



## 4th Sunday of Lent A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 10 March 2024

### Exploring The WORD

When we get to Easter, there are two symbols of the resurrection that we use in Church: fire and light (the Easter Candle) and water (the Font). Last week we reflected on water, and this week there are passages all about light – true light, that defeats the blindness of sin. Again, this would have been offered to those preparing for Baptism, but speaks to all of us who have been baptised, inviting us to be renewed in the light of Christ at Easter. Remember that one of the oldest titles of the newly baptised was “neophyte”, which means “newly enlightened”. There is a subtle link between the readings on this Sunday: in the first reading, David is anointed, and the Spirit of the Lord seizes on him. This anointing lights him along the right path - ‘no evil would I fear’ as the Psalm says. Then Paul tells us more about this light: it is Christ shining on us, calling us to live as children of light. All this is summed up in the Gospel, the marvellous story of the healing (by being ‘anointed’ with spittle) of the man born blind. Jesus is the light of the world

### PRAYER THIS WEEK

*“He smeared the clay on his eyes and he said to him,  
“Go wash in the Pool of Siloam.”*

Lord Jesus,  
won't you cleanse our  
blind eyes? ...

Wash away the  
Mud? ...

and move us from  
unseeing souls to believers—  
from bystanders to disciples,  
walkers in darkness  
to lamps for your light.

O let our souls see! Amen

Anne Osdieck

### LENTEN SPIRITUALITY

#### Looking Into The Heart

The prophet Samuel comes to Bethlehem to choose a new king from the family of Jesse. He rejects Jesse's oldest son because “Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart.” With this single statement, the Word of God unmasks much of the world's blindness. We look at poor people and see nothing other than rundown houses and littered streets. We look at the homeless and see nothing other than dirty faces and ragged clothes. We look at people who are different from us and we see nothing other than the color of their skin or the way they manipulate their bodily limbs. In today's [Gospel](#), Jesus, the light of the world, takes away the man's blindness. This wonderful story challenges us to “live as children of light.” Our Lenten prayer and sacrifice should serve to take away our blindness so that we can look into the hearts of others and love them as brothers and sisters. It “should turn hatred to love, conflict to peace, death to eternal life.” It should enable us to say with the blind man: “I can see and I believe in God.” . [Gerald Darring/liturgy.slu.edu](#)

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

#### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

THURSDAYS - all day until 7:00pm



### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Wednesday	13 March	Orewa	7.00pm
Thursday	14 March	East Coast Bay	7:00pm
Tuesday	19 March	Northcote	7:00pm
Wednesday	20 March	Glenfield	7:00pm
Thursday	21 March	Takapuna	7:00pm
Friday	22 March	Beach Haven	7:00pm
Sunday	24 March	Devonport	7:00pm

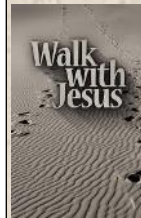
### Lenten Talk

presented by Fr Pio Fong

#### Prayer & Our Walk with Jesus

Monday, 11th March 2024  
in the Parish Hall  
from  
7:30pm—9:30pm

All welcome



### RCIA Scrutinies of the Elect

The purpose of each of the scrutinies is *“to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the Elect”* and *“to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good”* (RCIA, 141). The true pastoral sense

of this two-fold act of uncovering and strengthening is emphasized – “For the scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the Elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ.” At its core, the three scrutinies are not about the sinfulness of the Elect but about the overwhelming grace of God in Christ. The exorcisms are not fear-laden bouts with Satan, they are rather grace-filled encounters with the healing power of the Spirit.

We are all in need of conversion throughout our lives, so we join with the Elect in scrutinizing our lives, and we too pray for the grace to overcome the power of sin that infects our heart.



### HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

You will find the Mass schedule in the church foyer and on our website [www.glenfieldcatholic.org.nz](http://www.glenfieldcatholic.org.nz)



## THE WORD OF GOD

4th Sunday of Lent

Laetare Sunday

1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

### Monday

Isaiah 65:17-21

John 4:43-54

### Tuesday

Ezekiel 47:1-9,12

John 5:1-3,5-16

### Wednesday

Isaiah 49:8-15

John 5:17-30

### Thursday

Exodus 32:7-14

John 5:31-47

### Friday

Wisdom 2:1,12-22

John 7:1-2,10-25-30

### Saturday

Jeremiah 11:18-20

John 7:40-52

## Parish Seniors Group

All are invited to join us on

**Tuesday 19 March 2024**

for a Picnic at **Milford Beach Reserve**

We will meet in the Church Hall after

9.15am Mass and can Carpool to Milford.

Bring your children/grandchildren along to enjoy the playground.



JUNIOR YOUTH  
8-13 YEARS OLD



WATER GAMES  
+ CHALLENGES  
NIGHT

FRIDAY 15 MARCH

6-8PM

PARISH HALL  
ST THOMAS MORE



DON'T FORGET TO BRING SPARE CLOTHES,  
TOWELS AND SOME WATER TO DRINK!



## Choir Practice

Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm

in preparation for the

Holy Thursday and

Easter Vigil Masses.

We welcome all singers and  
musicians to join with us.



## Carmel College, Milford

Pre-enrolment Evening for Years 7 to 9 in 2025

**Thursday, 14 March 2024 in College Hall**

4.00pm – presentation by staff and students

4.30-5.30pm – tours of the school

View our enrolment information at <https://www.carmel.school.nz/enrolment/enrolment/>



## Divine Mercy Feast at St Benedict's Parish Sunday 7th April at 5:30pm.

1 St Benedict's Street, Eden Terrace.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Blessing of Images, Benediction, Holy Mass, Veneration of St Faustina's relic. Bring your Divine Mercy images & artefacts to be blessed.  
**Free Parking at Wilson carpark**



## March is dedicated to St Joseph!



Join these online prayer events to get to know our spiritual father: Mary's Song Online Prayer Community where we meet for prayer, catechesis, and fellowship on March 19, Solemnity of St Joseph, the Husband of Mary at 7:30 pm. 33-Day Consecration to St Joseph starting on 27 May, and every Wednesday after that until May 1 on the Feast of St Joseph the Worker. **For more info or to register, please visit [www.marriageandfamily.org.nz](http://www.marriageandfamily.org.nz)**

## PROLIFE FACTS

Auckland Voice for Life hosted their Training Day on March 2nd. One hundred people heard from legal, medical and ethics practitioners including Alex Penk (Ethos), and Brendan Malone (Lifenet), lawyers Ian Bassett and Owen Posthuma; medical doctor Martin Ng, Mike Porteous (Hub of Hope) and Marina Young from the Buttons Project. **For more pro-life info, visit [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz).**

## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

**Kids Corner:** <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Fifth-SUNDAY-of-LENT.pdf>

**Parents pondering:** A GRAIN of WHEAT  
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/A-GRAIN-OF-WHEAT.pdf>



Envelopes are in the church foyer for your donations.

## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

### Vacancy Northland Region Corrections Facility (Ngawha) – 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 Northland Region Corrections Facility. The position is a permanent part-time position of 20 hours per week – days to be determined but with the expectation of some Sundays per month for Sunday Services. To view the full advert and the position description please go to our website [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz) under Diocesan Services and Staff Vacancies. Applications close 5 April 2024.  
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### SUMMIT Young Leaders' Weekend

Young leaders, are you ready for an incredible weekend of FORMATION, FELLOWSHIP and being spiritually FILLED? We can't wait to see you at the SUMMIT 22-24 March at Sunshine Ranch Clevedon. Go to our Facebook page @AKCYM or contact Felicity from Ministries to Young People at [felicity@cda.org.nz](mailto:felicity@cda.org.nz) for details.  
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### Good Friday Stations of the Cross Procession

On Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, we will be gathering once again for our traditional Stations of the Cross procession through Auckland CBD. We invite you and your faith community to join us for this powerful public witness of faith through the streets of Auckland. The procession will begin at Albert Park Rotunda at 9am and will conclude at St Patrick's Cathedral at 11am. For queries contact Sam from the Ministries to Young People team or email: [samuelb@cda.org.nz](mailto:samuelb@cda.org.nz).  
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### Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage Stations of the Cross

The ecumenical partners of Auckland, and Christians in more than 100 cities around the world, has come together and launched the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage Stations of the Cross. This is to pray, raise awareness and assist the suffering people of Gaza. More information is available at: <https://www.gazaceasefirepilgrimage.com/>, scroll down the page to 'Join a walk' and click on Aotearoa/NZ for updated details of the pilgrimage. This is to be a Lent prayerful pilgrimage, meant to be 41 km long (as the length of Gaza Strip), with 14 stations of the Cross. It is planned for **Saturday, 16 March, with start at 6 am from Holy Sepulchre Church, 2 Burleigh Street, in Grafton, Auckland.** People are welcome to walk, cycle or roll in some or all stations if they prefer. Please book this date in your diary, if you would like to join us in this international event. Let us be active, present, and advocates for Peace and Justice.



## All welcome to share

in a cuppa after the 10am Mass hosted by the



Iraqi  
Community

## Baptism Preparation Courses 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)

**NZCatholic**  
The national Catholic newspaper

With priest appointed as rector of Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland 2  
P North Bishop calls for Catholic engagement in public square 5



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)

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