



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time B

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 4 February 2024

Exploring The WORD

This world, as we know, is a fragile and fallible place, in which we encounter hunger, disease, sickness and death. Jesus proclaims, by his actions of healing, that there is another world, the Kingdom of God, which will be free from all such anxieties and afflictions. The story of Paradise and the Garden of Eden painted a picture of a world which was perfect, and free from all problems. Jesus came into the world precisely to offer us a return to Eden, if we follow him. Each of his miracles is also, in some sense, a parable or teaching, pointing out to us something of the lost happiness and perfection which he is restoring. This vision of Paradise is not Utopian or delusory, not just a vain hope to comfort us with, but the true manifestation of God's love for us. Jesus could not cure every disease or sickness in the world then: but his miracles of healing are a sign that one day, when the Kingdom comes, sickness and disease will be wiped away for ever. .

PRAYER THIS WEEK

"He approached her, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them."

Lord Jesus,
whole towns flocked to you, with
demons and sickness,
to be healed.

In our day
we, as well,
come to be found
by you.

O Lord Jesus Christ:
bend down, grasp
our hand and help us up.
We are plagued with unrest,
from climate crisis, gun violence,
racial bias, hunger and wars all around.

Let us also "get up and wait on others,"

And take your good news to
all our sisters and brothers
everywhere. Amen

GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

Healing Love

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 and sustains the lowly. Jesus comes into this world of suffering as God the healer: those whom he cured were many. The community of the followers of Jesus has a calling to bring healing to this world full of suffering. They are to go about it by means of service: just as Simon's mother-in-law did, they are to use their healing from Jesus as an opening to serve others. They are to be like Paul, making themselves all things to all people, the slaves of all. The Catholic Church challenges us to hunger and thirst for what is right so that, like God, we might fill the hungry with good things. Especially through his life-style and through his actions, Jesus revealed that love is present in the world in which we live—an effective love, a love that addresses itself to man and embraces everything that makes up his humanity. This love makes itself particularly noticed in contact with suffering, injustice and poverty—in contact with the whole historical "human condition," which in various ways manifests man's limitations and frailty, both physical and moral..

Gerald Darring/liturgyslu.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.

Valentine's Day meet Ash Wednesday



9:15 am and 7:30 pm
Special Collection for our priests

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



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



THE WORD OF GOD

5th Sunday Ordinary time

Job 7:1-4,6-7
1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23
Mark 1:29-39

Monday

1Kings 8:1-7,9-13
Mark 6:53-56
St Agatha, V.M

Tuesday WAITANGI DAY

1Kings 8:22-23,27-30
Mark 7:1-13

Wednesday

1Kings 10:1-10
Mark 7:14-23

St Paul Miki & comps, p.M

Thursday

1 Kings 11:4-13
Mark 7:24-30

Friday

1Kings 11:29-32,12:19
Mark 7:31-37

Saturday

1Kings 12:26-32,13:33-34
Mark 8:1-10

St Scholastica, V

All welcome to share

in a cuppa after the
10am Mass



Please bring a
plate to share and join us as
we welcome **Fr Pio Fong** as
our new Parish Priest

Baptism Preparation Courses 2024



4 February 2024
3 March 2024
7 April 2024
5 May 2024

Contact the parish office to book
Ph: 444 8624

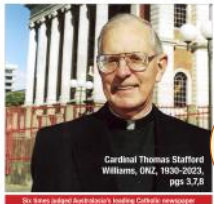
Email: office@stthomasmore.org.nz

NZCatholic

2024 Group appointments for six NZ dioceses

Fr Mike's journey - husband, father, priest

Vale Cardinal Tom



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



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

IMPORTANT PARISH NOTICES

WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES and DEVOTIONS will
resume as follows

1st WEDNESDAY EVENING NOVENA AND MASS

7th February 2024

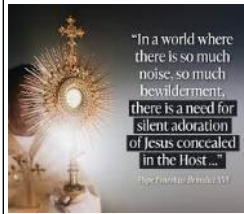
THURSDAY ADORATION AND EVENING MASS

8th February 2024

1st FRIDAY ADORATION AND EVENING MASS

1st March 2024

THURSDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



"In a world where
there is so much
bewilderment,
there is a need for
silent adoration
of Jesus concealed
in the Host..."
St. Thomas Aquinas

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.

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.

Confirmation/First Eucharist

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



TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy

Bible Stories - What do they mean?

Join us in unravelling Bible stories and looking for an-
swers 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-SIXTH-Week-in-OT.pdf>

Parents pondering:

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.

—oO—

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
Whaioara 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/](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/year-of-prayer/)
and will be updated regularly particularly as
resources become available through the
Dicastery for Evangelization.

—oO—

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

—oO—

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY Tuesday 13
February. Tuesday 13 February is World
Marriage Day. In his 2023 apostolic exhortation
Amoris Laetitia, Pope Francis says: "Marriage
based on an exclusive and definitive love
becomes an icon of the relationship between
God and his people and vice versa. God's way
of loving becomes the measure of human love.

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**The Walter Francis Darby Trust Scholarship
for Medical Students** If you are a fourth- or fifth
-year medical student in 2024, are an active
Catholic and normally reside within the
Auckland Diocese you may be eligible for the
Walter Francis Darby Trust Scholarship. For
more information email [scholar-
ships@cda.org.nz](mailto:scholarships@cda.org.nz)

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**Catholic Diocese of Hamilton PASTORAL
SERVICES MANAGER Vacancy.** Pastoral
Assistant to the Bishop, Leadership of the
pastoral team, Diocesan Pastoral Planning. To
receive a job description and application form,
please email: jobs@cdh.org.nz Applications
close on Monday 19th February 2024.

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