



5th Sunday Of Lent Year A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 22 March 2026

Exploring The WORD

The Gospel of the Fifth Sunday is perhaps the deepest meditation on the mystery of Baptism and membership of the Church. It is a prelude to the events of Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the triumph of life over death. To be plunged into the waters of baptism is to be buried with Christ, only to rise with him from the waters. This paradox of life and death is the content of today's readings. There is no more important part of our faith than the resurrection: that Christ rose from the dead is the very centre and heart of all that we believe - without it, our faith is useless. In the same way our belief in our own resurrection is vital: it is the most deeply needed gift that Christ gives us. This is why the climax of the instructions given to candidates for Baptism was this teaching: that Christ would give them life after death. Look ahead to the 3rd Sunday of Easter, where Saint Peter preaches to the crowds - what he teaches them is that life comes after death, as it did for Lazarus, and for Christ himself.

PRAYER THIS WEEK

"They said to him, "Sir, come and see ."

And Jesus wept.

He had cried
"Lazarus, come out of there!"

Lazarus did.

"Death, now where is your sting?"

Christ weep with us, and for us,
trapped in burial cloths
with our hands tied,
when we are trafficked,
seized at borders, homeless.

Your passion says,

"Untie them.
Let them go free." Amen

LENTEN SPIRITUALITY

Victory Over Death

Today's [Gospel](#) recounts one of the most dramatic stories from the life of Jesus: the raising of Lazarus from the dead. John goes to great lengths to make clear that Lazarus had been dead for some time, and he shows Jesus' power to conquer death. We live in a world that has been caught up in death for a long time. We kill each other in acts of murder, abortion, euthanasia, execution, war, terrorist activities, drunk and reckless driving. We kill ourselves through suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, smoking, overwork, stress, bad eating habits, and physical neglect. We watch calmly as others die from poverty, hunger and malnutrition, homelessness, unemployment, poor education, disease, lack of health coverage, child abuse, arms proliferation, discrimination, pollution, destruction of the environment, unsafe working conditions, and all the laws, policies, practices and attitudes which contribute to these conditions. Jesus is the resurrection and the life. He is the God who "will put my spirit in you that you may live." Our Lenten celebration must serve to remind us that the paschal mystery represents a victory over death. *Gerald Darring* / www.liturgy.slu.edu

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

PALM-PASSION SUNDAY, 29 March 2026
5.30pm Saturday - 8.00am and 10.00am Sunday

TUESDAY, 31 March 2026
CHRISM MASS
7.00pm St Patrick's Cathedral

WEDNESDAY, 1 April 2026
7.30pm Chaldean Washing of the Feet Mass

HOLY THURSDAY, 2 April 2026
NO MORNING MASS
7.30pm MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
Adoration after Mass at the Altar of Repose
Collection for the Caritas

GOOD FRIDAY, 3 April 2026
9.00am Stations of the Cross
followed by Divine Mercy Chaplet
11.30am Chaldean Good Friday Mass
3pm COMMEMORATION OF LORD'S PASSION
Collection is for the upkeep of Holy Places, Jerusalem

EASTER VIGIL, 4 April 2026
7.30pm THE LORD'S RESURRECTION
Parish to provide T-light candles. **DO NOT** bring your own.
Second collection for upkeep of Auckland Clergy

EASTER SUNDAY, 5 April 2026
(Daylight saving ends — clocks go back 1hour)
9am Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection
Second collection for upkeep of Auckland Clergy
11.30am Chaldean Easter Mass

RCIA Scrutinies of the Elect



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.

Choir Practices on Tuesday 24th and 31st March at 7.00pm for the Easter Vigil Mass.

All singers and musicians are welcome to join us.



CANOPY & CARPARK FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

Donations Received thus far — \$225,963.87
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

5th Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45

Monday

Daniel Ch.13

John 8:1-11

Tuesday

Numbers 21:4-9

John 8:21-30

Wednesday

Isaiah 7:10-14,8:10

Hebrews 10:4-10

Luke 1:26-38

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Thursday

Genesis 17:3-9

John 8:51-59

FRIDAY

Jeremiah 20:10-13

John 10:31-42

Saturday

Ezekiel 37:21-28

John 11:45-57



Sorry

NO CUPPA

after the 10am Mass.

Divine Will Retreat in the Hall

Parish Working Bee

Volunteers are invited to help with Light Maintenance work & Cleaning of the Church in preparation for Easter season on **Saturday, 28 March 2026 from 9am.**

Many Hands make light work!!!

Your help would be greatly appreciated, and we sincerely thank you in advance for your support.



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

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



Sacramental Programme 2026

Enrolment Forms are available in the church foyer.

Please submit completed Form together with a copy of the child's Baptismal Certificate to the Parish Office.

Deadline: 24 April 2026



Parish Safeguarding

Nurturing our People through Internet Safety

Safeguarding involves ensuring the protection of all individuals, with particular attention to those who are most vulnerable within our church community. Given that technology enables constant connection around the clock, it is critical to address these challenges with diligence.

- * When considering the risk of social networking sites, ask yourself. Who holds the information? Who controls the information? What will they do with the information?
- * One of the best ways to help kids navigate online safety challenges is by making an online safety plan together. This ensures you all know what to do if something goes wrong. Remembering that you can block and report any objectionable material.



JOSHUA Catholic Men's Fellowship – North Shore

Come and journey together as men of faith as we prepare our hearts during this holy Lenten season.

Date: Wednesday, 25 March 2026

Time: 7:00 pm – Fellowship - 7:30 pm – Praise & Worship

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

Topic: Lenten Reflection - The Two Standards: Choosing Christ

Followed by a Lenten reflection and short group discussion
Join us for an inspiring evening of brotherhood, prayer, reflection, and encouragement as we grow closer to the Lord during Lent.

For more information contact: **Tet-Woo 0210380196 or Dominic 0211003694**

Looking ahead our regular **Taizé prayer** will be offered on **Friday 10 April in the Chapel at 7pm.**



The following day **11 April**, we are pleased to offer once again our popular **Card Making day with Meg Hills rsl**. This will take place in the meeting room of our Administration Centre. The day will begin at **9.30am and finish at 3pm**. Please register early as there are only 8 places available for this workshop. Participants are always pleased to have a number of cards to take away with them! Please see the flyer for more details.



Our Kaupapa is Dialogue - the NZ Catholic Bishops' Committee for Interfaith Relations met in Wellington. Read more about it here: <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2026/03/16/nzcbcr-meeting-2026/>

The legislation for Incorporate Societies is changing soon. Muffin Talk with Ros Rice warning about the consequences if organisations don't re-register. <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2026/03/18/inc-societies-in-nz-muffin-talk-with-ros-rice/>

For more resources and information: www.studyjoy.nz

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Kids Corner: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/CELEBRATING-The-Fifth-SUNDAY-of-LENT-1.pdf>

Parents pondering: NOT THE BEST HOMILY
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Not-the-best-homily-1.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

BISHOPS' LENTEN APPEAL: The appeal supports the work of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, which through its global network serves some of our world's most vulnerable and needy communities. Find out more at www.caritas.org.nz/lenet

The Gift of Dreams On Saturday 28th 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 christianmeditationnz.org.nz/community-days-retreats

2026 Theology of the Body Courses and Prayer Retreats - Registration OPEN for 2026 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

Divine Mercy Feast Sunday 12th April 5:30pm at St Benedict's Parish, 1 St Benedict's Street, Eden Terrace. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, Blessing of Images, Holy Mass, Veneration of St Faustina's relic. You are warmly invited to attend this Feast Day Celebration. Bring your Divine Mercy images & artefacts to be blessed. Free parking is available at Wilson Carpark, including free street parking on Sundays.

Prayer Retreat for Women Prayer and the Interior Life' Friday 17th 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

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

Rise up and Shine Festival Taste the World, Celebrate the Culture! 30th of May, 2026. Starts at 10am with Thanks giving Mass. Followed by Social Entertainment until 3pm.

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). Please share and encourage your prayer group and community group members to support this event. Please see the poster for details and to Registration.

LENT 2026 with FOOD FOR FAITH. Visit 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.

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>. 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/lenwebinars#dioceseandparish> The calendar invites and zooms links will follow.

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! Contact Dianna Fouhy: diannaf@cda.org.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