



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 8 February 2026

Exploring The WORD

While the world may seem to be very indifferent to Christianity most of the time, it can be very critical of Christians who do not seem to be following the most basic tenet of their faith – to be a people of “good deeds”, as Jesus teaches in today’s portion of the Sermon on the Mount. While we may sometimes feel indignant about the world’s criticism of our faults, we have to remember that we are in a vital relationship with “the world” – we are to be its light. This means that we should welcome the world’s gaze and scrutiny of our actions and beliefs and we should, in a sense, be accountable to the world for the way we live. We should never be salt that loses its taste. This openness to the gaze of all is not for our own glory, however: it is so that others may find what we have found – their way to the Father.

PRAYER THIS WEEK

“You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.”

Lord, show us how to be salt-worthy and how to give light.

We want to share our bread with the hungry; we want to shelter the homeless and clothe the naked.

Show us how to help the immigrant, and free those who are prisoners.

Help us take your light everywhere dark.

Teach us to give a little at first, then all we have. 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

“I, the Lord, am your healer.” Exodus 15:26

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

Saturday, 14 February 2026 at 9:15 am



OLD PALMS

Please bring your old blessed palms and place them into the green bin before 15 February 2026



Thursday, 12th February 2026

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

10 am to 4 pm.

—oOo—

On Thursday, 12 February 2026, there will be a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion.

There will be **NO CONFESSIONS** on this day, as the priests will be attending a compulsory gathering in Matakana.



PREPARE



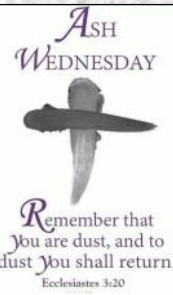
PRAY



FAST



GIVE ALMS



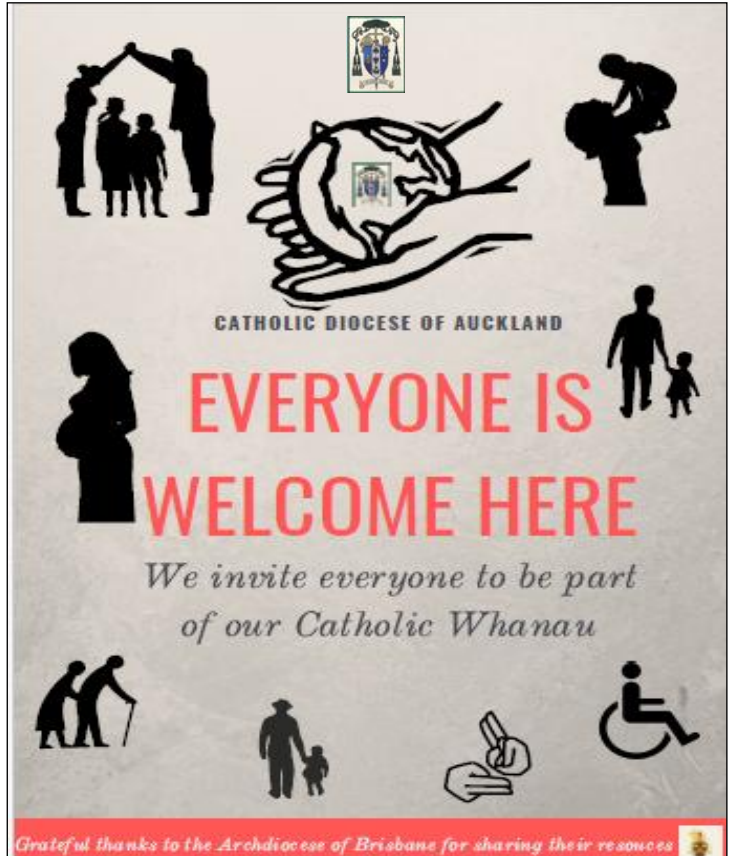
Mass Times

Ash Wednesday

Begins the Season of Lent

18 February 2026

9:15 am and 7:30 pm



Grateful thanks to the Archdiocese of Brisbane for sharing their resources

CANOPY & CARPARK FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

Donations Received thus far — \$188,932.13

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

5th Sunday in Ordinary time

Isaiah 58:7-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Matthew 5:13-16

Monday

1 Kings 8:1-7,9-13

Mark 6:53-56

Tuesday

1 Kings 8:22-23,27-30

Mark 7:1-13

St Scholastica, V

Wednesday

1 Kings 10:1-10

Mark 7:14-23

Thursday

1 Kings 11:4-13

Mark 7:24-30

FRIDAY

1 Kings 11:29-32,12:19

Mark 7:31-37

Saturday

1 Kings 12:26-32,13:33-34

Mark 8:1-10

Sts Cyril & Methodius, B

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

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. Join us to reflect on how telling our stories with honesty and humility can encourage others on their spiritual journey. Monday 16 February - 7:00–8:30pm (NZ time) Online via Zoom. Prayer, inspiring content, discussion **Everyone is** invited to register here: <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. **When:** 4x Tuesday evenings beginning 3rd March 2026.

Time: 7:00pm – 8:30pm **Where:** St Michael's Parish, Mary MacKillop Hall, 6 Beatrice Rd, Remuera

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). Join in these short Zoom sessions through Lent: wake and pray, daily meditation 6.15am; Wednesdays 7-7.40 pm reading Pope Leo's "Dilexi Te" – his teaching on compassion for the poor; Saturdays 7-7.40pm reflecting on the Sunday Gospels of Lent. I look forward to sharing this Lenten journey with you. Please contact dianna@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. 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. Whether you are a priest, in parish leadership, youth minister, DRS, teacher, youth leader, college chaplain, or an interested parent, we are ready to serve and train you this year at Life Teen Aotearoa's 2026 Leadership Convention. Register NOW! Earlybird prices available until 9th March: <https://www.eventbookings.com/b/event/life-teen-aotearoa-leadership-convention>

Celebrating Marriage & Family Life St Valentine's vigil Mass **Saturday 14th February 5.30pm -6:45pm** at the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph 43 Wyndam Street CBD for married, engaged, dating, widowed and families all are welcome to celebrate the joy of families. Further info contact Gerry 021 02247442

2026 Theology of the Body Courses and Prayer Retreats - Registration OPEN for 2026. **Course 1:** Fulfilled: The Promise of the Christian Life looks deeply at the 'ache' of human longing and the hope of infinite bliss in Christ. Dates: **Sat 21 and Sun 22 Feb.** **Course 2:** NEW Beginners TOB course – Called to Holiness - LIVE – 4-talk series. **Sat 28 March** (ONE DAY only) All adults 20 years + are welcome. To register please visit: theologyofthebody.nz For the Prayer Retreats and Talks at the Friary visit: Home - St Francis Retreat Centre

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 and/or check out the Auckland Catholic Tertiary Chaplaincy (ACTC) socials. Search "aucklandcatholicchaplaincy"

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**. It will begin with the Holy Mass at 9AM followed by four talks exploring the life and teachings of St Thomas Aquinas. It is open to all ages so please invite your family and friends. The Conference will be FREE of charge but donations (<https://www.givenow.com.au/stdominicspriory>) will be greatly appreciated!

Young Leaders Masterclass | 1pm Sunday 22nd February at Pompallier Diocesan centre 30 New Street Ponsonby If you're a youth ministry leader or young adult ministry leader, you're invited to our quarterly event designed to equip, empower, and energize you for ministry. Whether you're a seasoned leader or just starting out, Masterclass offers practical tools, spiritual nourishment, and a supportive community to help you thrive in your ministry. And did we mention plenty of time to connect with other young leaders while enjoying a free barista coffee on us?! As always, Masterclass will feature relevant workshops led by experienced guest speakers: Stay tuned for topics and speakers to be announced soon! Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/masterclass2026>

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 on the weekend of **February 14th and 15th**, 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

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE (cont.)

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! Monsignor Bernard Kiely will be celebrating the mass and commissioning our young leaders as they are sent out for ministry in 2026. We invite Catholics from across the Diocese to join us for this celebration. Unite with our young leaders in faith, hope and joy as we commence another incredible year of youth ministry in the Diocese of Auckland! More information here: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1BADQEMwXL/>

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

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



All welcome to share

in a cuppa after the 10am Mass hosted by the

Tongan 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 - 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

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Kids Corner: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/CELEBRATING-The-FIFTH-SUNDAY-in-OT.pdf>

Parents pondering: DON'T MAKE A NOISE- MAKE A DIFFERENCE
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/DONT-MAKE-A-NOISE-MAKE-A-DIFFERENCE.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