

**11TH FEBRUARY 2024  
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**REFLECTION**

"If you wish you can make me clean".

Lepers, as you know, have a bacterial infection that eats away at their flesh and gives them a pungent odour.

At the time of Jesus, leprosy - now known under its scientific name - Hansen's disease, was considered so contagious that those with it were quarantined

for life and were cast out from their family, from their jobs, from the synagogue and from the temple. They were ostracized from all things human. Anyone who touched a leper became, under the Jewish custom, unclean. And here, one of the most physically disgusting and repulsive human beings imaginable, a leper, came to Jesus, knelt down and begged Jesus to cure him. The man in this Gospel, as a sign of great desperation, broke all Jewish convention to come close to Jesus.

The people around Jesus most likely, out of fear of catching it, ran away from him. But what was Jesus' reaction to this man on his knees before him? Jesus, filled with compassion, stretched out his hand and *touched* the leper. Imagine the shrieks of onlookers. It was probably the first time a non-leper had touched him in years.

The Jesus said the words that were the answer to the man's prolonged prayers  
*"I do will it. Be made clean!"*

He was immediately made whole.

This Gospel ties in beautifully as we enter the Season of Lent. During Lent each of us is called to approach Jesus with faith, with all our sins that are eating our souls away, and say *"If you wish you can make+ me clean"* and Jesus wants to say to each of us in turn  
*"I do will it. Be made clean"*.

Each of us needs to be humble enough to recognise our need and come to God so that he, moved with compassion, can stretch out his hand, touch us and heal us.

**FRIDAY EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION**

Will Resume on Friday 16th February.

Exposition from after the 9.15am Mass through to Benediction at 4pm!

Come along and spare a little time with The Lord, All are welcome!

**HIS Story = OUR Story**

**Five Week Lenten Reflection:**

**The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation**

Prepare for Lent and deepen your faith by understanding the story of our salvation.

**Starts Thursday 15 February 2024**

**Morning sessions: 10.15am to 11.30am  
In the Foley Centre**

**Evening Session 7.30pm to 8.45pm  
via ZOOM**

For link please email:

adultformation@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**THIS COMING WEDNESDAY**

**14TH FEBRUARY 2024**

**There will be two Masses:**

**9.15am and 7.00pm**

**Ashes will be distributed at both Masses.**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
10TH FEBRUARY 2024**

**THE YEAR OF THE  
DRAGON!  
MAY THE YEAR BE FILLED  
WITH PEACE AND  
PROSPERITY FOR US ALL!**

**NEW WEEKEND ROSTERS  
FROM FEBRUARY TO FIRST  
WEEKEND IN MAY 2024**

Were sent out via email.

If you have not received your copy then please email me with your correct email address (students no school emails please) and I will forward a copy to you. If you need a hard copy please also let me know.

office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

**WHY NOT MAKE 2024 THE  
YEAR THAT YOU AND YOUR  
FAMILY BECOME MORE  
INVOLVED IN YOUR PARISH?**

We need helpers in all sorts of areas, some are on a monthly basis and some on an ad hoc (as required) basis a few are listed below:

Ministers of the Word for 5.30pm Vigil and 5.00pm Masses

Altar Servers for various Masses

Ministers of Holy Communion mainly for 10.30am and 5pm Masses

Mass Coordinator for 10.30am Mass

Car Parking for weekend Masses

Church Cleaning (family task for a Saturday morning)

Caring for Altar Linen

Arranging Flowers

Parent help with our Youth Group

Children's Liturgy at the 8.30 and 10.30am Masses during term time

All the above on a rostered monthly basis

Hospitality helping in the kitchen for parish functions usually at weekends or funeral receptions more often daytime in the week. Preparing a meal for a family in cases of illness. Making sandwiches or slices for funerals.

Driving Parishioners to weekend Mass, or, in an emergency to the doctors, Hospital, or medical appointments.

Ushering or Car Park Duties for special occasions i.e. Holy Week/Christmas Handyman to fix small maintenance jobs around the church, parish hall or Foley Centre

St Vincent de Paul always looking for new members to help in their shops or join in to deliver food parcels to the needy etc.

The above are on an ad hoc (as needed) basis.

Just a few areas in which you could become involved. To participate in any of the above just email the office and you will be directed to the right area, full training is always available where needed.

office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

If you see any repair jobs that need to be attended to around parish property, then please email the office so we make sure they will be attended to as soon as possible.

We would like to start up our

- playgroup again

- Daytime group for craft or the like?

Maybe you can help with either of these ideas. Come and talk to us, please!

**INVITATION!!**

**PLEASE COME AND CELEBRATE  
FR LIO'S 60TH BIRTHDAY!**

On Sunday 18th February, (next weekend) after the 10.30am Mass in the parish hall. Please bring a plate of 'finger food' for a shared lunch. The hall will be decorated, 'birthday style', there will be cake, music, games and lots of fun for all!

Our Parish Council chairperson, Quintin, will MC the event. ALL are invited to join the celebrations for our much loved Parish Priest who has already completed seven years of devoted ministry to us all.

**BAPISM PREPARATION COURSE**

The first Preparation Course for 2024 is scheduled for 12 & 13th March 7.30 to 9.00pm in the Foley Centre. This course is mandatory prior to baptism. It's a good idea to do it prior to baby's arrival, if possible! For bookings please contact the parish office for a registration form.

office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz  
or phone: 480 7357

**GREGORIAN CHANT GROUP**

For parishioners interested in traditional Catholic liturgical music, our St Mary's Gregorian choir which usually sings at the Saturday vigil mass on the 3rd weekend each month, will be singing at the following masses for the next 3 months:

8.30am Sunday 18th February  
10.30am Sunday 17th March  
5.30pm Saturday 20th April  
5.00pm Sunday 28th April

**DE PAUL HOUSE FOOD BANK  
DEPLETED!**

**The shelves are again bare in most products.**

Tinned fish, corned beef, pasta sauces, biscuits, crackers, rice, long life milk, powdered milk, tinned fruit, muesli bars, tea coffee, milo, spreads Vegemite, Jam, Peanut Butter etc.

Families getting back into making lunch for children returning to school, frozen meals or meat!

Personal Care

shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, baby wipes,

The foodbank is shared with 45 family residents, but also with a growing outreach in the local

community, this includes elderly pensioners. 'Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD' prov. 19:17

Thank you for your kindness and support.

**NB** see the lovely messages of Thanks from grateful recipients of your Christmas efforts on the church noticeboard - well done Northcote!

**PARISH HALL AVAILABLE TO HIRE**

Please contact the office for terms of hire and hire rates phone: 4807357 or email info@northcotecatholic.org.nz

**ST MARY'S YOUTH - WE ARE BACK FOR 2024!**

St Mary's Youth are launching for the year next weekend on the 18th of February start with 5PM youth Mass followed by 6-8PM fun and fellowship. All youth ages 13 and up are welcome! We will be kicking off with messy games so bring a change of clothes, towel and drink bottle!

**MEDITATION IN THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION**

A simple way of being in God's Presence through Jesus in the Holy Spirit. Course starts Tues. 20 Feb from 7.30 to 9pm and runs for four weeks. Venue is St Joseph's parish meeting room and sessions will be led by members of NZ Community for CM. more info. Graham 489 4389

**PIANO LESSONS - Wednesday afternoons**

30 minute lesson \$35 - contact Gabrielle 027 222 8428

**CARE OF ALTAR LINEN** 11 February Fleur Bolton - 18 February Anne H  
**CHURCH CLEANING** 17 February Lai Family - 24 February Choy Family

**FLAT MATE WANTED**

Female flatmate, respectful, clean, tidy and non smoker to share a 3 bedroom elevated sunny house in quiet cul de sac Unsworth Heights. approx. 20 mins. walk to Constellation station. Bedroom unfurnished, One car park please call 022 350 0490



This Lent change *hearts and minds* by publicly witnessing to the dignity of every human person from conception, and praying for an end to abortion

- Ash Wednesday (14th February) - Palm Sunday (24th March)
- Monday to Saturday - 7am to 1pm
- Corner of Dominion Rd & Prospect Terrace, Mt. Eden (near AMAC)

Sign up for your hour at: [FLI.org.nz/proliffevents](http://FLI.org.nz/proliffevents) or more information contact Simon - 021 400 729 or [simon@fli.org.nz](mailto:simon@fli.org.nz)

**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, 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, Elizabeth S, Paula O'S, Jason P, Maria & Andre T, Chike E.

**DAILY READINGS**

<b>Monday</b>			
Reading	James	1: 1-11	Ps. 119N
Gospel	Mark	8:11-13	
<b>Tuesday</b>			
Reading	James	1:12-18	Ps. 94
Gospel	Mark	7: 1-13	
<b>ASH Wednesday</b>			
1st Reading	Joel	2:12-18	Ps. 51
2nd Reading	II Corinthians	5: 20-6:2	
Gospel	Matthew	6: 1- 6,16-18	
<b>Thursday</b>			
Reading	Deut.	30:15-20	Ps 1
Gospel	Luke	9:22-25	
<b>Friday</b>			
Reading	Isaiah	58: 1- 1	Ps. 51
Gospel	Matthew	9:14-15	
<b>Saturday</b>			
Reading	Isaiah	58: 9-14	Ps. 86
Gospel	Luke	5:27-32	
<b>FIRST Week of Lent</b>			
1st Reading	Genesis	9: 8-15	Ps. 25
2nd Reading	I Peter	3:18-22	
Gospel	Mark	1:12-15	

**NOTICES FROM THE DIOCESE**

**Year of Prayer** Pope Francis has dedicated 2024 as a Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee year of 2025. Resources are available on Diocesan website [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/year-of-prayer/](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/year-of-prayer/)  
**See details of the notices below on the Notice Board in the Church**  
**Lent at St Michael's- Remuera**  
**Taizé Prayer - Mary Mackillop Chapel**  
**A Time for Every Season - Mary Mackillop Centre**  
**Living as Beloved Retreat - Mary Mackillop Retreat Centre**  
**Want to know what happened at the Synod in October? - Zoom**  
**Masterclass Young Leaders' Formation - Pompallier Centre**  
**Young Leaders' Commissioning Mass - Cathedral**

**WANTED CALLIGRAPER!!**

Someone who could help us by up-dating our Memorial Book! Please contact the office if you can help! [office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz](mailto:office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz)



*Am I able to ask God for the healing I need, or am I embarrassed, frightened or think myself not worthy?*

**CAN YOU HELP NEW PARISHIONERS?**

Peter and Chinecherem Eze are new parishioners and are here on Study Visas, Peter is a PhD Student, their little son arrived at just 24 weeks and has been in Special Baby Care since then. Their Visa status does not allow access to free medical care and medical bills are now huge! On advice they have opened a give-a-little page the link is <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-us-save-our-little-fighter-clearing-medical>. If you can help, please do their little man is quite some fighter! Every small donation will help.

**YOU AND ME PILATES!**

Monday evenings commencing 12th February, from 6.45pm to 7.35pm, in the parish hall, classes only \$11 - come and join them!

**THE TIME IS NOW! Ko tenei tonu te Wā!**

We will soon be giving out the Caritas Lenten Appeal envelopes, They are different this year, they are using a single giving envelope. (to reduce costs), you can give once or weekly which ever is your preference. You can place your offerings in the special collection box in church or send directly to Caritas (no cash through the post please). Donations received by 31.3.24 will have a 2023/2024 tax receipt. Donations after 1.4.24 will have a 2024/2025 tax receipt.  
**CARITAS ENVELOPES TO BE GIVEN OUT THIS WEEKEND!**

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

**Women's Prayer Retreat** - A reflective prayer retreat in the Catholic tradition for Women Fri. 16th Feb 5pm to Sun. 18th Feb.3pm (Earlybird by 31 Jan.) \$300 Standard after 31st Jan \$330.  
**Time Out Days** for those who seek a day retreat, 9.30am to 2.30pm (\$30 includes lunch) Wednesday 21 February - Thursday 21 March - Tuesday 16 April. **Homecoming** - A Lenten Retreat that will reflect on the spiritual implications of Rembrandt's painting and Henri Nouwen's book "The Return of the Prodigal Son" Friday 22nd March 7pm to Sunday 24th March 4.30pm (early bird \$300).

**NEW! Young Adults Group**

Due to high demand we'll be starting a young adults group this year in the parish! Meeting on the first sunday of every month in the Foley Centre we'll reflect on the Gospels, listen to talks, study Catholic theology and the church's teachings on hot topics, pray and go eat dinner together!  
 All parishioners 16 - 35 yrs are welcome. Our first meeting will be on Sunday March 3rd from 6:00pm - 7:30pm (after the 5pm Mass)  
 To register your interest please contact