



3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 25 January 2026

Exploring The WORD

We will spend most of the Sundays of the coming year in the company of Saint Matthew. His Gospel (like the others) has its own characteristics. He is writing for a Jewish audience, and so is always at pains to stress one thing: that Jesus of Nazareth was the promised Messiah. He does this by reference to Jesus' teaching and miracles, and very often by quoting the prophecies of the Old Testament to show that Jesus was their fulfilment. Today is a perfect example. "Zebulun and Naphthali" was an old name for the area round Capernaum by the side of the Lake of Galilee, a busy fishing and trading area, with many Gentile towns and settlements: it is here, rather than in the dangerous town of Nazareth, that Jesus "settles" and begins his ministry. This is where the proclamation of the Kingdom of God begins, as was foretold, and the first followers are invited to join Jesus.

PRAYER THIS WEEK

"He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him"

"Come after me," he said.

They dropped their nets and followed
the deep desires of their hearts.
They learned to heal.
To love.

Lord, thank you for calling us too.
For accepting the beauty,
the blindness of us,
the warmth, the cold
of us.

Teach us to leave our nets and our works
to come and follow you in love,
to seek out your
people. Amen

GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

Light For The World

In today's [Gospel](#) Matthew applies to Jesus the prophetic oracle of Isaiah: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." In like manner, the psalmist's assertion that the Lord is my light is echoed in Jesus' words: "I am the light of the world; the man who follows me will have the light of life." Christianity is about light. Just as Jesus is light to the world, so his church is to be light in a world of darkness. Light enables the beauty of things to be seen, and we are called to make the beauty of the world shine. But we are not to call attention to ourselves: if you are aware of the light in a room, it is too bright. Our vocation is for others, not ourselves. Surrounded by discrimination, oppression and war, Christians are challenged to "be united in mind and judgment," and they are directed by God's love to "bring humankind to unity and peace." The light we bring to the world should lead in time to an end of all the world's darkness: the alienation and oppression of peoples, the attacks on human life and dignity, and disrespect for God's creation. *Gerald Darring/*
www.liturgy.slu.edu

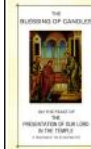


First Friday Mass

6 February 2026
Mass 7.00pm

COMMUNAL CELEBRATION OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND THE ELDERLY WITHIN MASS

Saturday, 14 February 2026
at 9:15 am



FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

On Monday, 2nd February 2026 is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

Please bring your **labelled candles** and place them on the table to be blessed during the 9.15 am Mass.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

will resume on **Thursday, 12th February 2026**, 10 am to 4 pm.

Can you spare a half hour of your week to sit and pray before our Lord exposed in the Monstrance?

Please put your names down on the roster at the back of the church.



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, 15th FEBRUARY 2026. There will be **NO** collections after this date

Ash Wednesday is on 18th February 2026

How to prepare meaningfully for LENT

Preparing for Lent involves prayerfully choosing to focus on **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (charitable giving)**, aiming to create spiritual space for deeper connection with God, often by giving something up (like social media) or taking something on (like daily meditation) to draw closer to Christ and become more like Him, with preparation often including deep cleaning, reflection, and planning confession and specific spiritual practices like Stations of the Cross.



Key Areas for Preparation

Prayer:

- ◆ **Set Intentions:** Decide on a specific prayer focus or new devotional practice for the season.
- ◆ **Make Time:** Plan for extra time in silent prayer, meditation, or reading scripture.
- ◆ **Family Prayer:** Engage children with activities like Guess the Saint or family rosaries.

Fasting (Giving Something Up):

- ◆ **Identify Hindrances:** Give up something that distracts from your relationship with God (e.g., excessive screen time, a favorite food/drink).
- ◆ **Replace with Good:** Substitute the time or energy spent on the given-up item with positive spiritual practices.
- ◆ **Beyond Food:** Consider fasting from negative habits, constant phone checking, or even gossip.

Almsgiving (Charitable Giving/Service):

- ◆ **Serve Others:** Plan acts of service, volunteer, or donate resources (time, money, clothes).
- ◆ **Show Kindness:** Make a conscious effort to spread kindness and bring smiles to others.

Lenten Goals

- ◆ To remove hindrances to following Jesus.
- ◆ To foster empathy for the poor.
- ◆ To become more like Christ.

CANOPY & CARPARK FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

A gentle reminder that for every dollar you donate to the parish through your pledge or fundraising, you are entitled to a 33 cents tax refund

Donations Received thus far — \$188,281.13

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

Thank you for your generosity!!

THE WORD OF GOD

3rd Sunday in Ordinary time

Isaiah 8:23-9:3

1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17

Matthew 4:12-23

Monday

Timothy 1:1-8

Luke 10:1-9

Sts Timothy and Titus, Bps

Tuesday

2 Samuel 6:12-15,17-19

Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday

2 Samuel 7:4-17

Mark 4:1-20

St Thomas Aquinas, p.D.

Thursday

2 Samuel 7:18-19,24-29

Mark 4:21-25

FRIDAY

2 Samuel 11:1-10,13-17

Mark 4:26-34

Saturday

2 Samuel 12:1-7,10-17

Mark 4:35-41

St John Bosco, priest

Morning Tea



after the 10am

Mass will resume

Sunday, 1 February 2026



Baptism Preparation Courses 2026

1 February 2026

8 March 2026

12 April 2026 - No Session

3 May 2026

7 June 2026

5 July 2026

2 August 2026

13 September 2026

4 October 2026

1 November 2026

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

Margaret & Alan Skinner,
David McNeill, Anselmo Salazar,
Gaye and Ciara Rhodes,
Israel Nathan, Tamar Mathews,
Mark Delaurier

Contact the Parish office
if you wish to add names
office@stthomasmore.org.nz

Kid's Korner



Catholic Diocese of Auckland
Te Taumata o te Hahi Katorika

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



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We need someone to lead the Children's Liturgy at the 5.30pm Mass on the 2nd Saturdays of each month.

If you can help, please contact Sylvia Hartley on
021 088 22990 / aldonsylvia@gmail.com

IMPORTANT: PARISH ONLINE REGISTRATION!

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

Thank you for the registrations thus far.

JOSHUA

Catholic Men's Fellowship - North Shore

Join us for an inspiring evening of brotherhood, faith, and encouragement.

"Bring a brother - strengthen a brother."

Topic: Testimony

Presenter: Bro Jerome Hardy

Date: Wednesday, 28 January 2026

Venue: St Thomas More Church,
336 Wairau Road, Glenfield, Auckland 0629

• 7:00pm - Fellowship

• 7:30pm - Praise & Worship

Bring a friend!

All men welcome!

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Kids Corner: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/CELEBRATING-The-Third-SUNDAY-in-OT.pdf>

Parents pondering: GOD IS CALLING YOU BY NAME
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/GOD-IS-CALLING-YOU-BY-NAME.pdf>

NATIONAL PRO-LIFE CONFERENCE

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY • LUNCH & SNACKS PROVIDED
AUCKLAND • FRI 6 MAR 2026
NORTH SHORE REFORMED CHURCH, 72 TRIAS ROAD, 9AM-4PM

REGISTER TODAY LEARN MORE & REGISTER AT VOICEFORLIFE.ORG.NZ/CONF

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

New Zealand Catholic Medical Association (NZCMA) Retreat and Seminar.

The New Zealand Catholic Medical Association provides community, support and chaplaincy for those involved in health care in Aotearoa. The association welcomes doctors, nurses, midwives, carers, pharmacists, physiotherapists, psychologists, dentists, health administrators, counsellors, social workers, chaplains, lawyers, and anyone in allied roles. The next nationwide event is a retreat and seminar at the St Francis Friary & Retreat Centre, Auckland on **March 20 and 21**. For more information or to register, visit <https://bit.ly/NZCMA2026> or email newzealandcatholicmedical@gmail.com

Word of God Sunday.

This Sunday, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, is the seventh Word of God Sunday.

Pope Francis instituted this celebration several years ago to encourage a deepening love and appreciation for Sacred Scripture within the Church.

Praise in the Park.

All are welcome to join many Auckland Catholic and Christian believers at our outdoor event, which will include music, Gospel proclamation, personal stories, and Eucharistic Adoration. This outdoor event will bring hope and joy to all who come by.

Please bring yourselves and families to help bring the light of Jesus to those who may not have hope. There will be prayer ministry and information stalls.

Date: **15 February 2026**

Where: Selwyn Domain, along Mission Bay.

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm - Praise and Worship,

including a mix of contemporary and well-known Christian music, interwoven with personal stories and the gospel message.

5:30 pm - 6:00 pm - A time of Adoration, accompanied by traditional Catholic hymns, offering space for reflection and encounter with Christ.

For more details and parking information visit praisethepark.nz or contact Engelbert on engelbert.dsouza@yahoo.com



TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy

Franciscan Renaissance with Patrick Carolan

Monday, 16 February 2026, 7-8pm. Zoom (Koha/Donation).

Register to receive the Zoom link:

www.studyjoy.nz/2026/01/08/franciscan-renaissance/

Crisis Pregnancy & Healing. Interview with Catherine Gillies.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2026/01/18/crisis-pregnancy-healing-muffin-talk-with-catherine-gillies/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.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



Holy Cross Seminary
www.holycross.org.nz