



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 15 February 2026

Exploring The WORD

Back in the 60s some groups “adopted” Jesus Christ as an icon of rebellion, overturning authority and tearing up the rule book – possibly because of the frequent confrontations between Our Lord and the Pharisees. Today’s Gospel, however, shows us Jesus not as rule-breaker, but as rule-fulfiller, bringing an even greater depth to the rule that had guided the people of Israel for centuries. Jesus does not throw out the rulebook – or as the first reading says, He does not command us to be godless! He challenges us in this Gospel to see how far our keeping God’s Law will go: will it just be about the letter of the Law (“I have never killed anyone”), or will it look deeper (“Have I ever been angry? Have I been violent in my thoughts?”). The challenge of the Kingdom of Heaven is to keep the commandments first and foremost from within, so that our outward behaviour conforms to the requirements of God’s Law.

PRAYER THIS WEEK

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.”

Jesus, Let us grasp your teaching of the law.
Justice. Love. Compassion.
Let your law make us holy.

Not like the Pharisees,
who blow trumpets
before they give.

You showed us with your every breath
just what it means to be holy.
You are the wonder,
the goal, the summit of the law.

Teach us.
Turn all of our law-keeping
into love. Amen

GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

The Law of Love

The focus of today’s liturgy is “obedience to God’s word.” We are challenged to “keep the commandments, to walk in the law of the Lord.” In order to keep the commandments, we must first know what they are and then we must understand them correctly. Jesus deals with this problem in the [Gospel](#). The Jews had a law about murder, but they had misread it to mean that one was in the clear as long as one was not actually, personally killing someone. Jesus challenged his Jewish followers to follow the correct interpretation of the law, which meant that they were not to be the kind of people who would kill or would do anything that leads to someone else’s death. We Christians believe that God’s “command of perfect love” obliges us to do what is just and right. It is not good enough to stay out of trouble; we must work at setting things right in the world. It is not good enough to give food to the hungry; we must work at making ours a society in which people do not go hungry. “Give me discernment, that I may observe your law and keep it with all my heart.” *Gerald Darring/ www.liturgy.slu.edu*



PREPARE



PRAY



FAST



GIVE ALMS

ASH
WEDNESDAY



Remember that
you are dust, and to
dust you shall return.
Ecclesiastes 3:20

Mass Times

Ash Wednesday

Begins the Season of Lent

18 February 2026

9:15 am and 7:30 pm

—oOo—

Stations of the Cross

Thursday 7:30pm - Chaldean Community

Friday morning - After 9:15am Mass

Friday 7:00pm —Tongan Community



The Caritas Lenten Appeal

“The beginning of Lent marks the start of the Bishops’ Lenten Appeal. Donations can be made to Caritas directly via direct debit or credit card through the Caritas Aotearoa New

Zealand [website https://www.caritas.org.nz/ways-to-give](https://www.caritas.org.nz/ways-to-give). The bank account for Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is **03-0518-0211216-000**.

Please use “Lent” as the Code and your first and last name as particulars. Freepost envelopes are available at Mass throughout Lent. Please take an envelope if you prefer to give in that way. All funds received by **Sunday, 29 March 2026** will be processed as part of the 2025/2026 tax year. Donations received thereafter will be processed as part of 2026/27 tax year.

Your generous support enables Caritas to help poor and marginalized communities around the world. **Thank you.** For more information, email: caritas@caritas.org.nz or call 0800 22 10 22

Parish Morning Tea

Tuesday 17th February after Morning Mass Hosted by Seniors Group

Open invitation to ALL Young and Old to join in Fellowship for our first gathering of 2026.

Any queries contact Elizabeth Auger 021 201 8914



Columbarium at St Francis de Sales and All Souls Devonport, opening Feb 22nd

With Fr Pio’s approval, members of the Columbarium Committee will be present at all Masses this weekend (**14 & 15 February**), to speak briefly and follow up any expressions of interest from St Thomas More parishioners. We look forward to meeting you all.

For more information contact office@devonportcatholic.org.nz



Parish Safeguarding Workshop

The upcoming online Safeguarding workshop will be held on **Thursday, 19 February at 7:00 pm**. To register, please email your Safeguarding contact, Vidya, at safeguarding@stthomasmore.org.nz.



CANOPY & CARPARK FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

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.

Donations Received thus far — \$189,901.15

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

6th Sunday in Ordinary time

Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20
1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Matthew 5:17-37

Monday

James 1:1-11
Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday

James 1:12-18
Mark 8:14-21

ASH WEDNESDAY

Joel 2:12-18

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2
Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

Thursday

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Luke 9:22-25

FRIDAY

Isiah 58:1-9
Matthew 9:14-15

Saturday

Isiah 58:9-14
Luke 5:27-32

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

Filipino
Community



GROUP BAPTISMS

Group Baptisms are
celebrated on 3rd & 4th
Saturdays of the month.

There will be
NO BAPTISMS during
Lent.

Next Baptism date is
18th April 2026.
Thank you



Baptism Preparation Courses 2026

8 March 2026
12 April 2026
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

Ghassan Emmanuel, 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

VACANCY

**Auckland Prison (Paremoremo) - Catholic Prison
Chaplaincy.** We are seeking to employ a suitably qualified
person to work as members of Tira Tūhāhā Prison
Chaplaincy Aotearoa Chaplaincy Team, which delivers
Ecumenical Chaplaincy services to men in prison at the
Auckland Prison (Paremoremo). This is a part-time position
of 24 hours per week - days to be determined but with the
expectation of some Sundays per month for Sunday
Services. To view the full advert and the position
description please go to our website
www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz under Diocesan Services and
Staff Vacancies. Applications close on **6 March 2026.**



PILGRIMAGE FROM FATIMA TO ROME

25 September to 17 October 2026

Fatima – Salamanca – Burgos - Lourdes –
Paris – Venice - Padua – Assisi - Rome
Chaplain: Monsignor David Tonks

Details from Laura Yap

laura.yap@travelmanagers.co.nz or 021 390 055



ST JOSEPH'S
GIFT SHOP
CHRISTIAN SUPPLIES

Prepare for Lent and Easter with great
Catholic resources at the **St Joseph's
Gift Shop.** Come see us at our new
location in Albany Village (Opposite
Albany Toyota) or visit us online at
www.stjosephscentre.co.nz to see our Lent and Easter
Catalogue. *Supplying quality Christian & Catholic products
for every need*

St Josephs Gift Shop

253 Dairy Flat Highway, Albany, Auckland 0632
09 489 5613 | 0221392093



40 DAYS FOR LIFE.



This Lent, win people over to the dignity of every person from
conception, and pray for an end to abortion. Join in 40 Days for
Life, offering hope to mothers in their hour of need.
From Ash Wednesday (18 February) to Palm Sunday (29
March).

Street vigil: Tu/We/Th 07:00 – noon;
Dominion Rd & Prospect Tce corner, Mt Eden.
Sign up for your hour via the QR code:



TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy

Franciscan Renaissance with Patrick Carolan (live from the
USA).

Monday, 16 February 2026, 7-8pm. Zoom (Koha/Donation).
Register to receive the Zoom link: [www.studyjoy.nz/2026/01/08/
franciscan-renaissance/](http://www.studyjoy.nz/2026/01/08/franciscan-renaissance/)

Stations of the Cross. Will you be praying the Stations of the
Cross this year? We have produced a small booklet (A6) that
is easy to use and is based on NZ carved stations focussing
on the hands. Available in 5 languages. For more information,
see: [https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/08/11/reflection-on-wood-
carvings/](https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/08/11/reflection-on-wood-carvings/)

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

3-Bedroom House for Rent – Glenfield/Bayview

Spacious and comfortable 3-bedroom home available for rent
in the sought-after Glenfield/Bayview area.

For enquiries or to arrange a viewing (by appointment), please
phone: **027 261 2585**

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Kids Corner: [https://
www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-
content/uploads/2026/01/
CELEBRATING-The-SIXTH-SUNDAY-in-
OT.pdf](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/CELEBRATING-The-SIXTH-SUNDAY-in-OT.pdf)



**Parents pondering: HOW TO
FOSTER PEACE IN YOUR FAMILY**
[https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/
uploads/2026/01/How-to-foster-peace-in-your-family.pdf](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/How-to-foster-peace-in-your-family.pdf)

Please **DO NOT** park along St Thomas More Lane - **the
residents are inconvenienced by the weekly congestion.**
Your vehicle will be towed away.

Please be mindful of noise levels when congregating in
the parking area's at night. Thank you

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

For more details, please see posters on the
parish noticeboard

CATHNEWS NEW ZEALAND: CathNews New
Zealand shares the big news from the Catholic
Church and stories of relevance to Catholics every
Tuesday and Friday. Sign up for the free digital
newsletter and read the latest stories at
cathnewsnz.com

Wings.Nga Parirau this Lent – an invitation to
know your faith and grow your relationship with
Jesus. Are you interested but cannot make
face-to-face meetings? Try Zoom! Come and pray
silently with others, be present with Jesus each
morning, on Zoom, 6.15 – 6.45am. Is Meditation
new for you? 'Come and See!' Contact Dianna
Fouhy: diannaf@cda.org.nz.

**Mission Hub – Sharing Your Story: Testimony
That Transforms** Our lives are full of moments
where God's presence quietly guides, comforts,
and inspires us. Sharing these experiences can
uplift others, strengthen faith, and spark hope.
This February, Mission Hub, in collaboration with
the Catholic Enquiry Centre, is gathering online for
Sharing Your Story – Testimony That Transforms.
Everyone is invited to register here: [https://bit.ly/
february16webinar](https://bit.ly/february16webinar).

Lenten Talks by Bishop Peter Brown St
Michael's Parish is hosting a series of four weekly
talks by Bishop Peter Brown during the lead up to
Lent, guiding us to reunite ourselves to Christ
through His gift of Reconciliation.

Ash Wednesday 18th February, begins our six
weeks of Lent to **prepare for Easter**; to "turn to
the Lord your God again, for he is all tenderness
and compassion" (Joel 2:12 from Ash Wednesday).
I look forward to sharing this Lenten journey with
you. Please contact diannaf@cda.org.nz

Life Teen Aotearoa Leadership Convention | 13-15 March 2026 at Sacred Heart College

Auckland THE BEST place to be trained,
renewed and inspired for Catholic Youth Ministry.
Whether you are new to ministry, or looking for the
best practices to continue your ministry, this event
is designed for you. Earlybird prices available until
9th March: [https://www.eventbookings.com/b/event/
life-teen-aotearoa-leadership-convention](https://www.eventbookings.com/b/event/life-teen-aotearoa-leadership-convention)

**2026 Theology of the Body Courses and Prayer
Retreats** - Registration OPEN for 2026
All adults 20 years + are welcome.

To register please visit: theologyofthebody.nz

CALLING ALL TERTIARY STUDENTS!

There is a LARGE, VIBRANT and RAPIDLY
growing Catholic STUDENT COMMUNITY present
across University of Auckland and AUT campuses.
JOIN US in 2026! To find out more please contact
Daniel Story at dans@cda.org.nz

**The Dominican Friars of the Province of the
Assumption** invite you to the 2026 Aquinas
Conference in Auckland held at Holy Family Parish,
Te Atatu on **21st February**. The Conference will be
FREE of charge but donations ([https://
www.givenow.com.au/stdominicspriory](https://www.givenow.com.au/stdominicspriory)) will be greatly
appreciated!

Young Leaders Commissioning Mass | 4:30pm Sunday 22nd February at St Patricks Cathedral

Join us as we begin another grace-filled year of
youth ministry with our Young Leaders'
Commissioning Mass! More information here:
<https://www.facebook.com/share/1BAQdQMwXL/>

WYD 2027 Webinars In preparation for World
Youth Day 2027 in Seoul Korea, Te Kupaenga
Catholic Theological College invites young people
and everyone to grow in their faith. More
information at www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinars-2026

**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 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](https://bit.ly/NZCMA2026) or email [newzealandcatholicmedi-
cal@gmail.com](mailto:newzealandcatholicmedical@gmail.com)