



1st Sunday Of Lent Year A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 22 February 2026

Exploring The WORD

In the Cycle of Sunday Readings, the oldest are those of Year A in Lent – these Gospels have accompanied the Church for many centuries. We must realise why: Lent was originally the time of immediate preparation of candidates for Baptism at Easter (something which has been reintroduced to the Church by RCIA): those already baptised used it as a time to prepare for the renewal of Baptismal promises. This is why so much of the Scripture in Lent is about Baptism, New Life and Salvation. What is the new life of Baptism? What are we set free from? What is sin? We begin Lent by hearing about sin and temptation; the Gospel will tell us of Jesus' own temptations, something he shares with us, though he did not sin. The other Scripture readings prepare us for the Gospel, in which Jesus, the new Adam, triumphs over temptation.

PRAYER THIS WEEK

"At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert.

Jesus
take us to the
desert and stay with us.
Speak to our hearts about all that
matters. Chase away everything that doesn't.
Caress our hearts so they know you better,
see you more clearly in the suffering
of your children and your planet.
Let us say to all who suffer,
"Your tears are my tears.
Your pain is my
pain."* Amen

*Pope Francis, Congo 2/1/23

LENTEN SPIRITUALITY

Demons

Jesus went into the wilderness and struggled with the demons. Such is the metaphor of spiritual life presented to us in today's Gospel. In the course of our lives, we are all "led into the desert by the Spirit," and we must struggle with the demons. We struggle with the demon of self-sufficiency. Ignoring our interdependence, we imagine that we can "go it alone," and end up dividing ourselves into isolated units of races, classes, and genders, living as though we do not need the other. We may even reach the point of living as though we do not need the Other. We struggle with the demon of power. We begin by setting ourselves above others, and often end with oppressing them, using our power in a cruel or unjust manner to keep others down. We struggle with the demon of pride, imagining ourselves to be better than others, or the 'top dog' in our little world, or number one in the world. Lent is a time to struggle with the demons, "to rid ourselves of the hidden corruption of evil." "Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned." *Gerald Darring/ www.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

Fridays of Lent : 7pm - Tongan Community

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS – 9:45am

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

THURSDAYS - all day until 4:00pm



Parish Safeguarding

Nuturing our People through Internet Safety

Safeguarding is about protecting people, all people most especially the most vulnerable in our church. How can we achieve this in an environment where technology allows us to be in contact and connected 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

All of us in ministry are required to follow specific guidelines when involved in activities around social media. Below are some important points for us to all consider to keep everyone safe, especially our children.

1. Model responsible and respectful use of the internet. Remembering that young children and youth watch everything adults do.
2. Recognize that the information posted may be at risk of reaching unintentional audiences. This is an important fact to share with our children and youth. (to be continued..)



JOSHUA

Catholic Men's Fellowship – North Shore

Come and journey together as men of faith
as we prepare our hearts for the **Lenten season.**

Topic: Lent

Presenter: Fr Glen Lowe SDB (Chaplain Joshua Auckland)

On: 25th of February 2026

Venue: St Thomas More Church,
Glenfield, Auckland 0629

- 7:00pm – Fellowship followed by
- 7:30pm – Praise & Worship

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

All men are warmly invited.

THE WORD OF GOD

1st Sunday Of Lent

Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

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

Indian
Community



GROUP BAPTISMS

There will be
NO BAPTISMS during Lent.

Next Baptism date is
18th April 2026.
Thank you



Envelopes are in the church foyer for
your donations.



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

CANOPY & CARPARK FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

Donations Received thus far — \$198,981.15

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

Thank you for your generosity!!

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**.

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



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



Hou Mana Wai Mercy Wellsprings

If you are looking for an opportunity to deepen your faith and grow closer to God, we have a couple of events coming up that we'd love to invite you to. More information is in the flyer:

Next Saturday 21st February, 9.30am-3.30pm. A quiet retreat day focused on Christian Meditation. Cost is \$35 or koha, BYO lunch.

AND

Our Lent series starts on Wednesday 25th February (not on Tuesdays as per our advertising). There will be two groups: one at 10.30am and one at 7.30pm, for an hour each. The series will run for six weeks on Wednesdays. Cost is \$35 or koha for the series.

To register or for more information, please email me (Rebecca): office@mercywellsprings.org.nz



**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

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-FIRST-SUNDAY-of-LENT.pdf>



Parents pondering: ENCOURAGE SOMEONE FOR LENT

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Encourage-Someone-for-Lent.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

Lent Webinar Series - Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand Journey. Registrations have now opened for the Lent Webinar Series involving our Catholic Bishops, for all dates: <https://link.caritas.org.nz/lentweb1regiamong>.

Teams Oceania Conference. The Transformed by Grace, Guided by Love Teams Oceania Conference is fast approaching. Auckland, Aotearoa NZ, **20-22 March 2026**. FINAL CALL: REGISTRATIONS DUE FRIDAY 28th February. The form canvases interest in transfers and childcare but feel free to contact Jan and Tony Baker on teamsnzaotearoa@gmail.com to let us know of your needs and enquiries. If you have any questions, or would like to request available support to enable your attendance at the Conference, please also contact Jan and Tony on teamsnzaotearoa@gmail.com

Lent Reflection at St John's Church, Mairangi Bay Tuesday, 24 March, Lenten Reflection with Dianna Fouhy. Tuesday, 28 April, Bible Society with CEO Neels Janse van Rensburg

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 cath-newsnz.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

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.

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. Expect incredible keynotes from the Catholic speakers, practical breakout sessions, and in addition to practical, comprehensive training, you will experience community and personal spiritual renewal. Register NOW! Earlybird prices available until 9th March: <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

WYD 2027 Webinars In preparation for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul Korea, Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College invites young people and everyone to grow in their faith, hope and missionary discipleship, with this year's webinar series, "Take Courage! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). 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 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