



2nd Sunday of Easter Year A Divine Mercy Sunday

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield 5 April 2026

Exploring The WORD

Often people forget that Easter is not just a day, but a season - the longest in the Church's year, in fact! We are given fifty glorious days of Spring and Summer to prolong our baptismal joy, fifty glorious days of basking in the light of the risen Saviour. It seems a shame that after the efforts we put into Lent we don't celebrate Eastertide with the same enthusiasm. The readings of this Season have their origins in the instruction given to converts in the early Church: in Lent, the readings were the basis of catechesis on the forthcoming baptism; in Easter the readings are "Mystagogy" - a type of teaching where the newly baptised ("neophytes") learn through taking part in the celebration of the sacraments and hearing the word. On the Sundays we hear who Jesus is, and on weekdays hear about Baptism and the Eucharist. This "Mystagogy" is not just to nourish the neophytes, but to help all of us deepen our life in the risen Lord Jesus. this Sunday we are with the disciples in the Upper Room, where eight days after the Resurrection Jesus comes among them - as he comes among us.

PRAYER THIS WEEK

Saint Thomas, whom the Saviour chose when here on earth, as special friend, accept our joyful hymn of praise, and to our earnest prayer attend.

Your love for Christ made you desire to die with Him and share His plight; His love for you gave you a throne of glory in His realm of light.

Your tortured love could not believe the Ten had seen Him, as they said; But you must touch His hands and feet to prove Him risen from the dead.

And later when you saw Him too with joy, His mercy you adored, acclaiming Him as truly God, and worshipping your risen Lord.

As you once grew to know our Lord, give us more faith, both strong and firm, and make our love grow deeper for Jesus whom we have not seen.

All glory be to Christ, our Lord, who by your prayer will grant us grace, when we have blindly walked in faith, to see the glory of His face. Amen

EASTER SPIRITUALITY Overcoming Fear

Jesus had been abandoned by his disciples at the time of his death. One of them had turned him over to the authorities. Another had denied he even knew Jesus. The others ran away, apparently in fear and horror.

That same fear still gripped the disciples as they stayed behind locked doors. The risen Jesus suddenly appears among them, and there is not a word about their betrayal, denial, and abandonment. "Peace be with you," he says, as though nothing had ever happened. They look at his wounds, and he repeats his remarkable greeting: "Peace be with you."

If only we could follow in the footsteps of Christ and wish peace to everyone! If only we could forgive as he forgave! Where would be the wars? the discrimination? the hatred? the death penalty? They would go the way of death itself, conquered by the resurrection. Jesus assures us that we have received the Holy Spirit. We have the power to release others of their wrongs against us, just as we have the power to keep them and ourselves bound. Our Easter faith that we have "become a new creation" should strengthen our resolve to forgive as Christ forgave.

Gerald Darring/ <https://liturgy.sluhostedsites.org>

Vocations Sunday Seminarian Appeal (26 April 2026)

Bishop Steve Lowe asks us to support our seminarians studying towards their priestly vocations at Holy Cross Seminary. Your contribution will positively influence the future of the Church here in Auckland. Donate at www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/donate. Please continue to pray for our seminarians.

Vocation Appeal envelopes will remain in the back of the church for the next 3 Sunday's



Seminary Appeal

With 11 men currently discerning the priesthood for the Diocese of Auckland in 2026, we are blessed to see men generously answering God's call to serve the Church. Each of these men is undertaking years of prayer, study, and formation as they prepare for a life of service to the people of our diocese.



Please keep our seminarians in your prayers and, if you are able, consider supporting their formation as they prepare to serve the Church in Auckland.

SCAN OR CODE TO
DONATE ONLINE TODAY
www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/donate



2026 Seminarians



Safeguarding Workshop

The upcoming online Safeguarding workshop will be held on Thursday, 16 April at 7:00 pm. To register, please email your Safeguarding contact, Vidya, at safeguarding@stthomasmore.org.nz.



SVDP are desperately low on food supplies in the shed. We are in need of pasta, rice, cereals, tin spaghetti/baked beans, tin soups, tin tuna/corned beef, tea/coffee, museli bars, biscuits/crackers, hygiene products, etc. We thank you for your generosity.

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. Jesus told St Faustina "My Heart rejoices on this Feast Day". Free parking is available at Wilson Carpark, including free street parking on Sundays.



Can you help?

Cold weather is fast approaching, and De Paul House needs your help to restock our warm bedding and towel banks. You will be helping homeless and low income families and senior citizens stay warm this winter. De Paul House has had a huge increase in calls for help both with housing and support services. Please share the message with friends, family and work colleagues. *Matthew 25:40* The King will reply, 'Truly I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' admin@depaulhouse.org.nz or phone 09 4805959



Food bank shelves are empty

De Paul House needs food and especially personal and household care products. Shampoo, soap, hand wash, deodorant, dish wash, clothes wash, spray and wipe. Basics like crackers, biscuits, pasta sauce, tinned fish and meat, coconut milk and cream, Jam, vegemite, milk powder, long life milk, milo. Every little contribution makes a difference. If you want to run a food drive, please contact Lesley Farmer lesley@depaulhouse.org.nz or call 09+4805959. Thank you.

CANOPY & CARPARK FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

Donations Received thus far — \$229,146.21
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

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

Monday

Acts 4:23-31
John 3:1-8

Tuesday

Acts 4:32-37
John 3:7-15

Wednesday

Acts 5:17-26
John 3:16-21

Thursday

Acts 5:27-33
John 3:31-36

Friday

Acts 5:34-42
John 6:1-15

Saturday

Acts 6:1-7
John 6:16-21

DIOCESAN VACANCIES

Head of Pastoral Services Catholic Diocese of Auckland

The Catholic Diocese of Auckland is seeking a committed, faith-filled leader to support the Bishop's pastoral mission and provide strategic leadership across diocesan pastoral ministries. The role works closely with parishes and communities to strengthen evangelisation, formation, and pastoral life. Applicants must demonstrate a strong Catholic faith, senior pastoral leadership experience, and strategic capability.

Full details and application information available via the Diocesan website - www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz, under Diocesan Services and staff vacancies. Applications close **30 April 2026**

Reshaping Facilitator Catholic Diocese of Auckland

The Diocese seeks a mission-focused Reshaping Facilitator to support parishes on the reshaping journey. This role will equip parishes with resources, facilitation, and professional support. This is a three 3-year fixed term role, full-time or two part-time roles considered. For full details and to view the position description, please visit our website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz, under Diocesan Services and staff vacancies.

Applications close **24 April 2026**.

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

For more details, please see posters on the parish noticeboard

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. Music, Zumba, Food stalls and Cultural Show. Join us at the Migrant Chaplaincy Rise Up & Shine Festival, where every bite tells a story and every dance spark joy.

Mission Hub The Holy Spirit at the Heart of Mission: We are excited to welcome Bishop John Adams from the Diocese of Palmerston North as our first guest speaker at Mission Hub this April. Mission Hub is a monthly online gathering that brings people together from across the country to learn, pray, reflect, and be encouraged in mission. It's a wonderful opportunity to deepen your faith and be inspired by others seeking to follow Christ. Monday **13 April 7.00-8.30pm** (NZ time) Everyone is welcome and invited to register here: <https://bit.ly/apr13zoom>

The Graduate Choir NZ FRANCISCVS - a special recital presented by The Graduate Choir NZ that commemorates the papacy of Pope Francis in song and spirit. Tuesday **21 April 2026 - 7:30 PM** - St Michael's Catholic Church, Remuera, Auckland FRANCISCVS features an evocative programme of sacred choral works - including John Rutter's Requiem - performed in the rich, resonant acoustics of St Michael's. You'll also hear pieces by Poulenc, Howells, Harris, Artley and Durufé, performed with soprano Elizabeth Mandeno, organist Philip Smith, and a small orchestra alongside the choir. Tickets from NZ\$30-\$40 + booking fees (grab yours on iTICKET now!) <https://www.iticket.co.nz/events/2026/apr/franciscus>

Diocesan Youth Mass Last Sunday of each month 4:30pm February – November At St Patrick's Cathedral. For more info contact the Auckland Catholic Youth Ministry Team: youthmin@cda.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, **19th 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 **17th April 1966**, 60 years ago. 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

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, and wider networks to support this event: Auckland Diocese: **11 - 12 May 2026**:

St Michael's Parish Remuera Scripture Study: 'THE EXODUS' by Dr Dan Stollenwerk. In the lead up to Pentecost Sunday, Dan will dive deep into the common themes that link Pentecost and the Book of Exodus. Please join us at St Michael's: 4x Wednesday mornings **6th, 13th, 20th, 27th May**. 10:30am – 11:45am in the Parish Centre. Followed by midday Mass

St Joseph's Catholic School Centenary Celebration! Join us as we celebrate 100 years of our Mission Sister's school! Past students, staff, and families are warmly invited to reconnect and give thanks for shared memories. When: **23-25 October** Register: [Click here](#). Stay updated and follow the celebration on our [Centenary Facebook page](#). We can't wait to welcome you back!

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

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



Tongan Community

Merciful Jesus,
You come to us with peace and compassion. Strengthen our faith when we struggle to believe and fill our hearts with trust in Your mercy. Amen.



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.



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. Registration: www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz



PROLIFE FACTS Twenty-six countries joined the 40 Days for Life campaign during Lent 2026. The movement centres on peaceful prayer, fasting, and a compassionate presence outside abortion facilities, reminding communities that support and life-affirming alternatives to abortion are always available. A recent story from El Cajon, California, shows the impact this pro-life presence can have. A young father shared that doctors had urged him and his wife to abort their baby due to predicted abnormalities. After seeing volunteers praying outside the clinic, they reconsidered and chose life. The father showed volunteers a photo of himself, his wife, and their baby boy, who was in fact born perfectly healthy, despite the doctor's predictions. Stories like this reflect the quiet but powerful mission of 40 Days for Life. **For more pro-life information, visit www.voiceforlife.org.nz.**

TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy

Parrhêsia with Prof Amy-Jill Levine (USA). Jesus is the model of someone speaking truth boldly and taking risks. What can we learn from his example? More info: <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2026/03/28/parrhesia-muffin-talk-with-prof-amy-jill-levine/>
Interreligious Dialogue. with Fr Joseph Victor Edwin SJ (India). Christian-Muslim Dialogue in Dehli, India - what are the challenges and joys? More info: <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2026/04/05/interreligious-dialogue-in-india-fr-joseph-victor-edwin-sj/>
For more resources and information: www.studyjoy.nz

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Kids Corner: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/CELEBRATING-SECOND-SUNDAYof-EASTER-1.pdf>

Parents pondering: WE SHOULDN'T WASTE DOUBT
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/We-shouldn-Waste-Doubt-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

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



Holy Cross Seminary
www.holycross.org.nz