



## 1st Sunday of Lent Year C

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 9 March 2025

### The WORD This Week

As with each First Sunday of Lent the Gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness; as we begin the journey of Lent, during which we will consider our lives as members of the Church, we look to the example of Jesus when it comes to dealing with temptation. Choosing to follow God's path is the first characteristic of the Christian: this is underlined in the two other readings, which outline the two "creeds" or statements of belief - one of Israel and one of the Christian. Both of them emphasise "believing in the heart and confessing with the lips": both creeds underline the Salvation that God has achieved - for Israel it was freedom from Egypt, for the Christian freedom from death in Jesus .

## PRAYER THIS WEEK

*"Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days ."*

Holy Spirit, lead us,  
please, to Christ's desert.  
Speak straight into our hearts.

Be our one nourishment.  
Source of all energy.

Fill us with your love.  
Help us to resist  
racism, eco-injustice,  
and our disinterest in others.

Instead, let us always  
bring good news to the poor,  
as you did with Jesus. Amen

## LENTEN SPIRITUALITY

### Back to the Life of Jesus

The forty days of Lent are offered to God in imitation of Jesus, who "was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, where he was tempted by the devil." Jesus chose to rely on the care of his Father, to surrender himself as servant to the will and plan of his Father, and to follow God's will in Jerusalem, even if that meant terrible suffering and shameful death on the cross. The season of Lent gives us the opportunity to participate in the liberation brought by Jesus to all those who are oppressed by the demons of self-reliance, power, and self-interest. During this season we seek to understand the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection with the ultimate goal of changing our lives. "We are a people in trouble." We dominate, discriminate, and oppress on the way to achieving personal success. We watch disinterestedly as our brothers and sisters suffer the pain of poverty, hunger, disease, homelessness, and death. We rid ourselves of "the enemy" through war, abortion, and the death penalty. But we are also a people whose God is "rich in mercy," a God who "has heard our cry and seen our affliction." Lent is our prayer that this merciful God bring us back to the life Jesus has won for us. *Gerald Darring/ liturgy.slu.edu*



PRAY



FAST



GIVE

## Parish Lenten Observances

STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
Thursdays of LENT  
7:30pm (Chaldean Community)

Fridays of LENT  
9:45 am and 7:00pm  
7:45pm (Tongan Community)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION  
THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS- 9:45 am

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
THURSDAYS - all day until 4pm


SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION			
Tuesday	1 April	Glenfield	7.00pm
Wednesday	2 April	Takapuna	7:00pm
Tuesday	8 April	Orewa	7:00pm
Wednesday	9 April	Mairangi Bay	7:00pm
Thursday	10 April	Northcote	7:00pm
Friday	11 April	Beach Haven	7:00pm
Sunday	13 April	Devonport	7:00pm

### 2025—Jubilee Year

**THE JUBILEE PRAYER**  
Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your Son, Jesus Christ, our  
brother, and the flame  
of *charity* enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform  
us into tireless cultivators of the  
seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from  
within both humanity and the  
whole cosmos in the sure  
expectation of a new heaven  
and a new earth, when, with the  
powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of  
Hope*, a yearning for the  
treasures of heaven. May that  
same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our  
Redeemer throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally  
blessed, be glory and praise for  
ever. Amen.  
—oOo—



**THE 2025  
JUBILEE  
CALENDAR: A  
YEAR OF  
SPECIAL EVENTS**

**March 2025: Jubilee of  
Volunteering**  
**March 8 and 9, 2025** will be  
dedicated to the **Jubilee of  
Volunteering**, celebrating the  
work and dedication of those  
who commit themselves to  
helping others, a true homage  
to solidarity and altruism.  
April 2025: Jubilee of the  
Sick, the Youth, and Persons  
with Disabilities.

**Jubilee Hymn will be sung  
at all Masses.** To learn the  
hymn, please follow the link  
below

[https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/  
content/dam/iubilaeum2025/inno-  
giubileo/ENG---Pilgrims-of-Hope--  
Hymn-for-the-Jubilee-Year-2025-  
Like-a-Flame-my-Hope-is-  
Burning.mp3](https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/content/dam/iubilaeum2025/inno-giubileo/ENG---Pilgrims-of-Hope--Hymn-for-the-Jubilee-Year-2025-Like-a-Flame-my-Hope-is-Burning.mp3)

**CANOPY & CARPARK FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE**

**Donations Received thus far**  
**\$92,222.30**

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

### 1st Week of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:4-10  
Romans 10:8-13  
Luke 4:1-13

#### Monday

Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18  
Matthew 25:31-46

#### Tuesday

Isaiah 55:10-11  
Matthew 6:7-15

#### Wednesday

Jonah 3:1-10  
Luke 11:29-32

#### Thursday

Esther 4:17  
Matthew 7:7-12

#### Friday

Ezekiel 18:21-28  
Matthew 5:20-26

#### Saturday

Deuteronomy 26:16-19  
Matthew 5:43-48

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

Tongan  
Community



Envelopes are in the church foyer  
for your donations.

## Baptism Preparation Courses 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

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)



Holy Cross Seminary  
[www.holycross.org.nz](http://www.holycross.org.nz)

## VACANCY NOTICE: Music Co-ordinator

We are currently looking for someone to take over the **Music Co-ordinator** position in our parish. It is largely an administrative role although some basic musical knowledge is required. Training will be provided. Approximately 6 hours per week. Please forward your CV by Friday, 28 March 2025 via email to: [office@stthomasmore.org.nz](mailto:office@stthomasmore.org.nz)

**Choir Practice** weekly from  
Tuesday, 18 March 2025 at  
7:30pm for the Easter Masses.

We welcome all singers and  
musicians to join us.



## Parish Safeguarding

Safeguarding training is a policy requirement of the Catholic Diocese of Auckland and the National Office for Professional Standards (NOPS) for those volunteers working with children, youth and vulnerable adults.

The Online Safeguarding Workshop is on Thursday, 13 March at 7 pm. Please email Parish Safeguarding Contact Vidya at [safeguarding@stthomasmore.org.nz](mailto:safeguarding@stthomasmore.org.nz) to receive the link for the training.

Safeguarding Introduction from Bishop Steve <https://youtu.be/oSOSIjJ-Zn8>



## LIVING IN THE DIVINE WILL CONFERENCE

Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> March and Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025  
at St. Thomas More Church Hall, 336 Wairau Road,  
Glenfield, Auckland.

**SPEAKER:** Tony Hickey from Manchester, U.K.  
Time: Sat. 10 am. till 4 pm. (Mass at 9:15 a.m.)  
Sun. 11:30 am. till 4 pm. (Mass at 10 a.m.)

Donation/Koha requested.  
Please B.Y.O. food.

Contact Sylvia on 021 088 22990 or  
email: [aldonsylvia@gmail.com](mailto:aldonsylvia@gmail.com)



## TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy

**Incense - A Taste of Heaven?** (Repeat on request) with  
Beate Matthies  
Monday, 24 March 2025, 7-8.30pm (Zoom).

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/incense-a-taste-of-heaven-repeat/>

**YouTube Recording: Why does Lent have 40 days?** -  
Prof Thomas O'Loughlin:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2021/02/12/prof-thomas-oloughlin/>  
For more information: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.nz)

## PROLIFE FACTS

A 'safe area' is a 300m bubble around an abortion facility, within which it is illegal to express any pro-life views or speech on the issue of abortion. Even offering help and support to pregnant women is banned inside these zones. It's hard to understate the implications of this degree of authoritarianism - in effect, there are now places in New Zealand where even a civil conversation about the issue of abortion, or charitably offering a woman caring alternatives to abortion, could result in a criminal charge. Regardless of authoritarian laws, however, the pro-life movement is continuing to speak out against the grave injustice of abortion, and working hard towards caring solutions. **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/2025/02/Celebrating-SECOND-SUNDAY-OF-LENT.pdf>

**Parents pondering: Encourage Someone for LENT**  
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Encourage-Someone-for-Lent.pdf>

## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

**Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women** is moving to small parish-based groups called Dovecotes, where women may experience the warmth of fellowship, the power of prayer and the joy of worship. If you feel a need for a Dovecote in your area, please contact Gloria: [dovenational.leader@gmail.com](mailto:dovenational.leader@gmail.com) or Ph 0272456742. Or see our website: [www.dove.org.nz](http://www.dove.org.nz)

**LENT @ ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, REMUERA** Lent is fast approaching – are you ready? Let Christ show you how He lived, move beyond the surface of the stories you've heard before. Morning Talks with Dr Dan Stollenwerk – "Who do you say that I am?" 4x Wednesdays from 19 March 10:45 – 12:00pm. No registration required. Evening Talks with Fr Phil Bennenbroek 5x Tuesdays from 11 March 7:00pm – 8:30pm. [Register here](https://www.remueracatholic.org.nz/lenten-programme) For information <https://www.remueracatholic.org.nz/lenten-programme>

**Singles Ministry** is holding a Meet & Connect for Single Roman Catholics looking to find a partner on **Saturday 29th March 2025**. For more information kindly contact: Clytie : 021836705, Reena 0278387151.

**Te Kupenga Catholic Theology College Webinars in 2025.** Each session is unique so you can come for one that may interest you or come to all the live sessions. Fee is \$20 per webinar or \$100 for all 6 webinars. All live sessions are done on Zoom online platform and will be recorded so you won't miss out. For details, please visit <https://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/catholic-theological-college-2/webinar-2025/>

## Pope Francis' Letter to us all on the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Wednesday Evenings 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th  
March 7-7.30pm on Zoom. Contact Dianna Fouhy, Faith Formation Team @ [diannaf@cda.org.nz](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)

**Wake Up and Pray. Meditation Mornings** in Lent through Easter 5th March – 20th of April, 6.15 – 6.45am on Zoom.

**Prepare Ponder Pray with the Gospels.**  
Saturdays in Lent 7 – 7:30pm on Zoom.

**Wings. Nga Parirau this Lent – an invitation to grow your relationship with Jesus. Presentation of the First Year Programme of 'Wings' during Lent'.**

We will be **reflecting** on faith, and our own faith journey; grace and spirituality, and experiences of prayer; and introduced to the Old Testament and New Testament Scriptures.

The **Sunday Gospels** of Lent provide a particular framework for our reflection.  
When: **Saturdays in Lent: 2-4pm** 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> March 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Where: **Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New St, St Mary's Bay, Ponsonby.**

Are you interested but cannot make the face-to-face meetings? An online presentation on Zoom may be offered if there is interest. Dates and times to be arranged. Contact Dianna Fouhy [diannaf@cda.org.nz](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)

## Mary MacKillop Retreat Centre



This month we have three offerings

- **The Humility and Gentleness of Jesus.** This is being held on **Saturday 8 March** from **9.30am to 1pm.**

- **Patronal feast day of St Joseph** on 19<sup>th</sup> March. An Evening Prayer Ritual - The ritual begins at 5.30pm in our Mary MacKillop Chapel

- a **Silent Weekend Retreat** led by Eamon Butler. The retreat is entitled: **Hospitality of the Trinity.** It will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> March Friday evening until Sunday lunch 23<sup>rd</sup> March.