



3rd Sunday Of Lent Year A

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield, 8 March 2026

Exploring The WORD

The Gospel of the third Sunday is the remarkable conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman by the well, the theme is water - which gives life, which cleanses, which is so necessary. This reading forms part of the catechesis given before Baptism at Easter: the candidates who would go into the water are invited to reflect on what that means. But more necessary than the water which gives life is the water which gives eternal life - the water of baptism, the water flowing from Jesus' side on the cross. Even if your Church does not have any candidates preparing for Baptism, we will all renew our baptismal promises at Easter: we should take this opportunity to reflect on what baptism has given us, and what God has done for us in this gift.

PRAYER THIS WEEK

"But whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Lord, when you declare to a woman at the well everything about her life, we think of our own lives as well.

You know each of our ins and outs too, when we sit and when we stand, when we yearn for light, love, beauty and peace, for worship of you in Spirit and truth.

Still, often we remain dry! Come, Lord Jesus, quench our thirst for life within your living water. Amen

LENTEEN SPIRITUALITY

Softening the Heart

In today's [Gospel](#), Jesus promises the Samaritan woman "living water which shall become a fountain within her, leaping up to provide eternal life." The liturgy on this Lenten Sunday places Jesus' promise within the context of the Exodus account of water coming from the rock of Horeb. The Responsorial [Psalm 95](#) refers both to the "Rock of our salvation" and also to hardened hearts. On the one hand, there is the Rock from which the water of eternal life flows (God). On the other hand, there are rocks (our hearts) which we seek to soften in Lent by "prayer, fasting and works of mercy." We believe, with Paul, that "the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit." That love of God should make us a forgiving people, one that enables the world to "be brought together in unity and peace." Our goal is to "harden not our hearts:" to be concerned for the poor and suffering, to forgive the criminal, to welcome the stranger, to love our enemies ." *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 March 2026 at 9:15 am



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



RCIA Scrutinies of the Elect



The Scrutinies are Rites celebrated on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent for the elect who are preparing to be baptized at Easter. They are important and special rites of the Church. Whenever they are celebrated the Scripture readings of Year A of the liturgical cycle are used

The Scrutinies are described by the Church as: "rites for self-searching and repentance, which are meant to uncover, then heal, all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good. They 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, who is the way, the truth, and the life. These rites, complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all." The Gospels on the three Sundays on which the Scrutinies are celebrated teach the elect about the mystery of sin and fill them with the Spirit of Christ.

1. The first Gospel (the Samaritan Woman at the well) tells us that Christ is the Living Water,
2. the second (healing of the man born blind), that he is the Light of the World,
- and the third, (the raising of Lazarus from the dead), that he is the Resurrection and the Life.

Jesus described the purpose of his mission as "To give life in abundance" (John 10:10) Each of the Gospels proclaimed in the three Scrutinies illustrate this.

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.

THE WORD OF GOD

3rd Sunday Of Lent

Exodus 17:3-7
Romans 5:1-2,5-8
John 4:5-42

Monday

2 Kings 5:1-15
Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday

Daniel 3:25,34-43
Matthew 18:21-35

Wednesday

Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9
Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday

Jeremiah 7:23-28
Luke 11:14-23

FRIDAY

Hosea 14:2-10
Mark 12:28-34

Saturday

Hosea 5:15 - 6:6
Luke 18:9-14

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

Tongan
Community



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

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

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

**Parents pondering:
BRINGING JOY AND DELIGHT
TO OTHERS**

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Bringing-joy-and-delight-to-others-is-part-of-Lent.pdf>



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

Envelopes are in the church foyer for your donations.

SECOND COLLECTION Caritas—Lenten appeal



During the period of Lent, there will be a **2nd collection** at all Masses for Caritas who disburse the money for development funding, educational projects and emergency aid. *This collection is separate from our regular and fundraising collections.*

Caritas will issue a tax receipt for every donation made. Please complete the form and place it inside the envelope along with your donation.

Direct deposits can be made into the following account

Account Name: Caritas Aotearoa NZ
Account Number: 03-0518-0211216-03
Particulars: Your Pledge Number
Code: Lent
Reference: You full name

Thank you for your generosity.



EASTER TRIDUUM CHOIR PRACTICE

Calling all those who can sing to please join us in our parish Easter choir practices in the Church. The practices are on **5 Tuesdays – 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st March.**

If you can sing, you are welcome to join us for these practices and make our Easter Triduum services beautiful

Parish Safeguarding

Nurturing our People through Internet Safety

Safeguarding focuses on protecting everyone, particularly vulnerable individuals in our church. With constant connectivity through technology, it is essential to adhere to established social media guidelines. Below are key considerations for ensuring safety, especially for children.

- ◆ Consider the comments you make that may lead to embarrassment towards children, young people, parishioners or colleagues.
- ◆ Do not take any risk knowing that information you share or discuss may bring claims of libel or bring others (including children), the church or entity into disrepute. (to be continued)



Our monthly **Taize prayer** will be held on **Friday 13 March** in the **Chapel at 7pm**. This will be followed with a cuppa in the dining room.



Sisters of Saint Joseph
of the Sacred Heart



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 18th 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 by **Monday 16th March**. This is helpful for catering purposes.

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



Job Vacancy: Parish Secretary Maria Assumpta Parish, Beach Haven

Part-Time Fixed Term Position
Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays, for three hours each day. email: parishoffice@mariaassumpta.org.nz
Applications close: Friday, 21 March

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

Liturgy Our last stock of Annual Resources are now on sale at cost price. Please order the limited stock here: <https://form.jotform.com/liturgycentre/annuals>

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.

A workshop for Church Organists A free practical workshop helping beginner organists develop stronger hymn-playing skills. Presenter: Michael Cox. Saturday, **14 March 2025**, 1pm – 4pm. St. Patrick's Catholic Church Pukekohe 119-129 Seddon St Pukekohe. Registration Essential: Email office@pukekohecatholic.org.nz

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 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 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

Challenge 2000 Seeks Youth Ministry, Formation & Charism Lead: (who are a similar youth focused organisation to The Logos Project) have a vacancy and they have asked us to promote this. The Seek advertising is here.

St Joseph's Church Parish Hall, Takapuna "You Are Chosen": Life In The Spirit Seminar - Saturday March 14 - Sunday March 15, at St Joseph's Church Parish Hall, Takapuna; Deepen your relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. All are welcome! There will be time for teaching, worship, prayer, fellowship and activities. Please register at bit.ly/ur-chosen.

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. Register NOW! Earlybird prices available until 9th March: <https://www.eventbookings.com/b/event/life-teen-aotearoa-leadership-convention>

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

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

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