



5th Sunday of Lent A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 17 March 2024

Exploring The WORD

The Gospel of the Fifth Sunday is perhaps the deepest meditation on the mystery of Baptism and membership of the Church. It is a prelude to the events of Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the triumph of life over death. To be plunged into the waters of baptism is to be buried with Christ, only to rise with him from the waters. This paradox of life and death is the content of today's readings. There is no more important part of our faith than the resurrection: that Christ rose from the dead is the very centre and heart of all that we believe - without it, our faith is useless. In the same way our belief in our own resurrection is vital: it is the most deeply needed gift that Christ gives us. This is why the climax of the instructions given to candidates for Baptism was this teaching: that Christ would give them life after death. Look ahead to the 3rd Sunday of Easter, where Saint Peter preaches to the crowds - what he teaches them is that life comes after death, as it did for Lazarus, and for Christ himself.

PRAYER THIS WEEK

"They said to him, "Sir, come and see."

And Jesus wept.

He had cried
"Lazarus, come out of there!"
Lazarus did.

"Death, now where is your sting?"

Christ weep with us, and for us,

trapped in burial cloths
with our hands tied,
when we are trafficked,
seized at borders, homeless.

Your passion says,
"Untie them.
Let them go free."

LENTEEN SPIRITUALITY

Victory Over Death

Today's [Gospel](#) recounts one of the most dramatic stories from the life of Jesus: the raising of Lazarus from the dead. John goes to great lengths to make clear that Lazarus had been dead for some time, and he shows Jesus' power to conquer death. We live in a world that has been caught up in death for a long time. We kill each other in acts of murder, abortion, euthanasia, execution, war, terrorist activities, drunk and reckless driving. We kill ourselves through suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, smoking, overwork, stress, bad eating habits, and physical neglect. We watch calmly as others die from poverty, hunger and malnutrition, homelessness, unemployment, poor education, disease, lack of health coverage, child abuse, arms proliferation, discrimination, pollution, destruction of the environment, unsafe working conditions, and all the laws, policies, practices and attitudes which contribute to these conditions. Jesus is the resurrection and the life. He is the God who "will put my spirit in you that you may live." Our Lenten celebration must serve to remind us that the paschal mystery represents a victory over death. . **Gerald Darring/liturgy.slu.edu**

PRAY

FAST

GIVE

PARISH LENTEN OBSERVANCES

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fraturdays 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

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

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.



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.



If the weather is not suitable we will meet in the Hall as usual

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.



Eftpos is available every
4th Sunday of the month for SVDP collection We thank you for
your generous contribution.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

You will find the Mass schedule in the church foyer and
on our website www.glenfieldcatholic.org.nz



THE WORD OF GOD

5th Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45

Monday

Jeremiah 1:4-9

Acts 13:46-49

Luke 10:1-12,17-20

St Patrick, B & M

Tuesday

2Samuel 7:4-5,12-14,16

Romans 4:13,16-18,22

Matthew 1:16,18-21,24

St Joseph, Husband of Mary

Wednesday

Daniel 3:14-20,24-25,28

John 8:31-42

Thursday

Genesis 17:3-9

John 8:51-59

Friday

Jeremiah 20:10-13

John 10:31-42

Saturday

Ezekiel 37:21-28

John 11:45-57

All welcome to share

in a cuppa after the 10am Mass hosted by the



Tongan
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

NZCatholic
The National Catholic Office

Wright priest appointed as rector of Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland 2

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



Holy Cross Seminary
www.holycross.org.nz

NORTH SHORE DOVE CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN



will meet on TUES. 19th Mar 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at **ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH HALL, 336 WAIRAU ROAD, GLENFIELD.**

Come and meet other Women from the North Shore Parishes and learn how to Pray. **Deidre Broome** will speak about Prayer Ministry.

Contact Sylvia 021 088 22990 for more info.

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



Celebrate St Joseph!

The month of March is dedicated to St Joseph. As we approach the Feast of St Joseph on 19 March, we invite you to make a 33 Day Consecration to St Joseph which begins on **27 March** and culminates on 1 May, the Feast of St Joseph the Worker. **For more info or to register, please visit www.marriageandfamily.org.nz**

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/2024/03/Celebrating-PALM-SUNDAY.pdf>

Parents pondering: BUILDING YOUR HOUSE
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/BUILDING-YOUR-HOUSE.pdf>

PROLIFE FACTS

So-called "safe zones" are areas created around the premises of abortion providers, where it is prohibited to carry out peaceful, pro-life witness. Right to Life provided an update about the implementation of the Safe Area Legislation in their January 2024 newsletter. The Minister of Health has now approved applications for eleven safe area designations of 150 metres around eleven hospitals, in Auckland, Greymouth, Christchurch, Dunedin, Thames, Rotorua, Hawkes Bay, Palmerston North and Invercargill. A breach of the safe area legislation by any person offering assistance to a woman to choose life for her child could result in arrest, being charged in court and a fine of up to \$1000. **For more pro-life information, visit Voice for Life at www.voiceforlife.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

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

St Joseph's Feast Day—Prayer Ritual to honour St Joseph's Feast Day, Mary MacKillop Chapel, Mission Bay, Tuesday 19th March at 5.30pm

Concert with Fr Chris Skinner SM, Mary MacKillop Chapel, Sunday 7 April at 2pm, Suggested koha \$10

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 Sonshine Ranch Clevedon. Go to our Facebook page @AKCYM or contact Felicity from Ministries to Young People at felicity@cda.org.nz for details.

Join Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College for its new webinar series, A Taste of Theology from April-December 2024 every first Tuesday of the month. These are one-hour sessions with topics on Philosophy, Canon Law, Spirituality, Scripture, Moral Theology, etc. Four sessions revisit the documents of Vatican II. Cost of \$60 one-off. For more information and to register, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/tasteoftheology.

Ministers of the Word and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. 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. Each session will be from 1pm-3pm (with light lunch provided).
14th April | East (St Mark Pakuranga)
5th May | South (St Anne Manurewa)
19th May | North Shore (St Joseph Takapuna)
Register via the link below or contact your parish office/priest: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/liturgy-prayer/formation/>

Good Friday Stations of the Cross Procession

This year, we look forward to continuing our tradition of a Stations of the Cross procession through the Auckland CBD on Good Friday. We will begin by gathering at Albert Part Rotunda at 9am. The procession will conclude at St Patrick's Cathedral at 11am. We would love you, your family, and your faith community to join us in this powerful public witness through the streets of Auckland. All are welcome to attend! Please bring comfortable walking shoes, bottled water, and a hat.

University Ministry Coordinator – Catholic Diocese of Auckland 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 fulltime **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. To learn more, please visit: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/

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 under Diocesan Services and Staff Vacancies. **Applications close 5 April 2024.**