

**24th SEPTEMBER 2023  
TWENTY FIFTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

**REFLECTION**

A few Sundays ago we heard Paul's response to the obscurity of God's ways. It was not a cry of frustration or defeat. On the contrary it was an exclamation of praise: "How rich are the depths of God - how deep His wisdom and knowledge - and how impossible to penetrate His motives or understanding His methods .. To Him be glory for ever! Amen" (Romans 11:33-36).

Why praise God for divine inscrutability? Because, as we are reminded today, God is more loving, generous and forgiving than we human beings could ever imagine.

The ever-present danger for us as human beings is to think of God in terms of our lesser selves, to impose on God the limits of our own capacities for life and love. The word of God today tells us this is folly. The goodness of God knows no bounds.

The Gospel story exposes the calculus we use in our daily lives. We measure out love on the basis of what we judge another to deserve or what we feel we can afford to give.

Today we thank God for not being like us!

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION AND MASS**

Friday 6th October 7pm at St Mary's Parish, 20 Kitenui Ave, Mt. Albert. Exposition, Chaplet of Mercy Sung. Benediction, Mass followed by general blessing of St Faustina's relic.  
All Welcome!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR OUR HOSPITALITY TEAM!!**

Our list of helpers has unfortunately, diminished since COVID. With people moving on or a change in circumstances. You would be called on to help with a parish function,

Maybe making a meal for a family, or something for a funeral reception, helping in the hall kitchen after a weekend Mass, or at a funeral on a weekday. All of these things are required on an 'as needed' basis. If you can help please email [info@northcotecatholic.org.nz](mailto:info@northcotecatholic.org.nz)

**JOSHUA CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

All men are invited to a meeting on Wed. 27th September at 7.30pm in St Joseph's Centre, Takapuna. We hope to spend time praying the Rosary with reflections read by a leader. (Please remember to bring your Rosaries) We look forward to seeing you there and spending time sharing, praying and enjoying each other's company over supper. More info. Russell 022 034 5678

**WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BEATRICE ALESANA-RENNIE**  
Who graduated this week with a  
*Master of Social Work*  
*with First Class Honours*  
*University Postgraduate Scholar*

Well done Bea, your church family are proud of you!

**LOOKING FOR .... CAN YOU HELP?**

A couple of people to help with a cuppa in the hall (just tea, coffee & biscuits) after the 10.30am Mass on

Sunday 08th October. Please call or email the office if you can help. 480 7357 OR [info@northcotecatholic.org.nz](mailto:info@northcotecatholic.org.nz)

**Having somewhere to go is HOME,  
Having someone to love is FAMILY,  
Having both is a BLESSING.**

De Paul House is helping low-income, homeless families rebuild their lives. Can you join with us to make this a reality for NZ families?

**URGENT CALL FOR HELP.** De Paul House has many families due to move to the new housing in Northcote, from our Transitional housing. They are desperately needing quality furniture to help families resettle into the community. **Needed:**

Beds - Double, Queen and Single  
Dining Table and chairs  
Drawers, sofas and Lounge Suites.

Single duvet inners and pillows are also in short supply. CAN YOU HELP US?

Please email [reception@depaulhouse.org.nz](mailto:reception@depaulhouse.org.nz) or phone 480 5959. A photo of the furniture in your email would be helpful.

**RETREATS & EVENTS AT ST FRANCIS RETREAT CENTRE**

Time Out Days 9.30am-2.30pm (\$30 includes lunch)  
Tues.3 Oct. Wed. 1 Nov. & Thur. 7 Dec.  
24 Hour Prayer Retreat for Women,  
A reflective prayer retreat, talks on prayer, time for personal prayer. Sat 7 Oct 3pm to Sun 8 Oct to 3pm \$130 early-bird (before 24/9) standard \$150 (all meals and accommodation included)

**MESSAGE FROM CARMEL COLLEGE!**

Carmel students years 7-10 are seeking opportunities to be of service in our Community. If you have a task for these delightful young helpers please email: [service@carmel.school.nz](mailto:service@carmel.school.nz) before the school holidays. We love to serve God through our neighbours.

**DE PAUL HOUSE  
THE FOODBANK CUPBOARD NEEDS  
TO BE REPLENISH**

Tinned fish Corned beef Rice  
Pasta sauces Biscuits Crackers  
Long life milk Powdered milk  
Tinned fruit Muesli bars Tea coffee  
Milo Spreads Vegemite Jam  
Peanut Butter etc  
Personal Care shampoo  
Soap Toothpaste Toothbrush  
Baby wipes Frozen meals or meat  
The foodbank is shared with 45 family residents, as well as a growing outreach in the local community, which includes elderly pensioners.  
Thank you for your continued kindness and support.  
'Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD' (Prov.19:17)

**COMING SOON - TRIBUTE CONCERT  
FOR OUR DEAR JENNY FOX**

Save the afternoon of 29th October, ..... more details later!

**JUST A REMINDER ABOUT PARKING  
AT CHURCH**

1. Please note that there are some parks available at De Paul House, and there is parking at the school from the entrance in Gladstone Road.
2. Please do not park in Staff carparks.
3. Please leave the parks around the church for the elderly and those with small children.  
We have again had complaints from Neighbours, about people parking over driveways/obstructing access to their homes. And we have been warned that if this continues to happen over weekends, offenders will be towed!!!  
Thank you for your consideration and parking so as not to cause any nuisance.

**WANT TO KNOW HOW TO GIVE?**

Our Planned Giving Programme is the easiest way to contribute and is online (few people carry cash anymore).

To arrange for online donations, please contact the Parish Office [info@northcotecatholic.org.nz](mailto:info@northcotecatholic.org.nz) or call (09) 480 7357. to obtain a personal Planned Giving number.

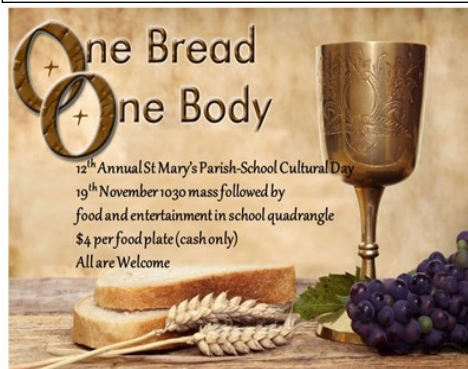
If you join you can obtain a Tax Receipt at the end of the Financial Year and claim back one third of your donations.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE**

The next Baptism Preparation Course consists of two consecutive evenings from 7.30-9pm and will be held on 17th & 18th October. So if you are expecting a baby or have an infant for Baptism please contact the Parish Office to register for this course.

(email [info@northcotecatholic.org.nz](mailto:info@northcotecatholic.org.nz))

Attendance at a Preparation Course is mandatory for your first baby.



**2023 CULTURAL DAY 19 NOVEMBER**

Our Parish & School community day to celebrate and join together with Mass, cultural music, and different tasting plates of 2 or 3 samples of food to try from the variety of cultures within our community. If you'd like to find out more about showcasing your cultural food, please email [Katherine.gabriel@outlook.co.nz](mailto:Katherine.gabriel@outlook.co.nz)

## NOTICES FROM THE DIOCESE

**THE ETHNIC CHAPLAINCIES ANNUAL FESTIVAL** is back! It's all happening at Sancta Maria School and St Luke Church, Flatbush, Sat 7th – Sun 8th October 2023. The Ethnic faith communities will once again Rise Up and Shine showcasing their “riches of nations” in Food, Sport, Cultural Show, and celebration of the Mass in the diverse colour, language and peoples. If you want to be involved in the organising/volunteer email [louisar@cda.org.nz](mailto:louisar@cda.org.nz).

**THE INSTRUMENTUM LABORIS** is the official working document for the October gathering of the Synod on Synodality. All have been invited to engage with the document. The Diocesan Website <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/synod/> contains basic details of structure and purpose. It includes a link to a short introductory video created by the Palmerston North Diocese.

**LITURGY OF REPENTANCE & RECONCILIATION** for 45yrs the Methodist & Catholic churches have been in ecumenical dialogue. They invite you on 25 Oct 7.30pm Methodist Church, Lake Road, Takapuna. Bishop Steve Lowe will preach.

**THE SEASON OF CREATION** a message from the CDA Justice & Peace Commission: In this Season of Creation we pray: that we “that we grow as people, to harmonize our own rhythms of life with those of creation, which gives us life.” *Pope Francis*

**GENERAL ELECTION** Make a conscious voting decision this general election by being informed in the light of faith through the Gospels and Catholic Social Teaching. Please refer to the leaflet ‘Your Vote Counts’ issued by Bishop Lowe and the Justice & Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Auckland for more information.

**PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD** Cardinal Mario Grech, General Secretary of the Synod starting in Rome on 4 October, has invited all of the faithful to participate in prayer for the Synod from today Sunday 24th September with prayers of intercession. Link to bishops asking for prayer [www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2023-09/cardinal-mario-grech-invitation-episcopate-piests-prayer-synod.html](http://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2023-09/cardinal-mario-grech-invitation-episcopate-piests-prayer-synod.html)

**PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD** All are welcome to a choral Evensong at Trinity Cathedral Sunday 1st Oct. 5pm to pray for the Synod in Rome

**DATE CLAIMER 9TH NOVEMBER 2023** The Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New Street, St Mary's Bay is a service hub for the diocese. And a mystery to many. On the 9th November, from 4 to 7.30pm you are invited to an ‘Open Home’ at the centre. It will be an opportunity to engage with staff, explore some of the archival treasure, enjoy a snack, purchase liturgical resources and more!

## TITIPOUNAMU STUDY & JOY

**Letters to the Corinthians - who were they?** With Kieran Fenn fms Mon. 9 Oct., 7-8.30pm ZOOM free: koha  
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/09/19/letters-to-the-corinthians-who-were-they/>

## DAILY READINGS

<b>Monday</b>			
Reading	Ezra	1: 1- 6	Ps 126
Gospel	Luke	8:16-18	
<b>Tuesday</b>			
Reading	Ezra	6: 7- 8,12,14-20	Ps 122
Gospel	Luke	8:19-21	
<b>Wednesday St. Vincent de Paul</b>			
Reading	Ezra	9: 5- 9	Cant. Tobit
Gospel	Luke	9: 1- 6	
<b>Thursday</b>			
Reading	Haggai	1: 1- 8	Ps. 149
Gospel	Luke	9: 7- 9	
<b>Friday Sts Michael, Gabriel &amp; Raphael Archangels</b>			
Reading	Daniel	7: 9-10,13-14	Ps. 118
Gospel	John	1:47-51	
<b>Saturday St Jerome</b>			
Reading	Zechariah	2: 5- 9,14-15	Cant. Jeremiah
Gospel	Luke	9:43-45	
<b>26th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>			
1st Reading	Ezekiel	18:25-28	Ps. 25
2nd Reading	Philippians	2: 1-11	
Gospel	Matthew	21:28-32	

## IMPORTANT NOTICE - Tap n Go machines

Thank you for your great support to our Parish. Many of you have been regularly using our Tap n Go machines for the past 3 years. We are blessed because of your generosity. Due to increased needs of our parish community, including current inflation and much needed maintenance of our church building, hall and Foley Centre, (some of which is already underway i.e. security lights around the church and hall, ceiling repairs inside the church, etc); we have been put in a position where we need to increase the set amount of our Tap n Go from \$5 to \$7.50. This will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October. Again, thank you for your support and understanding. God bless us.

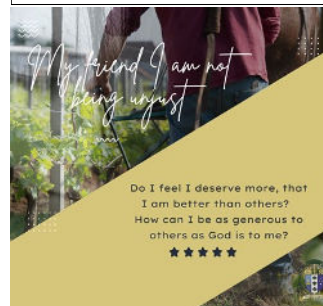
## SUPPORT LIFE SUNDAY 7 - 8 OCTOBER 2023 A CONSISTENT ETHIC OF LIFE

Each year, the Catholic Church in Aotearoa NZ celebrates Support Life Sunday. This year, the Bishops' chosen focus is *The Consistent Ethic of Life*.

To assist, the Bishops will be releasing a revised version of an important 1997 statement titled *Te Kahu o Te Ora—The Garment of Life*. This statement explores the application of what is a uniquely Catholic ethical framework to contemporary moral issues. Much has changed in the quarter-century since 1997.

## CARE OF ALTAR LINEN CHURCH CLEANING

24 September Judy L  
30 September Butler Family



Do I feel I deserve more, that I am better than others?  
How can I be as generous to others as God is to me?  
★★★★



Do I feel I deserve more, that I am better than others? How can I be as generous to others as God is to me?

## PLEASE PRAY :

For the elderly and frail and the sick in our parish, especially, Philip, Yohann, Linda F, John McC, Megan S, Peter D, Peter C, John W, Mary L. Shannon, Owen B, Susan C, Brian, Neil M, Katya, S Perry, Kathy M, Matthew S, Ronald B, Syrel C, Billy G, M. Angus C, Eileen Kit Yung D, Keira, Kelly & Craig N, Max W, Ava, David P, Anne C, Yvonne S, Andrew C, Lauren S, Fe T, Jamie S-W, Adam S, Roxanne V-R, Colleen S, James F, Lu P, Caroline C, Connie B, John H, Emily D, Sebastian C, Lucia, Victoria R, Huda AW, Hilda P, David K, Maria O, Alice C, Najla, Petros A, Denise C, Jocell D-V, Luca M, Maselino L, Ann C, Helen B, Yvonne P, Helen McBride, Orille F, Connie B, Helen B, Elizabeth S, Louise D

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Sat. 9.15am** Maureen McDermott RIP (1st Birthday after passing);  
**Sun. 8.30am** Thanksgiving—Birthday of Jose Carlos Gouzalez Rosell;  
**Sun. 10.30am** Romeo Nacapinlac RIP

## PROLIFE FACTS

Chemical abortions are a popular abortion procedure in the western world because they are so convenient. It involves two medications, usually taken orally, and so may appear to be a less traumatic option than surgical abortion. The website “Abortion Services in New Zealand” describes it as “like having a miscarriage”. As is common knowledge among women, miscarriage often brings feelings of grief and loss, and it is not surprising that some women who begin the chemical abortion procedure have a change of heart after taking the first pill. In the US, the Abortion Pill Rescue Network (see [APRNWorldwide.com](http://APRNWorldwide.com)) literally comes to the rescue, helping around 150 women a month save their babies with a reversal protocol treatment and over 4,500 babies have been rescued. To the best of our knowledge, the reversal protocol is not offered in New Zealand.  
**For more pro-life information, go to [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz).**