



21st Sunday in Ordinary time Year B

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 25 August 2024

Exploring The WORD

Failure, rejection and isolation: these are the themes of today's remarkable Gospel but they are not all. In the face of them we see perseverance, fidelity and trust. Above all there is an adherence to the truth that is truly amazing. Jesus speaks the truth to all who will listen, and if they find that truth "intolerable" they are free to leave, just as they are free to believe. No one who reads this passage could accuse Jesus of being interested in fame or fortune or the simple accumulation of followers. He didn't play the 'numbers game'. Even more amazing is that when his followers seem to be down to their lowest ebb, he turns to the Twelve and gives them freedom to go as well. Peter's reply, when he speaks of their belief, is the only answer that matters; it is spirit and life that replies, not the flesh, which has nothing to offer.

PRAYER THIS WEEK

"This saying is hard; who can accept it?"

Holy One of God,
you built up galaxies from nothing at all,
and wheat fields from barren earth.

You come to us too as the
grain of the land:
our bread,
our life.

You ask if
we could
ever leave you.
Where would we go?
Others have no Spirit or life.

Please set our hearts on fire with your love!
Help us to always choose to love you
in every joy and every sorrow,
in all your hungry people,
in a crying earth,
always love,
always!. Amen

GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

Lasting Joy

The opening prayer tells us what to consider in our reflection on the readings: "the values that will bring us lasting joy in this changing world." What are our values? What is important to us? To put it another way: Who or what is our god? The Israelites were tempted to serve other gods, for they were in a new land occupied by the worshipers of idols. Joshua challenged them to serve only Yhwh, and they accepted the challenge: "Far be it from us to forsake the Lord for the service of other gods." Jesus challenged his followers to believe in the one, true God: "Does it shake your faith?" he asked them. Peter responds for the others, saying that they will not forsake Jesus, who has the words of eternal life. Jesus challenges us also to remain faithful to the one God. There are many in the world who worship other gods: power, money, pleasure, comfort, security, self-interest. Our prayer is that "all these attractions of a changing world serve only to bring us the peace of your Kingdom which this world does not give." We want to say with Joshua and his people: "We will serve the Lord." . *Gerald Darring/liturgy.slu.edu*

Special Second Collection
Maori Pastoral Care Collection - TODAY, August 25, 2024
This money is used to fund initiatives, schools and projects of the Auckland Diocese Maori community

Mums & Bubs

A social gathering for women and preschoolers to learn through music, stories and play. A great way for mums to meet other women to fellowship and share a chat.

WHERE: St. Thomas More Church Hall,
336 Wairau Road, Glenfield.

WHEN: On alternate Wednesdays at 10 - 11am

Next session is on Wednesday,
28th August 2024.

Contact Sylvia on 021 088 22990



Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship North Shore



All men are welcome to join others for a time of learning, praying, fellowship. Look forward to seeing you there.

Date: Wed 28 Aug 24
Time: 7:00 pm Fellowship - Meeting 7:30 pm
Venue: Parish Hall, St Thomas More Church,
336 Wairau Road, Glenfield.
Topic: Chaplaincy a Vital Ministry in the Church
Guest speaker: Jim Gribble

For more information contact: Russell 022 034 5678

On behalf of Fr Pio and the Fundraising Committee, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the many hands that worked tirelessly to make

THE GREAT GLORIOUS ASSUMPTION BANQUET

a huge success. Thank you for the very generous donations received. We could not have achieved this without the support of our St Thomas More Parish Community, The Auckland & Hamilton Fijian Communities, Orewa & Beach Haven parishioners and Inkprint.



We made a very healthy profit of \$22,000.00 towards our fundraising initiative.

Thank you for your generosity!!

Raffle Tickets are on sale in the foyer
\$3 per ticket/\$5 for 2.

The draw will be early September.

Beautiful prizes to be won.

Thank you for your support!!



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

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Have you been thinking of Volunteering, give back to your community.

Our SVDP shops are looking for volunteers to help.

If interested please contact

Janet Lee 443-5274 or 022 356 3811

CANOPY & CARPARK FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

Automatic Payments similar to your regular Planned Giving donation, could be set up through your bank using the following details.

Account Name: **GLENFIELD FUNDRAISIN**
Account Number: **02-0108-0708668-003**
Reference : **Parishioner's name and Pledge Number**



Donations Received
\$55,287.38

Thank you for your generosity!!

THE WORD OF GOD

21st Sunday of Ordinary time

Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18
Ephesians 5:21-32
John 6:60-69

Monday

Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12
Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 14-17
Matthew 23:23-26
St Monica

Wednesday

2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18
Matthew 23:27-32
St Augustine, B.D.

Thursday

Jeremiah 1:17-19
Mark 6:17-29
The Passion of St John the Baptist

Friday

1 Corinthians 1:17-25
Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday

1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Matthew 25:14-30

LAPTOP OPERATORS NEEDED

If anyone is willing to do this once a month, please contact Sylvia Hartley on 021 088 22990 or email: aldonsylvia@gmail.com

POSITIONS AVAILABLE ST JOSEPH'S TAKAPUNA
Following restructuring of the parish staff, two positions have become available:

Executive assistant, a 25 hours per week role; and
Property manager, 10-15 hours per week.
For position descriptions and to apply for a position, contact Fr Mark Napa fmark@stjoseph.org.nz
Applications close **27 September 2024**

TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy

Ulm Minster - The highest church building in the world with Beate Matthes

A journey through the history and architecture of the German Ulm Minster from the laying of the foundation stone in 1377 to today.

Monday, 02 September 2024, 7-8.30pm (Zoom). Koha <https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/ulm-minster-the-tallest-church/>

YouTube Recordings

YouTube and Muffin Talk recordings are available online at:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/video-clips/>
For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

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



Indian Community

PARISH ONLINE REGISTRATION!

All new and existing parishioners are humbly urged to register your family online. To Register, please log on to www.glenfieldcatholic.org.nz.

Thank you for the registrations thus far



Baptism Preparation Courses 2024

8 September 2024
6 October 2024
3 November 2024

Contact the parish office to book
Ph: 444 8624
Email: office@stthomasmore.org.nz

Please pray for our sick parishioners & their families

David McNeill, 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

URGENT CALL FOR SUPPORT.

De Paul House food bank has been hit hard.

Can you help refill our empty shelves?

We are in need of:

Flour, sugar, Coffee, honey, vegemite, crackers, muesli bars, biscuits, school lunchbox snacks, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, Hand soap, toilet paper, dishwashing liquid, laundry liquid, spray and wipe, cleaning clothes, Pasta, rice, pasta sauce, jam, 2-minute noodles, long life milk, coconut milk, Or Supermarket voucher.

Please **DO NOT** leave perishable items (ie Meat, Milk, Fruit, butter, etc) in the basket. Kindly drop these items off at De Paul House.

Thank you for your kindness.

PROLIFE FACTS

The Voice for Life teams Napier and Hastings can no longer run their outreach stall at the local A&P Show; nor hold their annual memorial service near Hawkes Bay Hospital because of the so-called "safe areas" around abortion facilities. However, the Voice for Life teams got creative and found a new way to raise awareness of pro-life issues in their community. They put 457 Freesia bulbs into little pots (one bulb for each of the 457 babies aborted in the region), along with a little card as a memorial for the lost local preborn children. They then took baskets and trollies filled with the freesias to carparks in the city and gave them away. The feedback was mainly positive. The rest of the freesias were given out to churches at Sunday services. **For more pro-life information, visit Voice for Life at www.voiceforlife.org.nz.**

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Kids Corner: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Celebrating-Twenty.pdf>

Parents pondering: NOAH'S ARK
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/NOAHS-ARK.pdf>

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

The Diocesan Faith Formation Team are offering refresher education sessions across the regions of the diocese for the ministries of **1st Sacraments for Children and Baptism preparation**. This is open to all educators and volunteers involved in these ministries. Regional sessions in West Auckland, East Auckland, and Northshore will be occurring through August and early September. Please register on <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/formation/> to attend for your parish. For any further information please contact Dcn Steve Fraser on stephenf@cda.org.nz or 021439407. Look forwards to seeing you all there!

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ALONE AGAIN ? A weekend away to help those suffering the heartache of Separation, Divorce, or Widowhood on 6-8 September. **The Beginning Experience** is a non-profit organization that provides support for the grieving single again, and offers an opportunity to turn the pain of loss into an experience of positive growth. The cost for 2 nights accommodation, meals, and materials and follow up event is \$350. For further information please phone Lynda 0274898003 or Kelly evenings 0276864416
www.beginningexperience.org.nz

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The Catholic Diocese of Auckland promotes for a strong and inclusive communities for missionary discipleship. Come to the **Ethnic Chaplaincies Rise Up and Shine Festival** to be held on Saturday 21 September to Sunday 22 September | at the Malaolea Samoan Catholic Community Centre |16 Waokauri Place, Mangere | A time of celebration with Food, Music, and Cultural Shows on Saturday 9am - 3pm, and Thanksgiving Mass in the various languages and culture on Sunday at 1pm. Be involved, Be there.

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Ever wanted to know something about the Holy Land? Let us be ecumenical (unite in our various Christian faith) by joining in with our friends of the Armenian Church to an interesting online ZOOM lecture about the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem | Wednesday 28 August 2024 at 9:00pm. Prof Roberta Ervine, from New York, will give us a virtual tour/talk of the Church and it is free to register. Email Deacon Nishan on nishan-basmajian@gmail.com for the ZOOM link.

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Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College is holding Lecture 6 in the series, A Taste of Theology. Rev Dr Merv Duffy will talk about "Christian identity, life and mission in *Lumen Gentium*, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church. This will be on Tuesday, 03 September 2024 from 5:30-6:30pm on Zoom. For a fee of \$60 you get access to all 9 courses in this lecture series and join the remaining live sessions. Go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/tasteoftheology to register.

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The Churches of Auckland Celebrate Christian Unity. Join us at this annual Prayer Service 5:00 PM Sunday 25th August 2024 at St Elias Melkite Catholic Church, 5 Mt. Lebanon Crescent, The Gardens Manurewa. Light Refreshments provided.

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Young Adults Ball / Saturday 14th September 7pm at McHugh's of Cheltenham Back by popular demand, Don't be late for this very important date! - secure your tickets now: tickets \$120 (Ticket sales close 31st August or if sold out). *This is an 18+ event. **Tickets:** https://Young_Adults_Ball.eventbrite.com