



3rd Sunday of Lent Year C

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 23 March 2025

The WORD This Week

"The man who thinks he is safe must be careful he does not fall." This is the theme of this Sunday: it underlines the need for repentance, which is the focus of our Lenten journey in Year C. Jesus, in the Gospel, uses two recent events in order to illustrate his point about sin and repentance - there is a price to be paid for sin, but there is a way of avoiding it: if we repent, we will have salvation and a new and real freedom. This idea is emphasised in the parable, where we see a tree not being condemned immediately, but given a chance to change and produce fruit. So are we. This links in with the two other readings, which also talk about escape - the escape of Israel from Egypt. This is to be a warning for us, as Saint Paul says: if we are Christians, we must live as Christians, and be aware of the need to watch our lives and the direction they are taking.

PRAYER THIS WEEK

"There was once a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard ..."

Jesus, kind and patient, gardener of souls:
when we are barren like your fig tree,
(with unjust war, racial bias,
destruction of our climate,
you don't give up on us.

Soak our roots.
Make them heavy with your love.

And, Please, pour your grace upon us
like water on parched land
until we bear fruit. Amen

LENTEN SPIRITUALITY

The Prime Sin

Moses encountered on Mount Sinai the one God, the God of his ancestors, the God whose name is *I am*. A covenant was to be made with the people of Israel, one based on their recognition of Yhwh as the one God. The Israelites would stray from that covenant from time to time, turning away from the one God and worshipping false gods. Their prophets would repeatedly call them back to the covenant worship of the one God. We, too, turn away from the one God to worship false gods. We make an idol of money, worshipping at the altar of the almighty dollar. We make an idol of power, worshipping at the altar of political domination and economic oppression. We make an idol of pleasure, worshipping at the altar of sex and luxurious comfort. Our prophets call us back to the one God, but we ignore or kill them. Lent is a season to turn away from our false idols and call on the merciful and gracious Lord, who is "slow to anger and abounding in kindness." We are called in Lent "to prayer, fasting and works of mercy" because, as Jesus tells us in the [Gospel](#), "you will all come to the same end unless you begin to reform." We are called to abandon our false gods of money, power and pleasure and return to the one God, "who secures justice and the rights of all the oppressed." *Gerald Darring/ liturgy.slu.edu*

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

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



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



RCIA
A Journey In Faith

RCIA Scrutinies of the Elect

The Scrutinies are Rites celebrated on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent for the elect who are preparing to be baptized at Easter. They are important and special rites of the Church.

Whenever they are celebrated the Scripture readings of Year A of the liturgical cycle are used.

The Scrutinies are described by the Church as: *"rites for self-searching and repentance, which are meant to uncover, then heal, all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good."* They 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, who is the way, the truth, and the life. These rites, complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all."

The Gospels on the three Sundays on which the Scrutinies are celebrated teach the elect about the mystery of sin and fill them with the Spirit of Christ.

1. The first Gospel (*3rd Sunday of Lent : John 4:5-42*)(the Samaritan Woman at the well) tells us that Christ is the Living Water,
2. the second (*4th Sunday of Lent: John 9:1-41*)(healing of the man born blind), that he is the Light of the World,
and the third, (*5th Sunday of Lent: John 11:1-45*)(the raising of Lazarus from the dead), that he is the Resurrection and the Life. Jesus described the purpose of his mission as "To give life in abundance" (John 10:10) Each of the Gospels proclaimed in the three Scrutinies illustrate this.

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.

THE WORD OF GOD

3rd Week of Lent

Year A Readings

Exodus 17:3-7

Romans 5:1-2,5-8

John 4:5-42

Monday

2 Kings 5:1-15

Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday

Isaiah 7:10-14

Hebrews 10:4-10

Luke 1:26-38

The ANNUNCIATION

Wednesday

Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9

Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday

Jeremiah 7:23-28

Luke 11:14-23

Friday

Hosea 14:2-10

Mark 12:28-34

Saturday

Hosea 5:15-6:6

Luke 18:9-14

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



Iraqi
Community

TO RENT : 2 Bedroomed
sunny unit available to rent in
Chivalry Road, Glenfield.
Contact Mark on 021 262 2892
for more information and
viewing



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

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

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

Choir Practice

Tuesday, **25 March 2025** at **7:30pm** for
the Easter Masses. We welcome all
singers and musicians to join us.



MUSICIANS & SINGERS needed

Do you know of any musicians and singers who would be
interested to play & sing at St Thomas More Parish every
2nd Sunday of the month at 10am Mass? This slot is now
vacant and we welcome interested groups or persons.
Please contact Paula at music@stthomasmore.org.nz for
more information.



"AS IRON SHARPENS IRON..."

Proverbs 27:17

All men are invited to **Joshua Catholic
Men's Fellowship.**

Join this awesome bunch of guys who meet in both Glenfield
(last Wed of the month) and Pakuranga (2nd Monday of the
month) for sound spiritual nutrition and great fellowship over
a cuppa & something to eat.

Upcoming evening meetings:

Wednesday 26 March : Guest Speaker is Dr Ethan
Breinhorst who is back to encourage and challenge us with a
talk titled *Men's Health Matters*. 7.15pm for 7.30pm start at
St Thomas More Church, 336 Wairau Rd, Glenfield.

Contact **Jerome (027) 2334380** for more information.

Monday 14 April : Guest speaker is Dr Ethan Breinhorst
Meeting starts 7pm for 7.30pm start at St Marks Church, 334
Pakuranga Rd, Pakuranga. Contact Dakshi (022) 0397212
for more information.

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



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. All St Thomas More parishioners
serving in Ministries that require Police-Vetting need to
attend this workshop as soon as possible and attend a
refresher training once every three years.

Please note the upcoming Safeguarding workshop dates:

Tuesday, 8 April at 7.00 pm: Online workshop

Wednesday, 30th April at 7.00 pm: Face to Face St
Mary's, 117 Onewa Road, Northcote.

Please email your Parish Safeguarding Contact Vidya at
safeguarding@stthomasmore.org.nz to register for the
workshop.

Safeguarding Introduction from Bishop Steve [https://
youtu.be/oSOSIjJ-Zn8](https://youtu.be/oSOSIjJ-Zn8)



TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy

Incense - A Taste of Heaven? (Repeat on request) with
Beate Mattheis

Monday, 24 March 2025, 7-8.30pm (Zoom).

[https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/incense-a-taste-of-
heaven-repeat/](https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/incense-a-taste-of-heaven-repeat/)

YouTube Recording (5min):

The Story of St Joseph - Fr Merv Duffy sm:

[https://www.studyjoy.nz/2025/03/18/the-story-of-st-joseph-
by-fr-merv-duffy-sm/](https://www.studyjoy.nz/2025/03/18/the-story-of-st-joseph-by-fr-merv-duffy-sm/)

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Kids Corner: [https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-
content/uploads/2025/02/Celebrating-FOURTH-SUNDAY-
OF-LENT.pdf](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Celebrating-FOURTH-SUNDAY-OF-LENT.pdf)

Parents pondering: A Story of FORGIVENESS

[https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/
uploads/2025/02/A-Story-of-Forgiveness.pdf](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/A-Story-of-Forgiveness.pdf)

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

"**Jesus My Light Ministries** invites you to a
Lenten Inner Healing retreat **4th April 6.30-
9pm, 5th April 9.30am - 5pm and 12th April
9.30am - 5pm** (all days inclusive) at St. Dominic
Church, 34, Bolton Street, Blockhouse Bay,
Auckland. A journey with Christ to release the
effects of past hurts/wounds that go back to
childhood which can affect us and be stumbling
blocks in our journey towards God. Jesus our
Healer can uncover and heal these wounds.
Come and experience His healing love and be
affirmed in your true identity as a beloved child
of God. Contact Betsy/Reggis and team
0211653856 or 0274040129."

The **Diocesan Pastoral Council** met for the
first time this year on 8 March. You can keep
up-to-date with their meeting through the
newsletter [https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/
wp-content/uploads/2025/03/March-25-
Newsletter.pdf](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/March-25-Newsletter.pdf)

**SUMMIT | Young Leaders Weekend 28-30
March 2025** Get ready for SUMMIT! Youth
ministry and young adult ministry leaders, get
ready for an incredible weekend of formation,
fellowship and being spiritually filled! SUMMIT
is a weekend specifically for YOU, featuring
engaging keynote sessions, workshops
equipping you with practical ministry skills,
plenty of opportunities to pray and to be
RENEWED, a whole community of fantastic
leaders to connect with, mass, adoration,
campfires and a whole lot more! SUMMIT is a
highlight of young leader formation in the
Diocese of Auckland each year. Don't miss
it. This year, we are very excited to announce
that our guest speakers are Mark Lysaght, the
Director of NET Ministries in Australian and
New Zealand, and Kym Keady, the Director of
Ignite Youth. Earlybird registrations are \$120
until Wednesday 12 March. Standard
registration is \$140. Register here: [https://
SUMMIT25.eventbrite.com](https://SUMMIT25.eventbrite.com) Please note this is
an 18+ event.

CATHNEWS NEW ZEALAND: The Bishops
Conference has recently launched the renewed
CathNews New Zealand project. This ministry
supports Catholics and people interested in the
Church in accessing news and other content of
interest. It draws from material that has already
been published and includes original content.

The best way to receive CathNews New
Zealand is by signing up to the newsletter,
which is sent on Tuesday and Friday mornings.
Visit the CathNews New Zealand website and
sign up at <https://cathnewsnz.com/>

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat offer a beautiful
opportunity for healing to anyone who has
struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of
abortion. The next Retreat will be held at Mary
McKillop Centre, **April 11-13, 2025**. For more
information Contact Wendy Hill on 027 2549222
or email wendy@rachelsvineyard.org.nz

**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** 8th, 15th, 22nd,
29th March 5th, 12th 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