

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 24 September 2023

Exploring The WORD

“Why be envious, because I am generous?”

We can never hope fully to understand God: especially God's generosity. We are very good at working out who is deserving of good fortune and who is not - unfortunately for us, God's gifts go to those God chooses, not those we choose. An example is forgiveness: those who have done the most wrong are those who receive the greatest forgiveness when they turn to God - perhaps at times we begrudge this gift. Today's lesson is simply this: God's ways are not our ways, God's thought are not our thoughts.

Prayer This Week

Heavenly Father,

I count it as a privilege to serve you,
so help me always to be content in my service.

Help me also to be content with what you bless me
with in the way of wages or rewards.

I know that all that you give me,
especially that which will come my way in eternity is
completely undeserved.

Help me not to look at the service
or the wages of others in such a way
as to make me envious of them.

I can easily forget that you are always fair and even
generous when I fall into improper comparisons.
In the deepest sense it is really not possible for me to
see what others experience as they serve you.

I cannot see their inner conflicts or
background struggles, nor can they fully see mine.
In the end, all of us truly need to trust you and know
that all that we have from you is all of grace.

Keep us ever mindful of your goodness
and grace toward us. Amen

GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

*“Going out about five o'clock, he found others standing around,
and said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’*

They answered, ‘Because no one has hired us.’

He said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard.’” Matthew 20:6-7

This passage reveals the fifth time in one day that the owner of the vineyard went out and hired more workers. Each time he found people idle and hired them on the spot, sending them to the vineyard. We know the end of the story. Those who were hired late in the day, at five o'clock, were paid the same wage as those who worked all day long. One lesson we can take from this parable is that God is exceptionally generous and it is never too late to turn to Him in our need. Too often, when it comes to our life of faith, we sit around “idle all day.” In other words, we can easily go through the motions of having a faith life but fail to actually embrace the daily work of building up our relationship with our Lord. It's much easier to have an idle faith life than one which is active and transforming. We should hear, in this passage, an invitation from Jesus to get to work, so to speak. One challenge that many face is that they have spent years living an idle faith and do not know how to change that. If that is you, this passage is for you. It reveals that God is merciful to the end. He never shies away from bestowing His riches on us no matter how long we have been away from Him and no matter how far we have fallen. *John Paul Thomas/mycatholic.life*

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 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.



Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship North Shore

All men are invited to a meeting on **Wed 27 Sept at 7.30pm** at St Josephs Centre, Takapuna. We hope to spend time praying the rosary with reflections led by a leader. *(Please remember to bring your rosaries)*

We look forward to seeing you there and spending time sharing, praying and enjoying each other's company over supper.

For more information please contact

Russell 022 034 5678.

Session 2 is now on FORMED!

Jesus and the Eucharist is a new seven-session video series produced by the Augustine Institute and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to inspire devotion to the Real Presence.

Who is Jesus?

Jesus is both God and man; therefore, he reveals who God is in relation to us. In Matthew 16:15, Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Who do you say that I am?” He asks this same question of us: who do you say Jesus is?

How do parishioners register for an account?

Registering for FORMED is easier than ever:

1. Go to 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



Special Second Collection

Cathedral Appeal - THIS 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.

THE WORD OF GOD 25th Sunday Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:6-9
Philippians 1:20-24,27
Matthew 20:1-16

Monday

Ezra 1:1-6
Luke 8:16-18

Tuesday

Ezra 6:7-8,12,14-20
Luke 8:19-21

Sts Cosmos and Damian, Mm

Wednesday

Ezra 9:5-9
Luke 9:1-6

St Vincent de Paul, priest

Thursday

Haggai 1:1-8
Luke 9:7-9

Friday

Daniel 7:9-10,13-14
/Apocalypse 12:7-12
John 1:47-51

*Sts Michael, Gabriel & Raphael,
Archangels*

Saturday

Zechariah 2:5-9,14-15
Luke 9:43-45

St Jerome, priest



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



Holy Cross Seminary
www.holycross.org.nz



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

Bishops' 2023 Election Statement published

The NZ Catholic Bishops have published their 2023 Election Statement, which urges the politicians elected on 14 October to focus on issues that matter to the people of the nation rather than the trivia and scandals that dominate public debate.

The Election Statement is also available online here as a PDF: https://www.catholic.org.nz/assets/NZCBC_Election2023_A4.pdf

And it is available here as a web page: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/about-us/bishops-statements/election-statement-2023/>

A general announcement about the Election Statement is online here: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/election23/>

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.

IMPORTANT: Please collect your Pledge envelope

A final request to please make sure you are using the new bank account number for automatic payments. Thank you

PARISH BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER

BNZ 02 0108 0708668 000

PROLIFE FACTS

Chemical abortions are proving to be the most popular abortion procedure in the western world because they are so convenient. It involves two medications, usually taken orally, and so may appear to be a less traumatic option than surgical abortion. The website "Abortion Services in New Zealand" describes it as "like having a miscarriage". However, as is common knowledge among women, miscarriage often brings feelings of grief and loss, and it is not surprising that some women who begin the chemical abortion procedure have a change of heart after taking the first pill. In the United States, the Abortion Pill Rescue Network (see APRNWorldwide.com) literally comes to the rescue, helping around 150 women a month save their babies with a reversal protocol treatment. There have been many successful reversals when treatment starts within 72 hours, and in the USA, over 4,500 babies have been rescued. To the best of our knowledge, the reversal protocol is not offered in New Zealand. **For more pro-life information, visit Voice for Life at www.voiceforlife.org.nz.**

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Kids Korner : : **Twenty Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time**
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Twenty-Fifth-SUNDAY-of-OT.pdf>
Parent Pondering : **The Shoe Man Poem**
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/The-Shoe-Man-Poem.pdf>

Daylight saving
Turn your clocks forward 1 hour
Sunday 24 September

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Make a conscious voting decision this general election by being informed in the light of faith through the Gospels and Catholic Social Teaching. Please refer to the leaflet 'Your Vote Counts' issued by Bishop Lowe and the Justice & Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Auckland for more information.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS



AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
GENERAL ELECTION 14 OCTOBER 2023



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Cardinal Mario Grech, General Secretary of the Synod Assembly starting in Rome on 4 October, has invited all the faithful to participate in **prayer for the Synod** from today Sunday 24 September with Prayers for Intercession. A Vatican News article about Cardinal Grech's letters to the bishops asking for everyone to join in the prayers is here: www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2023-09/cardinal-mario-grech-invitation-episcopate-priests-prayer-synod.html

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Prayer for the Synod. All are welcome to a choral Evensong at Trinity Cathedral on Sunday Oct 1, 5 pm to pray the Synod in Rome

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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/>

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The Diocesan Newsletter CDA connect is available for your reading pleasure. Get a glimpse of what is happening in the diocese and what is coming up soon. www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/services/cda-connect.

TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy

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/>

Please **DO NOT double park** in the main car-park 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