



31st Sunday of Ordinary Time A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 5 November 2023

Exploring The WORD

An awkward set of readings to sit through as a priest today! The more responsibility we have for the flock of God, the more is demanded of us. But for all God's people, there is the need for constant vigilance, to be on guard against hypocrisy and complacency, the two greatest threats to our living God's way and not our own, self-serving way. This is a prelude to the end: for the next three weeks we will think about the end of the world and the judgement that awaits. This Sunday's readings should begin to encourage us not to fear and dread that day, but to look forward to it, by putting our lives in order and living as the Lord showed us. .

Litany of Humility

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, Hear me.
 From the desire of being esteemed, *Deliver me, O Jesus.*
 From the desire of being loved...
 From the desire of being extolled ...
 From the desire of being honored ...
 From the desire of being praised ...
 From the desire of being preferred to others...
 From the desire of being consulted ...
 From the desire of being approved ...
 From the fear of being humiliated ...
 From the fear of being despised...
 From the fear of suffering rebukes ...
 From the fear of being calumniated ...
 From the fear of being forgotten ...
 From the fear of being ridiculed ...
 From the fear of being wronged ...
 From the fear of being suspected ...

That others may be loved more than I,
 Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.
 That others may be esteemed more than I ...
 That, in the opinion of the world,
 others may increase and I may decrease ...
 That others may be chosen and I set aside ...
 That others may be praised and I unnoticed ...
 That others may be preferred to me in everything...
 That others may become holier than I,
 provided that I may become as holy as I should ...

- *Rafael Cardinal Merry del Val y Zulueta (1865-1930),
 Secretary of State for Pope Saint Pius X*

GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY LIVING THE FAITH

"Faith gives us the promise of peace and makes known the demands of love." And what love demands is service:
 "The greatest among you will be the one who serves the rest."
 The problem is that selfishness blurs the vision of faith, and so we break faith with each other, thereby violating the covenant of our fathers. We people of religion are all too often like the Pharisees, laying heavy loads on other people's shoulders without lifting a finger to budge them ourselves. Instead of judging the poor, we should be serving them through our efforts on behalf of economic justice. Instead of criticizing those of other races, we should be serving them through our efforts on behalf of racial justice.
 Instead of ignoring the homeless, we should be serving them through our efforts on behalf of adequate housing for all.
 "May we live the faith we profess." Our faith tells us that we are all brothers and sisters: "Have we not all the one Father?" The way to live this faith is to build a human community of love and justice, and the first step in doing this is the acknowledgment of our failings and the offering of a pure sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins."
Gerald Darring/liturgy.slu.edu

Christmas Giving Tree 2023

Our Parish Annual Christmas Giving Tree drive begins this Sunday. Support this project by taking a gift tag from the tree. Purchase the gift, return and place them with its tag attached under the Christmas Tree at the back of the Church.

Your generous donations of gifts, food items/vouchers and gift cards will be distributed in the form of Christmas Hampers to our parishioners in need, St Vincent de Paul and Little Sprouts Charitable Trust.

All gifts and donations must be returned by

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 2023



JUNIOR YOUTH
 8-13 YEARS OLD



TEAM TITANS

FUN TEAM ACTIVITIES AND GAMES



FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER
 7-9 PM
 YOUTH ROOM
 ST THOMAS MORE

**COMMUNAL CELEBRATION
 OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK
 AND THE ELDERLY WITHIN MASS**
Saturday, 11 November 9:15 am.



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND SCAM ALERT

More priests are getting hit by scammers and parishioners are reminded to be aware of this. The text starts by saying name of the priest and can include your name. That they are in a meeting so don't phone but text back... That your help is critical and highly appreciated. If you respond, they will ask you to do something for them, i.e.. Buy gift cards and they will pay you back or something else.

General things to remember.

- Always carefully check the email or phone number it has come from.
- Don't click on any links until you know they are safe.
- Priests will not be asking you to buy them anything. If anyone is unsure ring the parish office number before replying even if they have said not too.

The scams are very good and don't always include bad grammar or spelling errors like they did before, but often rely on urgency so that you don't think before replying.

This information can also be found on the diocesan website
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/2021/03/02/be-alert-scammers-at-large/>.

THE WORD OF GOD 31st Sunday Ordinary Time

Malachi 1:14-2:2,8-10

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13

Matthew 23:1-12

Monday

Romans 11:29-36

Luke 14:12-14

Tuesday

Romans 12:5-16

Luke 14:15-24

Wednesday

Romans 13:8-10

Luke 14:25-33

Thursday

Ezekiel 47:1-2,8-9,12

1 Corinthians 3:9-11,16-17

John 2:13-22

Dedication of St John Lateran

Friday

Romans 15:14-21

Luke 16:1-8

St Leo the Great, pope D

Saturday

Romans 16:3-9,16,22-27

Luke 16:9-15

St Martin of Tours, B

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Come and visit us and see the diocesan centre. 9 November The **Pompallier Diocesan Centre**, 30 New St, St Mary's Bay is a service hub for the diocese. And a mystery to many. On the 9 November from 4.00-7.30pm you are invited to an **Open Home** at the Centre. It will be an opportunity to engage with staff, explore some of the archival treasure, enjoy a snack, purchases liturgical resources and more.
—oOo—

Approved Diocesan Marriage Preparation Course:

Are you getting married? Please book your Diocesan Marriage Preparation course here: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/our-courses/> Please book 1 year (if getting married in NZ) or 18 months (if getting married overseas) in advance of your wedding date. The 3-part course takes about 32 hours to complete and is usually spread over 3 months. For more information email: marriageandfamily@cda.org.nz or call Gerry on **M:021 02247442**.
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Catholic Diocese of Auckland positions available:

University Ministry Coordinator – Are you a self-motivated relationship-builder who can be the driving force behind a new project? We're looking for someone who answers "Yes!" to become our full-time **University Ministry Coordinator**. You'll be part of a tight-knit team implementing a bold new strategy for ministry to young people in the Diocese of Auckland.
Youth Ministry Officer – Are you a self-motivated relationship-builder who wants to make a meaningful positive impact in the lives of young people? We're looking for someone who answers "Yes!" to become our full-time **Youth Ministry Officer**. You'll be part of a tight-knit team implementing a bold new strategy for ministry to young people in the Diocese of Auckland.
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Marriage and Family Life Administration Assistant

We are seeking a methodical, cheerful, dedicated, and efficient person with a passion for marriage and family to share the work of marriage preparation. The role involves liaison with Marriage Educator couples and engaged couples, administration, preparation of course material, and some hosting at courses. This is a part time role of 16 hours per week, with occasional evening and weekend work.
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Mt Eden Corrections Facility - Catholic Prison

Chaplaincy We are seeking to employ a suitably qualified person to work as a member of Tira Tūhāhā Prison Chaplaincy Aotearoa Chaplaincy Team, which delivers Ecumenical Chaplaincy services to men in prison at the Mt Eden Corrections Facility. The position is a permanent part-time position of 32 hours per week – Monday to Thursday with the expectation of some Sundays per month for Sunday Services. Applications close 17 November 2023. To learn more about these positions, please visit: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/
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Parish Coordinator Vacancy The Parish of St Luke's in Flat Bush is on the hunt for a Parish Coordinator to join the team. As one of the largest growing parishes in Auckland, we wish to employ a person for 25-30 hours a week as the parish coordinator. This role is to assist the Parish Priest to ensure that the pastoral and administrative needs of the parish are met. The role provides pastoral assistance and is responsible for the coordination of the Parish Education Programs (RCIA, Baptism program, sacramental program & children's liturgy) and assisting with Sunday Masses. Ideally the applicant would have a good grasp of social media. Applicants should be active Catholics and able to partake in the full sacramental life of the church, with theological formation (preferred). Good communication, strong planning and organization skills are essential. Applicants must have the right to work in NZ and have a NZ drivers license. For more information, please contact the Parish Priest, Fr Craig Dunford by email office@flatbushcatholic.org.nz
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"Between 8 to 23 October, 5,791 people have lost their lives in Gaza. A humanitarian crisis is looming. A Gaza Health Ministry spokesperson says that 7,000 patients and wounded in Gaza hospitals are at risk of death as fuel supplies, providing electricity, for kidney dialysis, intensive care support, and oxygen supply begin to run out. 12 hospitals and 32 Health centres are already out of service. Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is calling for a ceasefire and for sufficient humanitarian supplies to be allowed into Gaza to help vulnerable people caught up in the conflict. Prayers have been published on the Caritas Facebook page and website. **Caritas is also receiving donations through its website:** <https://www.caritas.org.nz/where-we-work/holy-land> "



Holy Cross Seminary, Auckland Seeking part-time Chef

Our much-loved, long-standing chef is retiring, so we are seeking a part-time chef for 30-hours per week over 5-days (Sunday-Thursdays non-negotiable), commencing early February 2024. Duties will include responsibility for the weekly grocery shop, working within budgets, as well as x1 evening meal preparation for the Seminarians and Seminary Priests. Holy Cross Seminary follows a university term schedule, and the successful applicant will be required term-time only (x32 weeks per year). If you have the necessary qualifications/experience and are interested in this role, please send your CV with Cover Letter to office@holycross.org.nz by Wednesday, 15 November 2023.



The Gospel of Mark with Kieran Fenn fms.
Mondays, 13 and 20 November, 7-8.30pm.
ZOOM. Free.

Donations/Koha are appreciated.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/10/10/the-gospel-of-mark/>

YouTube Recordings

Muffin Talk radio programmes are available online at: <https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/muffin-talk/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

PROLIFE

Prolife Christians and medical professionals who want to know more about how to engage with those considering abortion or euthanasia are warmly invited to attend the Voice for Life Training in Auckland. Come along to the Voice for Life Prolife training day to immerse yourself in a full day of practical, hands-on learning, to equip yourself to have conversations with love and compassion. Speakers will include doctors, lawyers, counsellors and other experts who will share practical advice that you can put into action right away. Hosted by Voice for Life Auckland, the event will take place at the Reformed Church of the North Shore, Trias Road, Sunnynook, on 2 March, 2024. Contact auckland@voiceforlife.org.nz for more information. **For more pro-life information, visit Voice for Life at www.voiceforlife.org.nz.**

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Kids Korner : [Thirty First Sunday of Ordinary Time](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Thirty-First-SUNDAY-of-OT.pdf)
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Thirty-First-SUNDAY-of-OT.pdf>

Thirty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Thirty-Second-SUNDAY-of-OT-2.pdf>

Parent Pondering : [Story of Peace](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Story-on-Peace.pdf)
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Story-on-Peace.pdf>

[When the summit makes it worthwhile.](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/When-the-summit-makes-it-all-worthwhile.pdf)
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/When-the-summit-makes-it-all-worthwhile.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

NZCatholic

Young people told about navigating today's cultural crisis 10 Social housing challenges under the new government 20

New bishop for Hamilton Diocese



Just \$4

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



South African Community



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@stthomamore.org.nz



Holy Cross Seminary
www.holycross.org.nz