



# 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time B

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 11 February 2024

## Exploring The WORD

Thankfully, we do not encounter leprosy in our culture. It can therefore be difficult to enter into the real depth of today's readings. We have to understand that leprosy meant exclusion, rejection and the end of "normal" life. For your leprosy to be cured would be like being given a second chance at life. What is the cause of exclusion and rejection in our society – or even in the Church? Who are those who must "live apart"? And how can we put into effect in our day those most touching of the words of Jesus, when asked if he wants to cure the leper: "Of course I want to!"?

Contemplating exclusion and rejection in our world can be hard work: Saint Paul guides the way: the Christian path is not to work "for my own advantage, but for the advantage of everybody else".

## PRAYER THIS WEEK

*A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean."*

O Healer,  
wounded by our sins,  
we kneel before you.

Reach out to us.  
like you did to the leper.  
Lay your hand upon us,  
and please heal us.

And from your  
abundant pity, send us,  
broken and ragged,  
to fix our damaged earth,  
eliminate the wars,  
end social bias,  
and feed the  
hungry.

Caress your world.  
Use us to  
do it. Amen

## GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

### Open to New Life

On the one hand, there are suffering human beings like Job, slaves longing for the shade. On the other hand, there is God who cares about us, who heals the brokenhearted.

Leprosy was a terrible disease in biblical times. Highly contagious, it was fatal, since there was no cure for it. The law could do nothing other than exclude lepers from participation in the life of the community.

There was more to it than that. The [Responsorial Psalm](#) 32 is a reminder that in biblical times people often regarded sin as the cause of disease. Lepers were therefore sinners, and the community excluded them from its worship. In a theocracy such as Israel, exclusion from the temple was a fate worse than death.

Jesus enters the scene as the healer of lepers. Those, for whom the law offers no hope, find in Jesus their savior, their key to re-entry into the human community. *Gerald Darring/ liturgy.slu.edu*

## The Mercy Seat

"The Mercy Seat" - is a reference to the lid of the ark of the covenant, being a mercy seat that God would come and sit upon to be dwell amongst His chosen people, the Jews. But now in this new context, Christ in the tabernacle is fulfilling the role of God's mercy present to us in the real presence of the Eucharist. The name of the Saviour God was invoked only once in the year by the high priest in atonement for the sins of Israel, after he had sprinkled the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies with the sacrificial blood. The mercy seat was the place of God's presence. When St. Paul speaks of Jesus whom "God put forward as an expiation by his blood", he means that in Christ's humanity "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself." - CCC 433 Jesus is not only the blood on the mercy seat, He is the mercy seat. He not only covers our sin with His blood, He covers the Law by having kept it perfectly. When the Spirit applies Christ's blood and His obedience to us — when we confess our sin and seek a righteousness apart from ourselves — we are clothed in His righteousness.



14 February 2024

Holy Eucharist

9:15 am and 7:30 pm



**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
BEGINS THE SEASON OF LENT

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR  
THE RETIRED PRIESTS

## Confirmation/First Eucharist

Classes begin on  
Sunday, 11 February 2024 at  
4:30pm in the Church Hall.



## NORTH SHORE DOVE FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN



Our first gathering for 2024 will be on **TUESDAY, 20th February, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** at St. Thomas More Catholic Church followed by cuppa. Holy Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Pio Fong. Come and join Catholic women to pray, praise and fellowship with one another. Phone Sylvia Hartley 021 088 22990 or email [aldonsylvia@gmail.com](mailto:aldonsylvia@gmail.com)



**Parish Seniors Group**  
All are invited to join us on  
**Tuesday 13 February 2024**  
**SHROVE TUESDAY**

We will meet in the Hall after 9.15am Mass  
For Fun and Fellowship  
Please bring your ideas for Activities  
and Outings in 2024



PRAY

FAST

GIVE

## PARISH LENTEN OBSERVANCES

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Frídays 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

## THE WORD OF GOD 6th Sunday Ordinary time

Leviticus 13:1-2,45-46  
1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1  
Mark 1:40-45

### Monday

James 1:1-11  
Mark 8:11-13

### Tuesday

James 1:12-18  
Mark 8:14-21

### Wednesday

Joel 2:12-18  
2Corinthians 5:20-6:2  
Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

### ASH WEDNESDAY

### Thursday

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Luke 9:22-25

### Friday

Isaiah 58:1-9  
Matthew 9:14-15  
*World Day of Prayer for the Sick*

### Saturday

Isaiah 58:9-14  
Luke 5:27-32



**1st WEDNESDAY**  
Exposition, Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
and Mass Have been

**CANCELLED**

**LEGION OF MARY** - We have the Statue of Mother Mary that we circulate to families on a weekly basis to encourage the praying of the Rosary in the family. If you would like the Statue in your home, please contact Nel Suba on [ntsuba@gmail.com](mailto:ntsuba@gmail.com) or phone 020 111 2357  
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If you would like the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in your home, please contact Sylvia Hartley on [aldonsylvia@gmail.com](mailto:aldonsylvia@gmail.com) or phone 021 088 22990  
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## VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED PLEASE

**LAPTOP OPERATORS:** We need laptop operators for the 5:30 p.m. and 10 a.m. weekend Masses. Please contact Sylvia Hartley on [aldonsylvia@gmail.com](mailto:aldonsylvia@gmail.com) or 021 088 22990  
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**READERS:** We need two readers for the 8 a.m. Mass on 3rd Sundays of the month. Please contact Sylvia Hartley on [aldonsylvia@gmail.com](mailto:aldonsylvia@gmail.com) or 021 088 22990

The Liturgy Centre is offering liturgical ministry workshops across the deaneries, which will cover training/refreshers for Ministers of the Word and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. These workshops will consist of context, prayer, and practical formation in these areas.



Participants will only need to attend ONE of these workshops. All will receive a certificate at completion, which will be posted to their parish and presented at mass on a chosen date/time. Each session will be held on a specific Sunday at a parish within the designated deanery, from 1pm-3pm (with light lunch provided).

3rd March | Central/City (Good Shepherd Balmoral)  
10th March | West (Our Lady of Lourdes Glen Eden)  
14th April | East (St Marks Pakuranga)  
5th May | South (St Annes Manurewa)  
19th May | North Shore (St Josephs Takapuna)

Register via the link below or contact your parish office/priest:  
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/liturgy-prayer/formation/>



### 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](http://www.studyjoy.nz)

## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

**Kids Corner: Celebrating First SUNDAY of LENT**  
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Celebrating-FIRST-SUNDAYof-lent.pdf>  
**Parents pondering: Find Happiness**  
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/FIND-HAPPINESS.pdf>

## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

**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.  
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**Lent at St Michael's** In the lead up to Lent, St Michael's RE Committee invites you to a programme of five weekly talks by Fr Merv Duffy. This unique series is designed to enrich our understanding of Lent, deepen our faith, as well as explore the mysteries and significance of the Eucharist during this sacred season. This programme will be presented on Tuesday evenings at St Michael's beginning Tuesday 20 February 7.00pm – 8.00pm. Register at St Michael's website <https://www.remueraatholic.org.nz/lenten-programme>  
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**Christian Meditation** The Cathedral parish is hosting sessions on Meditation in the Christian tradition Mondays at 5.30pm register with Anita [anita@stpatrick.org.nz](mailto:anita@stpatrick.org.nz)  
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### Masterclass Young Leaders' Formation, Sunday 25 February

Youth leaders, you're invited to Masterclass, our quarterly event focused on equipping you for ministry. There will be relevant workshops, fantastic (free) kai, and opportunities to connect with other young leaders! Masterclass will be taking place on Sunday 25 October, 2:30pm – 8:00pm, at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New Street, Ponsonby. Register at [masterclassCDA.eventbrite.com](https://masterclassCDA.eventbrite.com)  
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### Young Leaders' Commissioning Mass, Sunday 25 February

Join us as we begin another grace-filled year of youth ministry in the Diocese! Our Commissioning Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Steve Lowe, who will commissioning our young leaders as they are sent out for ministry in 2024. This special mass will be taking place at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 25 February at 7pm. Please join us to support our young leaders.



### Upcoming Retreats & Events at St Francis Retreat Centre:

**Women's Prayer Retreat** - A reflective prayer retreat in the Catholic tradition for Women | Fri 16 Feb 5pm - Sun 18 Feb 3pm | Standard \$330 (few spots left)

**Time Out Days** – For those who seek a day retreat - 9:30am – 2:30pm (\$30 includes lunch) | Wed 21 Feb | Thu 21 Mar | Tue 16 Apr

**Homecoming** - A Lenten retreat reflecting on Rembrandt's painting and Henri Nouwen's book "The Return of the Prodigal Son" | Fri 22 Mar 7pm- Sun 24 Mar 4:30pm | Earlybird \$300 (before 18/2) | Standard \$330

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

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



Tongan community

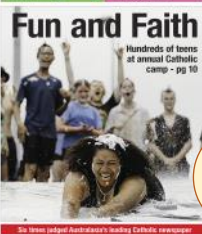


### Baptism Preparation Courses 2024

3 March 2024  
7 April 2024  
5 May 2024  
9 June 2024  
14 July 2024  
4 August 2024  
8 September 2024  
6 October 2024  
3 November 2024

Contact the parish office to book  
Ph: 444 8624

Email: [office@stthomasmore.org.nz](mailto:office@stthomasmore.org.nz)



Just \$4

### Please pray for our sick parishioners & their families

Simone Choromanski,  
Anselmo Salazar, Gaye Rhodes, Mary Baker, Israel Nathan, Lyn Cotter, Tamar Mathews, Mark Delaurier, Mary Anne Clark

Contact the Parish office if you wish to add names  
[office@stthomasmore.org.nz](mailto:office@stthomasmore.org.nz)



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