

## 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C



St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 16 February 2025

Life is often about picking our way through opposites - choices and decisions that surround every moment of every day: should I do this or that, choose this way or that way, and so on. Just as there are choices on either side, so there are opposing consequences - blessings and curses, in the language of the first reading, happiness and woe in the language of the Gospel. In Saint Luke's version of the Beatitudes, we see Jesus setting out very clearly the teaching that life is about choices, and that we must take control, and be responsible for the life we choose, or even the conditions of life that we embrace or accept.

### PRAYER THIS WEEK

*"And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said:  
"Blessed are you who are poor."*

Jesus, let us assure that  
hungry persons are fed;  
cold or homeless persons  
have a bed and blanket;  
all who are sick because  
of poisoned air can breathe;  
and that every single immigrant  
seeking a home is welcomed.

Then we who are poor (all of us)  
can rejoice and leap for joy  
because we will know  
you are with  
us. Amen

### GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

#### The Advantage of the Poor

*"Blest are you poor ... but woe to you rich."*

These powerful words, recorded for us by Luke, offer many avenues for thought. Today's liturgy places them in the context of [Jeremiah 17](#) and [Psalm 1](#), and thus connects them with the search for happiness. Poverty is wretched. It means physical suffering, psychological anguish, financial insecurity, cultural disparagement, political powerlessness, and social scorn. Affluence is wonderful. It means physical comfort, financial security, political power, social and cultural acceptability, and at least the possibility of psychological health. Yet Jesus used the word *blest* when speaking of the poor, and he used the word *woe* when speaking of the rich. Obviously he saw some kind advantage to being poor, and some kind of disadvantage to being rich. What truth was he expressing? That poverty keeps one open to one's need for God? That riches turn one's heart away from God? That happiness is found closer to poverty than to wealth? From a Christian perspective, who is to be pitied, the poor or the rich?  
*Gerald Darring/liturgy.slu.edu*

### 2025—Jubilee Year

"Pilgrims of Hope" is the theme for the 2025 Jubilee Year, a year of reconciliation, pilgrimage, and hope. Pope Francis proclaimed the year to be a time to renew ourselves as pilgrims of hope.



#### Why is it called a Jubilee Year?

- the concept of Jubilee comes from the Book of Leviticus
- Jubilees are a time of conversion, forgiveness and increased emphasis on God's mercy
- The 2025 Jubilee is the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of Jesus

#### What is the purpose of the Jubilee Year?

- To foster a sense of global solidarity, brotherhood and sisterhood
  - To care for the environment
- To help people gain strength and certainty by looking to the future with hope
  - To spread hope to those who seek it.

#### How can you participate?

**Reach out to the Housebound** · Reach out to the housebound. Provide a way for parishioners to identify people who may need pastoral care, contact the family or individual. Communicate regularly with offerings of prayer, Scripture reflection, encouragement, home-made cards, and notes of what is happening at the parish. Ask the housebound to offer prayer for specific intentions. Provide access to homilies and other presentations.

**Family Prayer** Create a family prayer jar and fill it with requests. Pull one or two out each night and pray for them. A family prayer jar can be made out of some simple jar. Or you can find a suitable box. Invite everyone to add to the prayer jar regularly. Encourage whānau to add requests for the needs of the world. Practice gratitude. Each time you gather around the table invite everyone to say one thing they are grateful for.

### Parish Seniors Group

#### Open Invitation to Morning Tea and Fellowship

Hosted by the Seniors Group  
Tuesday February 18

In our Parish Hall after the 9.15am Morning Mass  
An opportunity to socialise with your fellow Parishioners  
All are welcome

*And bring your suggestions for activities during 2025*

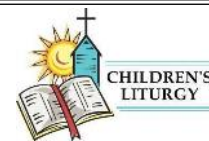


Contact **Elizabeth Auger** on  
021 201 8914 for more  
information



### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

We are looking for a volunteer to help with Children's Liturgy at 5.30pm Vigil Mass on 3rd Saturdays. Lesson material is provided. For more information please contact Sylvia Hartley on 021 088 22990 or email [aldonsylvia@gmail.com](mailto:aldonsylvia@gmail.com)



### OLD PALMS

Please bring your old, blessed palms (**WITHOUT any wrappings, plastic, clips or paper**) and place them in the green bin to prepare ashes for Ash Wednesday.

**LAST DATE FOR COLLECTION IS SUNDAY,  
23rd FEBRUARY 2025.**

### CANOPY & CARPARK FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

**Donations Received thus far  
\$88,741.32**

A gentle reminder that for every dollar you give to the parish you are entitled to a 33 cents rebate/refund. We encourage you to take advantage of this facility and participate in the St Thomas More planned giving scheme.

Account Name: **GLENFIELD FUNDRAISIN**  
Account Number: **02-0108-0708668-003**  
Reference : **Parishioner's name and Pledge Number**  
**Thank you for your generosity!!**

**THE WORD OF GOD**  
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 17:5-8  
1 Corinthians 15:12.16-20  
Luke 6:17.20-26

**Monday**

Genesis 4:1-15.25  
Mark 8:11-13

**Tuesday**

Genesis 6:5-8;7:1-5.10  
Mark 8:14-21

**Wednesday**

Genesis 8:6-13.20-22  
Mark 8:22-26

**Thursday**

Genesis 9:1-13  
Mark 8:27-33

**Friday**

Genesis 11:1-9  
Mark 8:34-39:1

**Saturday**

1 Peter 5:1-4  
Matthew 16:13-19

**CHAIR OF PETER, APOSTLE**

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

**Filipino  
Community**



**NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE cont.**

**VACANCIES**

The Diocese is seeking a talented and creative **Multimedia Journalist** (part time – 20 hrs per week) to create engaging digital multimedia content (stories, photos, videos) that shares the news of the Diocese, Bishop, Parish, Schools and Agencies. These stories will also contribute to supporting the national CathNews platform which delivers news, analysis, and commentary of interest to the Catholic Church community. For full details, please visit our website [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz) – Diocesan Services – Staff Vacancies.

**Receptionist/Administrator – Catholic Social Services, Auckland.** Catholic Social Services is looking for a part-time (20 hours - 3 days) Receptionist/Administrator based in Ponsonby. As a faith-based professional service Catholic Social Services provides social work, counselling, out-reach and support to individual people and families. The successful applicant would be required to provide efficient, effective, and professional reception and administrative services to the team at Catholic Social Services. For further details please go to our website [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz), Diocesan Services and staff vacancies.

**Religious Education & Catholic Character Advisor**  
The Diocese has a vacancy for a Religious Education and Catholic Character Advisor in our Catholic Education Services. The role's key functions are to promote the mission of Catholic schools to provide an Encounter with Christ, Growth in Knowledge of Christ, and Witness to Christ and to develop, strengthen, and support the leadership role of the Directors of Religious Studies & HOD's RE in Catholic schools in the Diocese. You must have a tertiary qualification in Religious Education or Theology and hold a current NZ Teacher registration. For full details and the position description, please visit our website [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz), under Diocesan Services and staff vacancies. Applications close 28 February 2025.

—oOo—

Want to be a part of the wider Christian community and getting to know people from other Churches? This is our lived faith. Let us be People of Hope, Journeying together on a Pilgrimage. Join us for a fun day of **Creek Cleanup**, working together in faith. All are welcome, meeting at **Whenuapai Creek, Auckland, on Sunday 23 Feb 2025** starting from **12:30pm**. An organised event in support with the Auckland Interfaith Council.

**Carmel College, Milford**

is holding their Open Days for new students and parents.



The days and times are as follows:  
**27 February Thursday 1.30-3pm**  
**28 February Friday 9-10.30am**

**Applications for 2026 closes on 21 March 2025**

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

**PROLIFE FACTS**

According to Voice for Life National President Lydia Posthuma, the Health New Zealand (Te Whatu Ora) website [future.within.co.nz](http://future.within.co.nz) reveals a serious inconsistency: "Visitors to the website are told: 'To protect unborn babies, the best thing we all can do is provide a safe, supportive environment.' The fact that Health NZ is promoting this fundamental truth about the life and value of the unborn child, while at the same time overseeing an abortion law that totally disregards their humanity and wellbeing, is truly astounding. How can our institutions and political leaders maintain such a glaring moral inconsistency?" **For more pro-life information, visit [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz).**

**CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND**

**Kids Corner:** <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Celebrating-Seventh-SUNDAY-in-OT.pdf>

**Parents pondering: FORGIVENESS**  
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Forgiveness-1.pdf>

**NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE**

**Story of the Stations of the Cross** Across the diocese people will gather throughout Lent to walk and pray the Stations of the Cross. But why has this become such a popular devotion? How come there are 14 stations and not 6 or 23? You are invited to prayerfully consider these and other questions as we explore with Sr Sian the meaning and history of the Stations of the Cross. To register please email [pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz](mailto:pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz) to be sent the online link.

**Young Leaders Masterclass | Sunday 23 February 2pm-6pm | 30 New Street Ponsonby.**

Masterclass is back in 2025! If you're a youth ministry leader or young adult ministry leader, you're invited to our quarterly event dedicated to equipping, empowering and energising you for ministry. Our first Masterclass for 2025 will feature two workshops focused on helping you make the best possible start to your ministry year! Keep an eye on our socials, where we will announce our workshop presenters and topics. As always, there will be fantastic (free!) food and plenty of opportunities to connect with other young leaders. Build relationships, share experiences, and be part of a support network that will help you grow in your ministry. Go to [www.facebook.com/AKCYM](http://www.facebook.com/AKCYM) or email [youthmin@cda.org.nz](mailto:youthmin@cda.org.nz) for more info and to register.

**Ethnic Chaplaincy Officers and Leaders Formation Day | Sat. 22 February 2025 |**

Pompallier Centre 9:30am - 12:00pm. Inviting all officer bearers, leaders in ministry, pastoral associates, and all chaplains to your Formation Day as we provide you updates on the Migrant Chaplaincies Norms on Community Establishments, Finance, Safeguarding. Registration is essential - follow the link on the diocesan website event page [here](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz). Email us at [pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz](mailto:pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz) if you have any questions.

**Jubilee Sing Jubilee** Pope Francis has called us to celebrate a Year of Jubilee in 2025. Join Tony Alonso, a Grammy nominated composer of sacred music and a scholar whose work responds to the diverse realities of contemporary culture. The following events are taking place to celebrate the Jubilee of Song: **Evening with Tony Alonso**, Thursday 29 May 6.30pm, St Francis Xavier Church, Park Ave, Whangarei. Suggested Koha \$10.00 per person. Please visit the following link for registration: [An Evening with Tony Alonso - Catholic Diocese of Auckland](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz)

**Conversation with Tony** with drinks and nibbles, Friday 30 May 6.30pm, Pompallier Diocesan Centre \$20.00. Please visit the following link for registration: [A Conversation with Tony Alonso - Catholic Diocese of Auckland](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz)

**Retreat Workshop with Tony**, Saturday 31 May 1.30 - 4.00pm, Baradene College Auditorium, Victoria St. Koha. Please visit the following link for registration: [Retreat Workshop with Tony Alonso - Catholic Diocese of Auckland](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz). **Concert with Tony Alonso**, Saturday 31 May 6.30pm, Baradene College Auditorium, Victoria St., \$10.00 per person. Please visit the following link for registration: [A Concert with Tony Alonso - Catholic Diocese of Auckland](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz).

**CALLING ALL AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS!** There is a large, vibrant, Catholic student community in the Auckland CBD. Join us this year! To find out more please contact Daniel Story at [dans@cda.org.nz](mailto:dans@cda.org.nz) and/or check out our socials. Search "aucklandcatholicchaplaincy"

**Jubilee Jottings** Find out more about the Year of Jubilee Pilgrims of Hope from the diocesan website <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/jubilee2025/> there you can download the diocesan newsletter *Jubilee Jottings*.

**Baptism Preparation Courses 2025**

- 2 March 2025
- 6 April 2025
- 4 May 2025
- 8 June 2025
- 6 July 2025
- 3 August 2025
- 14 September 2025
- 5 October 2025
- 2 November 2025

Contact the parish office to book  
Ph: 444 8624

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

**We pray for all those who have died recently and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.**



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

Elaine Stanton, David McNeill, Anselmo Salazar, Gaye and Ciara Rhodes, Mary Baker, Israel Nathan, 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)