



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time B

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 28 January 2024

Exploring The WORD

Where does authority come from? Why is one man regarded as a prophet, and another as a lunatic, and a third as a hypocrite? Jesus startles the crowds with a “new teaching” today, but what amazes them so much is not the message but the authority behind it: they are convinced because what he does somehow adds credibility to what he says. It’s the old situation that we are all familiar with - we look through words to see the actions, which show us the real message. The scribes did not heal or work miracles, but simply talked about God. Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God, but also shows the people what it is - a Kingdom where all that damages human happiness is abolished. The other side to this is that we must listen to a prophet or teacher when they are backed by such authority; we may not “harden our hearts” and ignore the message when we have recognized that the messenger is sent by God. This is the hard part, because it demands that we too show, by our actions, that we have heard. .

PRAYER THIS WEEK

“The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.”

Dear God,
our hope is that you will amaze us;
win us with your words;
spellbind us with your love.

And let us, with you,
cast out unclean spirits
from this world:

human trafficking,
gun violence, homelessness,
climate crisis, racial bias,
poverty, greed, war.

Make the unclean spirits
obey you,
in our small efforts.
Amen

GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

A Specific Responsibility

The readings deal with teaching authority. The first reading deals with the authority of Moses; the third with the authority of Jesus.

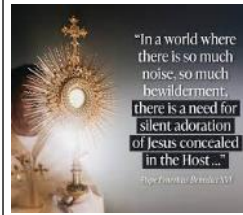
The response to Psalm 95 speaks of not hardening our hearts when we hear God’s voice. There are several ‘voices’ that speak to us with authority. One is the Scripture. Another is the hierarchy of the Church, which speaks authoritatively on matters of doctrine as well as on issues of personal morality and social justice.

The First Reading speaks of true and false prophets: those who speak the words God puts in their mouths, and those who claim to speak in God’s name but speak words God has not commanded them to speak. Society is often a ‘false prophet,’ claiming to speak the truth and even to be ‘Christian,’ but at the same time glorifying war and oppressing the poor. The Church, in its teaching on personal and social morality, is a true prophet, faithful to God’s revealed word. *Gerald Darring/liturgy.slu.edu*

This feast celebrates both the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, as well as the Purification of Mary, which was required by the Mosaic Law forty days after the birth of a child.



This feast is also called Candlemas for the custom of using lighted candles. At Mass, the priest blesses candles that people bring for use in their homes. Please bring your candles for blessing if you are attending Mass.

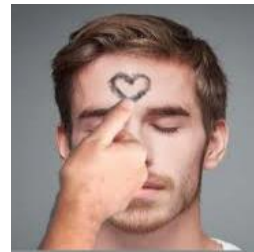


THURSDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT Resumes on 8th FEBRUARY 2024,

From 10 a.m. to 7p.m.

Please put your name and contact number in the roster sheet at the back of the church for a 1/2 hour of weekly Thursday Adoration.

Valentine's Day meet Ash Wednesday



9:15 am and 7:30 pm
Special Collection

This year’s convergence of Valentine’s Day and Ash Wednesday offers lessons about that long sought after four-letter word **LOVE**.

On the one hand, **Valentine’s Day** - a commercialized feast in memory of a mysterious Christian martyr, is a day devoted to chocolates, flowers, and the romantic love shared by couples.

Ash Wednesday is the Christian entrance into Lent, a season of forty days devoted to prayer, abstinence, and almsgiving, all meant as spiritual preparation for Holy Week, which concludes with Good Friday and Easter. Ash Wednesday begins all this with a day of fasting, self-denial, and repentance. We humans, endowed with free will, are thus faced with a choice. It’s one that we must make every day, and this year it’s uniquely underscored on February 14th. We can love for our own ends, to satisfy our own limited and temporary desires or we can love and sacrifice for the greater good of the beloved and, ultimately and eternally, for our own sanctification and for the common good of all.

PRAY

FAST

GIVE

PARISH LENTEN OBSERVANCES

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays of LENT

9:45 am and 7:00pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS- 9:45 am

THURSDAYS- 6:00pm

FRIDAYS- 6:00pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

THURSDAYS - 6:00pm

FRIDAYS - 6:00pm

ADDITIONAL WEEKDAY EVENING MASS

Fridays of LENT - 7:30pm



14 February 2024 is Ash Wednesday

Please bring your last year’s blessed palms and place them in the green box in the church foyer.

Please remove all wrappings (papers and plastic) and place only Blessed Palms

LAST DAY FOR COLLECTION IS 4th FEBRUARY 2024.

THE WORD OF GOD

4th Sunday Ordinary time

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Mark 1:21-28

Monday

2Samuel 15:13-14,30;16:5-13

Mark 5:1-20

Tuesday

2Samuel 18:9-10,14,24-25,30-19:3

Mark 5:21-43

Wednesday

2Samuel 24:2,9-17

Mark 6:1-6

St John Bosco, priest

Thursday

1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12

Mark 6:7-13

Friday

Malachai 3:1-4

Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke 2:22-40

Presentation of the Lord

Saturday

1Kings 3:4-13

Mark 6:30-34

Fr Alfredo Garcia will be celebrating his

Thanksgiving and Farewell Mass

this weekend. The 10am Mass will be livestreamed for those who can not attend.

Please join us after the 10am Mass as we bid our beloved priest of 9years a warm farewell.

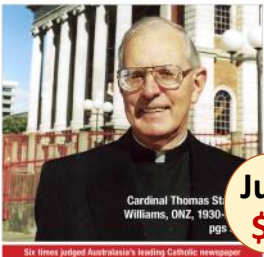
We appreciate and Thank you Fr Alfredo for your devoted service to our parish.

We wish you well!!

NZCatholic \$4
The national Catholic magazine
June 22 - Feb 10, 2024 - No. 617

2024 Clergy appointments for six NZ dioceses
Fr Mahe's journey - husband, father, priest

Vale Cardinal Tom



Cardinal Thomas St. Williams, ONZ, 1930-2023

Just \$4

Please pray for our sick parishioners & their families

Anselmo Salazar, Gaye Rhodes, 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

"I, the Lord, am your healer." Exodus 15:26



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

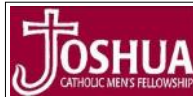
SATURDAY, 10 February 2024 9:15 AM



First Wednesday Mass 7 February 2024
Exposition **6.30pm**
Novena **7.00 pm** & Mass **7.30pm**

First Friday will commence on 1 March 2024

Exposition **6:30pm**
Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena **7pm**
Mass **7.30pm**



Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship North Shore

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship North Shore will hold their first meeting for 2024 on **Wed 31 Jan** at St Josephs Centre, Takapuna. All men are invited and we hope you will join us for a cuppa and fellowship. For more information contact **Russell 022 034 5678**.



Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to

ADVERTISE ON OUR PARISH NEWSLETTER

12 spaces available!

TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy

Bible Stories - What do they mean?

Join us in unravelling Bible stories and looking for answers within a group, and with Bible Scholar Kieran Fenn fms.

Sundays, 04 Feb, 03 Mar, 07 Apr, 05 May 2024, 5-6pm (Zoom). Koha <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/01/19/bible-stories-what-do-they-mean/>

The Mystery of Miracles

Mondays, 08/15/22/29 April 2024, 7-8.30pm
\$25/session or \$80/series, incl. study material.
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/01/11/the-mystery-of-miracles/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Kids Corner:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Celebrating-FIFTH-Week-in-OT.pdf>

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Celebrating-SIXTH-Week-in-OT.pdf>

Parents pondering:

How does Jesus answer the 'WHY'
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/How-does-Jesus-answer-the.pdf>

Ponderings: Bring to God Whatever Hinders Us
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Bring-to-God-Whatever-Burden-Hinders-Us.pdf>

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

A conversation with Monsignor Tomáš Halík. Help my Unbelief! How can we find the "Galilee of Today"? Ordained secretly as an underground priest, Tomáš Halík is now theologian at Charles University Prague. Come and listen to Mons Halík. St Columba Centre 5 February 2024 7.30pm. Followed by supper. Please RSVP Fr Merv Duffy m.duffy@ctc.ac.nz by 2 February.

—oOo—

WAITANGI DAY 2024 MIHA All are welcome to celebration of Mass in Te Reo Māori and English to pray for our nation as we acknowledge the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in 1840.

Miha (Mass) will be celebrated at Whaiora Marae, 14 Ōtara Road, Ōtara beginning with a Pōwhiri at 8.30am on Tuesday 6th February 2024. Following Mass there will be refreshments and a talk on Te Tiriti o Waitangi. For more information email ManuelB@cda.org.nz

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Year of Prayer. Pope Francis has dedicated 2024 as a Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year of 2025. Resources are available on the diocesan website <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/year-of-prayer/> and will be updated regularly particularly as resources become available through the Dicastery for Evangelization.

—oOo—

Past, present members of the **Diocesan Commission for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations**, and those interested in these aspects of Church life are invited to a meeting to explore how the diocese moves forward in these important relations particularly in light of the Synod's call to engage. Bring your interest, enthusiasm and ideas. Wednesday 7 February Poynton Room Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 6.30-8.00pm. RSVP pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz | 5 February

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NEW COURSE 8-week guided book study on Dr Edward Sri's Men, Women and the Mystery of Love - a classic meditation on Pope John Paul II's Love and Responsibility.

This course is for young adults (18 - 35 years) single, dating, engaged and married couples. Wednesday evenings 6.30pm - 9pm, Hillsborough, Auckland.

Starts Wednesday 7th February. Registration closes 1st February. For more information and to register please visit: theologyofthebody.nz

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Theology of the Body: Beginners Course

This course is ideal for those new to TOB. It focuses on the meaning and purpose of the human person, love and the infinite bliss and fulfilment in Christ. Dates: **Sat 2nd and Sun 3rd March**, 8am -6pm, Mission Bay, Auckland. All adults are welcome.

For more information and to register please visit: theologyofthebody.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 - **the residents are inconvenienced by the weekly congestion. Your vehicle will be towed away.** Thank you