I do not tell you to forgive seven times, but seventy seven times."**

Jesus tells a dramatic story in the Gospel, to make a very important point: the desperate need in our world for forgiveness and reconciliation. How many chances do we give each other? As many as seven? How often do we shut doors on people, even family and friends, saying 'That's it, you've just gone too far this time: never again?' When Jesus says that we must forgive seventy-seven times, he implies that we never stop forgiving, whatever happens. He doesn't just say this, however: even when they do the worst thing that could be done to him, nailing him to a cross, Jesus puts these words into practice: Father, forgive them...As his disciples, we must do likewise.

## Prayer This Week

### Prayer for Forgiveness

Merciful God,  
we thank you for the extravagance  
of your forgiving love revealed in Jesus Christ.

We ask your forgiveness  
for those times and relationships  
where we have failed to be forgiving people.

Empower us through your Holy Spirit  
to make forgiveness our way of life,  
beginning today.

Lord Jesus,  
give me the grace to acknowledge my sins.

Grant me mercy in life and help me  
to become just, merciful,  
and forgiving toward others  
without holding back any misgivings

Amen.

## GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

### The Challenge of Forgiveness

"Forgive your neighbour's injustice." How often must I forgive the brother who wrongs me?

"Not seven times, I say, seventy times seven times."

Some of the social ills that we struggle against result in part from the refusal of people to forgive. Wars are fought and innocent people are killed, maimed, or displaced because people cannot forgive their neighbors for their actions or those of their ancestors. Our own society shows its own refusal to forgive in its obsessive clinging to the death penalty. The world of social evil stands in need of forgiveness. Those of us who are African-American are challenged by the gospel to forgive the slave masters of their ancestors as well as the racist descendants of those slave masters.

Those of us who are women are challenged by the gospel to forgive the sexist men who have colluded, through action or inaction, in the creation and maintenance of a 'man's world.'

The victims of war are challenged by the gospel to forgive all the militarists of the world. "The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion." The challenge is for us to become like God, who is our creator and guide. *Gerald Darrington/liturgy.slu.edu*

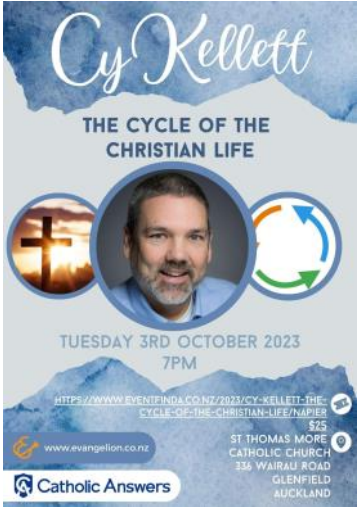
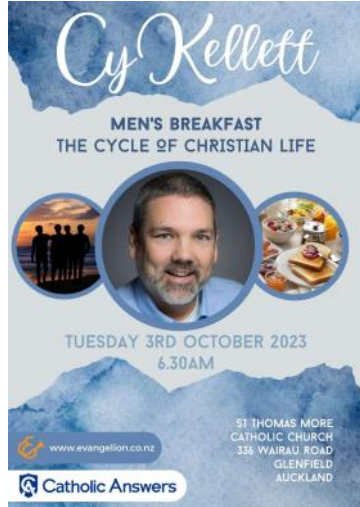
## Sacramental Programme 2024

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 together with a copy of the Baptismal Certificate to the Parish Office.

## Cy Kellet, 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.



## St Thomas More Parish Seniors Group September 2023 Gathering

Join us for Brunch and Fun at MAYFIELD SPORTSHOUSE after morning Mass on Tuesday September 19th. A range of Menu Options from \$14-\$20. Refer Poster on the Church Noticeboard by the Baby Room. Are you coming? Add your name and contact number to the list, and indicate if you require transport.

## Special Second Collection

### Cathedral Appeal - NEXT Sunday September 24, 2023

This money is used to support long term maintenance of our Mother Church - St Patrick's Cathedral, a precious heritage entrusted to us.



**Jesus and the Eucharist** - We look forward to increasing devotion to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament with you in the coming weeks!  
Session 1: What's Our Story? – September 14  
Session 2: Who Is Jesus? – September 21  
Session 3: Am I Saved? – September 28  
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  
The Catholic Faith on demand. You can study / watch / listen / read for FREE. Ongoing Faith Formation and Evangelisation.

### 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



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

## THE WORD OF GOD 24th Sunday Ordinary Time

Ecus 27:30-28:7  
Romans 14:7-9  
Matthew 18:21-35

### Monday

1 Timothy 2:1-8  
Luke 7:1-10

### Tuesday

1 Timothy 3:1-13  
Luke 7:11-17

### Wednesday

1 Timothy 3:14-16  
Luke 7:31-35

*Sts Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang & Comps. Mm*

### Thursday

Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13  
Matthew 9:9-13

*St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist*

### Friday

1 Timothy 6:2-12  
Luke 8: 1-3

### Saturday

1 Tim. 6:13-16  
Luke 8:4-15

*St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest*

## ADULT CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

Saint Joseph's Takapuna is offering a preparation course for the adult reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. The course will be on Thursday evenings at 7pm (7, 14, 21, 28 September 2023). For those interested to participate please contact the parish office 09-4896486 or email [pastoral@stjoseph.org.nz](mailto:pastoral@stjoseph.org.nz)

## JUNIOR YOUTH 8-13 YEARS OLD



# GAMES NIGHT

FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER  
7-9 PM  
YOUTH ROOM  
ST THOMAS MORE

A gentle reminder

### 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**

The old account will be closed and all payments made into that account will be returned

Friday September 1 marks the beginning of the month-long Season of Creation. The theme for 2023 is "Let Justice and Peace flow like a river," inspired by the prophet Amos who cries out "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24). The National Liturgy Office has prepared extensive resources for both the World Day of Prayer for Creation (September 1) and the Season of Creation, including a prayer card and notes from Pope Francis for a homily. Go to: [www.nlo.org.nz/news-and-events/media-releases/season-of-creation-4/](http://www.nlo.org.nz/news-and-events/media-releases/season-of-creation-4/) And [www.nlo.org.nz/news-and-events/media-releases/son-of-creation-5/](http://www.nlo.org.nz/news-and-events/media-releases/son-of-creation-5/)

### PROLIFE FACTS

This weekend provided an opportunity for Cantabrian pro-lifers to participate in a March for Life, on Saturday 16th September. The aims were to: 1) provide participants with an opportunity to be part of a gathering that celebrates and supports Life; 2) remember the over 500,000 babies who have lost their lives to abortion since the 1970's; 3) increase public awareness of abortion, and its impact on women, families and society; 4) offer hope to those who are struggling after having an abortion; and 5) oppose the Abortion Legislation Bill that was passed by Parliament. The March for Life was a family friendly event. The official March commenced in Victoria Square, and involved walking in unison through Cathedral Square to return to where they started. Speeches followed the March, as well as a minute of silence for the lives lost to abortion and singing of the national anthem. **For more pro-life info, visit Voice for Life at [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz).**

### CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

**Kids Korner** : [Twenty Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Twenty-Fourth-SUNDAY-of-OT.pdf)  
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Twenty-Fourth-SUNDAY-of-OT.pdf> **Par-ent Pondering** : [Corrie ten Boom](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Corrie-ten-Boom.pdf)  
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Corrie-ten-Boom.pdf>

### Daylight saving

Turn your clocks forward 1 hour  
**Sunday 24 September**

### NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Te Kupenga – Catholic Theological College accepts enrolment for the **Bachelor of Divinity and Graduate Diploma in Theology** starts September 25.

"With a dedicated and qualified faculty of theologians, and access to a wealth of resources, our program will empower you to critically analyse complex theological issues, foster spiritual growth, and prepare you for a meaningful career in ministry, education, or other fields where a profound understanding of theology is invaluable." To learn more about the programmes, go to [www.tekupenga.ac.nz/programmes](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/programmes).

—oOo—

**The Season of Creation** A message from the CDA Justice & Peace Commission: In this Season of Creation we pray: that we "heed our call to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice." Pope Francis

—oOo—

### Support Life Sunday 7-8 October 2023 – A Consistent Ethic of Life

Each year, the Catholic Church in Aotearoa NZ celebrates Support Life Sunday. This year, the Bishops' chosen focus is

#### The Consistent Ethic of Life.

Along with a social-media campaign and liturgical material due out later in September to assist, the bishops will be releasing a revised version of an important 1997 statement titled *Te Kahu o Te Ora – the 'Garment of Life'*.

This statement explores the application of what is a uniquely Catholic ethical framework to contemporary moral issues. Much has changed in the quarter-century since 1997, yet much remains the same.

The liturgical resources, social media slides and other material will centre on the idea that all life issues are interconnected. The framework of a Consistent Ethic of Life provides us with a lens to recognise and act on those connections. <https://www.catholic.org.nz/resources/sls23/>

**NZCatholic**  
The national Catholic newspaper

Forwarded free of charge  
The case for women  
elections spelled out  
by 10 economists

### Good Knights



Just  
\$4

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



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

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 inconven-  
ienced by the weekly congestion. **Your  
vehicle will be towed away.** Thank you