



# 4th Sunday Of Lent Year A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 15 March 2026

## Exploring The WORD

When we get to Easter, there are two symbols of the resurrection that we use in Church: fire and light (the Easter Candle) and water (the Font). Last week we reflected on water, and this week there are passages all about light – true light, that defeats the blindness of sin. Again, this would have been offered to those preparing for Baptism, but speaks to all of us who have been baptised, inviting us to be renewed in the light of Christ at Easter. Remember that one of the oldest titles of the newly baptised was “neophyte”, which means “newly enlightened”. There is a subtle link between the readings on this Sunday: in the first reading, David is anointed, and the Spirit of the Lord seizes on him. This anointing lights him along the right path - ‘no evil would I fear’ as the Psalm says. Then Paul tells us more about this light: it is Christ shining on us, calling us to live as children of light. All this is summed up in the Gospel, the marvellous story of the healing (by being ‘anointed’ with spittle) of the man born blind. Jesus is the light of the world

## PRAYER THIS WEEK

*“He smeared the clay on his eyes and he said to him, “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam.”*

Jesus,  
won't you cleanse our  
blind eyes? ...  
Wash away the Mud? ...  
and move us from  
unseeing souls to believers—  
from bystanders to disciples,  
walkers in darkness  
to lamps for your light.  
O let our souls see!. Amen

## LENTEN SPIRITUALITY

### Looking Into The Heart

The prophet Samuel comes to Bethlehem to choose a new king from the family of Jesse. He rejects Jesse’s oldest son because “Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart.” With this single statement, the Word of God unmasks much of the world’s blindness. We look at poor people and see nothing other than rundown houses and littered streets. We look at the homeless and see nothing other than dirty faces and ragged clothes. We look at people who are different from us and we see nothing other than the color of their skin or the way they manipulate their bodily limbs. In today’s *Gospel*, Jesus, the light of the world, takes away the man’s blindness. This wonderful story challenges us to “live as children of light.” Our Lenten prayer and sacrifice should serve to take away our blindness so that we can look into the hearts of others and love them as brothers and sisters. It “should turn hatred to love, conflict to peace, death to eternal life.” It should enable us to say with the blind man: “I can see and I believe in God.” *Gerald Darring/ www.liturgyslu.edu*

### 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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION			
Tuesday	17 March	Mairangi Bay	7:00pm
Wednesday	18 March	Orewa	7:00pm
Tuesday	24 March	Takapuna	7:00pm
Wednesday	25 March	Glenfield	7:00pm
Thursday	26 March	Northcote	7:00pm
Friday	27 March	Beach Haven	7:00pm

### HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

You will find the Mass schedule in the church foyer and on our website [www.glenfieldcatholic.org.nz](http://www.glenfieldcatholic.org.nz)

### RCIA Scrutinies of the Elect

RCIA  
A Journey to Faith

The purpose of each of the scrutinies *is “to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the Elect”* and *“to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good”* (RCIA, 141). The true pastoral sense of this two-fold act of uncovering and strengthening is emphasized – “For the scrutinies 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.” At its core, the three scrutinies are not about the sinfulness of the Elect but about the overwhelming grace of God in Christ. The exorcisms are not fear-laden bouts with Satan, they are rather grace-filled encounters with the healing power of the Spirit.

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.

### EASTER TRIDUUM CHOIR PRACTICE

Easter choir practice dates are on **Tuesday – 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March.**

Singers and musicians are invited to join

### Parish Safeguarding

The upcoming online Safeguarding workshop will be held on Thursday, 19 March at 7:00 pm.

To register, please email your Safeguarding contact, Vidya, at [safeguarding@stthomasmore.org.nz](mailto:safeguarding@stthomasmore.org.nz).

### CANOPY & CARPARK FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

**Donations Received thus far — \$222,897.72**

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

**Thank you for your generosity!!**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### 4th Sunday of Lent

#### Laetare Sunday

Samuel 16:1-6,7,10-13  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

#### Monday

Isaiah 65:17-21  
John 4:43-54

#### Tuesday

Jeremiah 1:4-9  
Acts 13:46-49  
Luke 10:1-2,17-20

St Patrick, B

#### Wednesday

Isaiah 49:8-15  
John 5:17-30

#### Thursday

2 Samuel 7:4-5,12-14,16  
Romans 4:13,16-18,22  
Matthew 1:16,18-21,24

St Joseph, Husband of Mary

#### FRIDAY

Wisdom 2:1,12-22  
John 7:1-2,10,25-30

#### Saturday

Jeremiah 11:18-20  
John 7:40-52

## All welcome to share

in a cuppa after the 10am  
Mass hosted by the

Filipino  
Community



## Parish Morning Tea and Fellowship

All are invited on **Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup>**  
after Morning Mass  
Do come and join us.



Special Theme – Two Special Feast Days this week:  
St Patrick and St Joseph

Hosted by your Parish Seniors Group

**Any queries contact Elizabeth Auger 021 201 8914**

## DIVINE WILL RETREAT

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> - Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026  
at St. Thomas More Catholic Church

336 Wairau Road, Glenfield  
Auckland

SAT starts 9.15 am Mass till 4 pm

SUN starts 10 am Mass till 4 pm

BYO LUNCH and KOHA  
SPEAKER: TONY HICKEY

Tony Hickey is a Roman Catholic lay person from  
Manchester in the U.K. He is an expert in the writings of  
Luisa Piccarreta and has spoken at many International  
Divine Will Conferences, and has been giving retreats  
worldwide on the Divine Will since 1997.

Contact:

Sylvia 0210882290

Francis 0210430045



**Rhonda Mercer**, who was a parishioner at St.  
Thomas More for many years, passed away last  
weekend. Her funeral will be held at St. Benedict's  
church in Newton, Auckland on **Sat 21st March at  
2PM**. It will also be live streamed.

The funeral directors have also provided this page,  
which has all the details, including a way for people  
to post tributes to Rhonda: [https://  
davisfunerals.co.nz/obituaries/?funeral=mnYUL](https://davisfunerals.co.nz/obituaries/?funeral=mnYUL)



## TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy

Baptism & Lent with Prof Thomas O'Loughlin (UK).  
What is the connection between Lent and Baptism?

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2026/02/25/baptism-lent/>  
**World Day of Prayer 2026**. Read here an article on an  
ecumenical service held in Auckland: [https://  
www.studyjoy.nz/2026/03/07/world-day-of-prayer-2026/](https://www.studyjoy.nz/2026/03/07/world-day-of-prayer-2026/)  
For more resources and information: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.nz)



The month of March is an important one as  
we celebrate the feast of our beloved  
patron, **St Joseph**. This year we will have  
an **evening vigil ritual in our Chapel on  
March 18<sup>th</sup> at 5.30pm**. WE have a new  
group of Josephite Companions so as part of the ritual there  
will be a short commitment ceremony to honour them. We  
hope to see some of you there. If you would like to join us for  
tea, please email Sr Julian [marymackillopcentre@sosj.org.au](mailto:marymackillopcentre@sosj.org.au)  
by **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March**. This is helpful for catering purposes.

## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

**Kids Corner:** [https://  
www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/  
uploads/2026/02/CELEBRATING-The-Fourth-  
SUNDAY-of-LENT.pdf](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/CELEBRATING-The-Fourth-SUNDAY-of-LENT.pdf)

**Parents pondering: THINK OF JESUS AS A DOCTOR**  
[https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/  
uploads/2026/02/Think-of-Jesus-as-a-doctor-1.pdf](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Think-of-Jesus-as-a-doctor-1.pdf)



## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

For more details, please see posters on  
the parish noticeboard

**Prayer Retreat for Women** Prayer and the Interior  
Life' Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 6pm to Sunday 19th April  
3pm 2026 - with time for Holy Mass, Eucharistic  
Adoration, Reconciliation, Personal Prayer and  
Spiritual Direction. Location: Hillsborough,  
Auckland. Early bird registration and details  
here: [www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz](http://www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz)

**Divine Mercy** Feast Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 5:30pm at  
St Benedict's Parish, 1 St Benedict's Street, Eden  
Terrace.

**Rise up and Shine Festival** Taste the World,  
Celebrate the Culture! 30<sup>th</sup> of May, 2026. Starts at  
10am with Thanks giving Mass.

**Charis NZ** Is pleased to announce that **Chevalier  
Cyril John** will be leading a 1.5 day, hosted by  
Current of Grace, Auckland (part of Charis  
NZ). Cyril John is a well-known speaker and  
serves on the International Commission for  
Intercession and has spent more than a decade  
travelling the world, teaching, and forming  
intercessors in the ministry of Prophetic  
Intercession. Please share and encourage your  
prayer group and community group members, and  
wider networks to support this event: Auckland  
Diocese: **11 - 12 May 2026**:

**The Gift of Dreams** On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March,  
10am to 2pm at the Orewa Catholic church, the  
Auckland Christian Meditation Community is  
hosting a presentation by Tay-Marie Yorston.  
Dreams tell our stories; they anchor and deepen  
our faith in seasons of transition, anxiety, stress,  
grief and loss. BYO lunch, bring a koha and a  
friend, no need to book. More details on [chris-  
tianmeditationnz.org.nz/community-days-retreats](http://christianmeditationnz.org.nz/community-days-retreats)

**The Upper Room | Wednesday 18 March 2026 at  
Good George Mission Bay** The Upper Room is a  
night of formation and fellowship for young adults.  
Guest speaker James Bergin will be presenting on  
the topic of 'Digital Integrity', where we will delve  
into how one can be authentically Catholic in an  
artificial digital world. \$10 tickets  
Register here: [https://events.humanitix.com/the-  
upper-room-march-2026](https://events.humanitix.com/the-upper-room-march-2026)

**LENT 2026 with FOOD FOR FAITH.** Visit  
[www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz) and sign up to receive  
daily email encouragements from Fr. John  
O'Connor. Prepared especially for those seeking  
greater maturity of faith.

**Diamond Jubilee** - The Catholic Parish of  
Wellington South. All former and current  
parishioners are invited to a celebration of several  
historical milestones on Sunday, **19<sup>th</sup> April  
2026**. The first Catholic church, St Francis de  
Sales Church, Island Bay, was built in 1906, 120  
years ago, and the current church was blessed and  
opened on **17<sup>th</sup> April 1966**, 60 years ago. The  
weekend of celebration will also acknowledge 100  
years since the opening of the St Madeleine  
Sophie primary school, the forerunner of the  
current primary school of St Francis de Sales. A  
special Mass of remembrance and thanks featuring  
past and present priests will be followed by a lunch  
at the Pines Cabaret, Houghton Bay. Registrations  
of interest are welcomed by providing contact  
details at: [office@wellingtonsouthcatholic.org](mailto:office@wellingtonsouthcatholic.org)

**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/  
lenweb1regiamong](https://link.caritas.org.nz/lenweb1regiamong).

In addition to the registration link, we have posters  
available for sharing and circulation, which can be  
found on our website here: [https://www.caritas.org.nz/  
len-webinars#dioceseandparish](https://www.caritas.org.nz/len-webinars#dioceseandparish)

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



## 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](mailto:laura.yap@travelmanagers.co.nz)  
or 021 390 055



## Baptism Preparation Courses 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@stthomasmore.org.nz)