

17th MARCH 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

REFLECTION

We hear in the Gospel today that the voice from heaven is heard in various ways, depending on the people hearing it. Some in the crowd only hear thunder, others hear an angelic voice.

Christ hears the voice of His Father - the voice which spoke creation into being, the voice which searched for Adam and Eve in the garden, the voice which shared His name with Moses in the Burning Bush, the voice which guided the people of Israel for generations through the patriarchs and prophets the voice which spoke a single Word, Christ Himself, now come in the flesh. And the voice of the Father speaks not for Christ's sake, but for ours, as Christ says in the Gospel. We are therefore drawn to reflect on two aspects of these readings for this Sunday: our hearts and obedience.

The voice of the Lord comes to Jeremiah in the first reading and promises that His law will be placed within His people, written on their hearts. Apart from a very obvious sign of this in receiving the Law of God Incarnate through the Eucharist - truly having the Law placed within us - this prophecy poses the question to us: do we receive the Law of God within us with everything we have and are? Is it written on our hearts? God's voice is clear that to be His people means, in the fullness of His promises, to have His Law written on our hearts. In the context of Lent, I think we often find the areas where in fact the Law of God is not written on our hearts. Engaging this season well means finding out the places where we try to rule ourselves, where sin still has a hold on us. But that realisation does not leave us without hope. It rather draws us into a deeper reliance on God, which is our only hope of salvation.

We see a model prayer in this type of conversion in our Responsorial Psalm today. Psalm 51 is traditionally held to be written by David after his fall into sin with the wife of Uriah, it is a prayer of heartfelt conversion and repentance. It gets right to the central point: create a clean heart in me, O God. This is our prayer as we come to the end of our Lenten pilgrimage. This is all that we have been really "working" for, everything about Lent is directed at allowing God to create a new and clean (that is to say pure and righteous) heart within us - one that is not clouded by our sins and failures, but one that is capable of *hearing* the voice of God clearly. So as we turn now to receive the Law of God through Sacramental signs, let us pray that we may hear God's voice anew, be given clean hearts to hear it.

ST FRANCIS RETREAT CENTRE Time Out Days for those who seek a day retreat, 9.30am to 2.30pm (\$30 incl. lunch) Thurs. 21 March - Tues. 16 April.

CARITAS APPEAL!

We are half way through the Bishops' Lent Appeal 2024, and need your help to reach our crucial target. This Annual Appeal is our largest campaign and is crucial to ensuring our mission supporting the poor and vulnerable continues. Please take an envelope, return it next weekend and be as generous as you can!

WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO

ANDREW MAY

Our parishioner who is studying to be a Permanent Deacon for the Auckland Diocese. Andrew was installed as an Acolyte on Saturday morning, at Sacred Heart Church, Ponsonby. Please keep Andrew and his family in prayer as he continues his journey to become a Permanent Deacon.

CALLING ALL WOULD BE ALTAR SERVERS!

If you have been Confirmed and received your first Holy Communion this is a good way to start ministry in our parish.

There will be a training on **Wednesday 10th April at 3.30pm in the church.**

Please get mum or dad to register with us office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz asap **we would love to see on the 10th!**

EASTER EGGS!!

While shopping for Easter eggs for your family, please consider buying 1 or 2 extras so that we can ensure the children in De Paul House/Missionaries of Charity (the Sisters of Mother Teresa) who support a Women's Refuge, receive some Easter Joy for those less fortunate than us! Eggs are given to both of the above agencies to distribute. Eggs should be in the parish office **this weekend** so there is time for them to be delivered.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL GROUPS WHO USE THE FOLEY CENTRE & HALL AFTER NORMAL OPENING HOURS!

YOU MUST BOOK THROUGH THE PARISH OFFICE TO ENSURE NO DOUBLE UPS AND PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS A NEW ALARM SYSTEM OPERATING NOW!

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun. 8.30am Peter Bowden RIP (23rd Anniv);

10.30am Wayne Mills (recently deceased) brother of Steve Mills.

5.00pm Thanksgiving Mass for Birthday of Adia Ayo

DE PAUL HOUSE FOOD BANK STILL IN NEED OF FOOD! 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. Thank you for your kindness and support.

HOLY WEEK TIME TABLE

23/24th March - PALM SUNDAY

Usual Sunday Masses, procession at 10.30am Mass

25th March Chrism Mass

7.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral

26 & 27th March

Usual 9.15am morning Mass plus Stations of the Cross 6.30 & Mass 7pm 27 March

28th March Holy Thursday

Mass 7pm with Watch and Pray through to 10pm **NO MORNING MASS**

29th March Good Friday

Stations of the Cross **10am**

Liturgy with Holy Communion at **3.00pm**

30th March Holy Saturday

9am Morning Prayer of the Church

7.30pm The Mass of The Resurrection

(includes Baptisms & Reception of RCIA/ Candles will be provided)

31st March usual Sunday Masses

8.30am - 10.30am - 5pm

DATES TO NOTE IN LENT!

Wednesday's

6.30pm Stations of the Cross

7.00pm Mass

Thursday's

Lenten Reflections - details below

Friday's

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after the 9.15am Mass, Benediction at 4pm.

Reconciliation from 3 to 4pm.

PROJECTIONISTS !

Please advise the office of your availability for Holy Thursday/Good Friday/Holy Saturday asap office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

'CABRINI' (OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART)

Lido Cinema, 427 Manukau Rd. Epsom, 7.30pm on 8th April

ACCOMMODATION NEEDED

A couple and their two children (7 & 9 yrs old), recently arrived from East Timor. Seeking accommodation, reasonable rent in the Northcote/Birkenhead /Beachhaven area. Wife studying at Auckland University of Technology. Need a permanent address so they can enrol children into school. Please contact the parish office in the first instance. office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OUR PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME THE EASIEST WAY TO CONTRIBUTE IS ONLINE (FEW PEOPLE CARRY CASH ANYMORE). TO ARRANGE FOR ONLINE DONATIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE

office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz Or call (09) 480 7357. If you join, you can obtain a Tax Receipt at the end of the Financial Year and claim back 1/3rd of your donations, a great form of saving!!

PARISH HALL AVAILABLE TO HIRE

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

LENTEN RECONCILIATIONS RITE II
Tuesday 19th March 7pm Northcote

Wed. 20 March 7pm Glenfield
Thurs. 21 March 7pm Takapuna
Fri. 22 March 7pm Beachhaven
Sun. 24 March 7pm Devonport

TITIPOUNAMU STUDY & JOY ONLINE
Bible Stories - What do they mean?

Join us in unravelling Bible stories and looking for answers within a group, and with Bible Scholar Kieran Fenn fms. Sundays 7th Apr. 5th May 2024 5-6pm ZOOM. Koha www.studyjoy.nz/2024/01/19/bible-stories-what-do-they-mean/

The Mystery of Miracles Mondays 8,15,22,29 April 2024 7-8.30pm
www.studyjoy.nz/2024/01/11/the-mystery-of-miracles/

TE KAHU O TE ORA: A CONSISTENT ETHIC OF LIFE

The landmark new Catholic Bishops' teaching document *Te Kahu o te Ora: A Consistent Ethic of Life* has been reprinted, with paper copies available to schools, parishes, church organisations and individuals for just \$3 each. It contains a succinct overview of eight key moral areas including creation; the beginning and end of life; discrimination and abuser; poverty; war and peace; justice and correction; and information technology and artificial intelligence. Published by the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference last September, it is a revised and much-expanded version of a 1997 bishops' statement and reminds us that all life is a gift from God. Read more about the document and look at electronic & PDF copies you require to www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/tekahu/

Order printed Copies by sending an email with your name, hyour parish/school/organisation, your postal address & number of copies to communications@nzbc.org.nz with "Te kahu o te Ora" in subject line

TIME FOR SACRIFICE (week 5)

God of the present moment, help us to see You through Your Word and time with others today. Draw us closer to You so that we will hear Your voice and recommit ourselves to serve and follow You.

E te Ariki. Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

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, 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, Letalie V, Yvonne P, Helen McBride, Orille F, Connie B, Elizabeth S, Paula O'S, Jason P, Maria & Andre T, Chike E, Ted H.

DAILY READINGS

Monday St Patrick

1st Reading	Jeremiah	1: 4- 9	Ps. 106
2nd Reading	Acts	13:46-49	
Gospel	Luke	10: 1- 2,17-20	

Tuesday St Joseph, husband of Mary

1st Reading	II Samuel	7: 4- 5,12-14,16	Ps. 89
2nd Reading	Romans	4:13,16-18,22	
Gospel	Matthew	1:16,18-21,24	

Wednesday

Reading	Daniel	3:14-20,24-25,28	Cant. Daniel
Gospel	John	8:31-42	

Thursday

Reading	Genesis	17: 3- 9	Ps 105
Gospel	John	8:51-59	

Friday

Reading	Jeremiah	20:10-13	Ps. 18
Gospel	John	10:31-42	

Saturday

Reading	Ezekiel	37:21-28	Ps. 31
Gospel	John	11:45-57	

Palm Sunday

1st Reading	Isaiah	50: 4- 7	Ps. 22
2nd Reading	Philippians	2: 6-11	
Gospel	Mark	14: 1-15:47	

NOTICES FROM THE DIOCESE

SUMMIT Young Leaders' Weekend Young Leaders, are you ready for an incredible weekend of Formation, Fellowship and being Spirituality FILLED? We can't wait to see you at the SUMMIT 22-24 March at Sonshine Ranch Clevedon more details [email felicity@cda.org.nz](mailto:felicity@cda.org.nz)

Good Friday Stations of the Cross Once again we will gather for our traditional Stations of the Cross procession through Auckland CBD. All are invited to join for this powerful public witness of faith through the streets of Auckland. Procession begins at Albert Park Rotunda at 9am And will conclude at St Patrick's Cathedral at 11am more info contact Sam [email samuelb@cda.org.nz](mailto:samuelb@cda.org.nz)

Vacancy Northland Regional Corrections Facility (Ngawha)- Catholic Prison Chaplain Requiring a suitably qualified person to work as a member of Tira Tūhāhā Prison Chaplaincy Aotearoa Chaplaincy Team, which delivers Ecumenical Chaplaincy services to men in prison. This is a permanent part-time position of 20 Hours per week. For full advert and position description go to www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz under Diocesan Services and Staff Vacancies - applications close 5th April.

University Ministry Coordinator -Diocese of Auckland

Are you a self-motivated relationship builder who can be the driving force behind a new project? We are looking for someone who answers "Yes". To become our full-time University Coordinator. Part of a tight-knit team implementing a bold new strategy for ministry to young people in the Diocese. more info. aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/
Vacancy: Director, National Liturgy Office based in Wellington or can be remotely. Full details contact secretariat@nzcbc.org.nz

Concert with Fr Chris Skinner SM 7th April - **St Joseph's Feast Day** - 19th March see details on notice board.

Towards October 2024 Local churches are invited to contribute to the Synod on Synodality by deepening aspects of the Synthesis Report. More details and to register aucklandcatholic.org.nz/towards-October-2024/

CARE OF ALTAR LINEN 17 March Birgette R-H - 24 March Peta Pule
CHURCH CLEANING 16 March Upton Family - 23 March Malia & Tofu O



Now the
Time has
come for
the Son of
Man to be
Glorified.

Do I give
glory to the
Lord?



If you can, please support Peter & Chinecherem, with their baby son's medical bills. Bryan is improving thanks to your prayers, so please continue to pray <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-us-save-our-little-fighter-clearing-medical>. Every small donation will help.

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. Next meeting will be **Sunday April 7 from 6:00pm - 7:30pm (after the 5pm Mass)** To register your interest please contact Dan Story : dandcstory@gmail.com / 0212993270

PROLIFE FACTS

So-called "safe zones" are areas created around the premises of abortion providers, where it is prohibited to carry out peaceful, pro-life witness. Right to Life provided an update about the implementation of the Safe Area Legislation in their January 2024 newsletter.

The Minister of Health has now approved applications for eleven safe area designations of 150 metres around eleven hospitals, in Auckland, Greymouth, Christchurch, Dunedin, Thames, Rotorua, Hawkes Bay, Palmerston North and Invercargill. A breach of the safe area legislation by any person offering assistance to a woman to choose life for her child could result in arrest, being charged in court and a fine of up to \$1000.

Visit voiceforlife.org.nz/ak24 to find out more.