

28th APRIL 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



**HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN!
ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!**

REFLECTION

When people come into the Catholic faith, they ultimately had to give up something.

Maybe they gave up a disbelief in God, or gave up an ignorance of Christ. Maybe they gave up a sinful behaviour and took on a spiritual devotion.

Making a decision to go in one direction naturally means making a decision not to go in any number of other directions.

When we choose to come to church to worship God and receive Jesus through the Scriptures and in the Eucharist, we are choosing not to ignore Jesus. In that sense, we are choosing to remain on the branch of Christ, remain connected to him so we can grow and be nurtured from him.

The first reading from Acts concludes with an encouraging statement: *"the church throughout all Judea, Galilee and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers."* We did indeed see our church and our parishes grow in numbers at the Easter Vigil as people were baptised and confirmed into the faith. Through these sacraments, especially through the Eucharist those people connected themselves to the vine of Christ. The initial connection to the branch, although a critically important step, is far from the last step. Each and every day we must *remain* on the branch, remain on the vine, because Jesus says, "Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit." Jesus never departed from God the Father who is the vine grower, and thus we should never depart from Jesus the vine.

The question of how to remain steadfastly connected to the vine of Christ is one that often occupies the hearts and minds of believers. John offers a clear answer in the 2nd reading, emphasising the importance of obedience to God's commandments as the key to abiding in Christ. Conscientiously adhering to the teachings and example set forth by Jesus, partaking in the spiritual nourishment of the Eucharist, we solidify our connection to the vine.

Granted, we're a long way from next year's Easter Vigil, but that thought shouldn't stop us from praying for those becoming connected to Christ and his church next year. Just think of the countless number of baptisms that will also happen between then and now, each one a new leaf on the vine of Christ. And Although we may not yet know their names, we may not yet know their stories, God already does and the Holy Spirit is at work, nourishing us, keeping us connected to Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH HOLY COMMUNION

The Liturgical Centre of the Catholic Diocese of Auckland offered training & formation for Lay Leaders of Liturgical Prayer, who would lead people in worship through the Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion. The training took place over five Saturdays last year from March to July. Saint Mary's Parish Northcote were fortunate to have generous lay leaders participate in this program. They were commissioned during the 10:30am Mass last Easter Sunday. Starting on Monday, 6 May 2024 and Mondays henceforth, these Lay Leaders of Liturgical Prayer would be leading a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at 9:15am in lieu of Mass. This will further enhance the liturgical life of our parish community, expanding and respecting the baptismal priesthood of each one of us. Our commissioned Lay Leaders of Liturgical Prayer are: Sean Gardiner, Jeffrey Ng, Joyce Ng, Brian O'Neill, Rose Silay, Adriana Janus, and Miken Madamba. We are grateful for the spirituality and generosity of our Lay Leaders. *Together we grow to reflect the face of Christ...*

NEW WEEKEND MINISTER'S ROSTERS

Will be prepared for the next 4 months shortly. If you are to be away for any period during that time, or you need to change your Mass availability please email the office as soon as possible
office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

TAX RECEIPTS FOR THE TAX YEAR APRIL 2023 TO MARCH 2024

If you are on our Planned Giving Programme and would like a tax receipt for the above period please email the office, office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz giving your PG number if known, and we will forward the receipt to you as soon as possible. We need up-to-date email addresses please.

DE PAUL HOUSE FOOD BANK 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.

WHAT IS THE SOCIETY OF ST.VINCENT DE PAUL?

It is an international organization, founded in Paris in 1833 by Frederic Ozanam and his fellow students, to address the poverty they saw around them. It has now spread throughout the world.

The first Society in New Zealand was formed in Christchurch in July 1867 and reached St Mary's Northcote in September 1965.

We are not affiliated to De Paul House. Although we share the same dedication to the poor as they do, we are not a part of their organization. They concentrate on housing those in society who are homeless. Our mission is to care for those who are needy in the Northcote area. We visit those who are lonely or unwell and have a chat. We help those struggling financially to feed their families, by delivering food parcels to them. We help families with expenses for school uniforms & stationery. We transport people to appointments, shopping or to Mass. Some of our Members help with serving food after Funerals and other parish gatherings. Every week we pick up bread from a local baker and distribute it to the needy families, local schools, for their 'school breakfast programme' to people living in motels and motor camps and to De Paul House for them to distribute to their Residents and others in need.

We rely on you our parishioners for the finances to keep our work going in the area and we are very grateful to those of you who donate to our cause. **You can contribute to our monthly collection** at the entrance of the church on the 1st Sunday of the month, or online to our bank Account: Account no, 12-3035-0505571-00. We have a committee of six people who meet on a monthly basis on Wednesday at 7pm in the parish meeting room. Feel welcome to come and join us. You can contact the parish office for details, or Phone me on 021 154 3428
Cath Slykerman, Secretary

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!!

PARISHIONER LOOKING FOR A SMALL UNIT TO RENT

1 bedroom, toilet, kitchenette for herself and daughter attending Westlake College Reasonable rent happy to assist with care of older person. Please contact the office
office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

PARISH HALL AVAILABLE TO HIRE

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

SEE DETAILS ON NOTICE BOARD

A Time for Every Season pt. 2 Autumn Mary Mackillop Centre 04 May 10am-1pm. **Fr Chris Skinner Concert** Mary Mackillop Chapel 05 May
Let's Talk About Mary 08 May 7.30pm Pompallier Centre, register at pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz

IGNATIUS SPIRITUALITY NZ

Is offering 3 individual guided retreats 8 days 21-29th July \$950; 6 days 18-24 August \$729 & 6 days 22-28 September. All to be given at Mary Mackillop Centre and include full board-bookings info@ignationspirituality.nz

TE KUPENGA CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Is offering a lecture series called A Taste of Theology. Topic 2 is Entitled "Celebrating Christian Identity, Life and Mission rooted in the Word of God", revisiting *Dei Verbum*, speaker is Rev Kevin Waldie sm. Tues. 07 May 5.30-6.30pm Zoom Fee \$60 gives access to all 9 courses in this series. To register www.tekupenga.ac.nz/tasteoftheology

VOCATIONS SUNDAY

Today is Vocations Sunday. 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 Or via the QR Code
Please continue to pray for our Seminarians



HOMESTAYS FOR PRE-SEMINARY STUDENTS

The Diocese has a few students from Vietnam discerning vocations to the priesthood. They are learning English with a view to entering our seminary at the start of 2025. Homestay hosts for the next 8-10 months needed. Full costs of board will be covered. Can you offer a supportive home with a room of their own please email alisonm@cda.org.nz

RELICS TOUR

From 26 April-05 May there is a unique and historic opportunity to welcome the relics of saints from both the Eastern and Western Catholic Churches. More details www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/Calendar/

MASS INTENTION SUN 10.30am Katharina THENG (Lian) RIP 5th Anniv.

CARE OF ALTAR LINEN 28 Apr. Orille F **CHURCH CLEANING** 4th May Upton Family

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 Peter Chanel			
Reading	Acts	13:44-52	Ps. 96
Gospel	John	15:12-17	
Tuesday			
Reading	Acts	14:19-28	Ps. 145
Gospel	John	14:27-31	
Wednesday			
Reading	Acts	15: 1- 6	Ps. 122
Gospel	John	15: 1- 8	
Thursday St Athanasius			
Reading	Acts	15: 7-21	Ps. 96
Gospel	John	15: 9-11	
Friday Sts Philip & James			
Reading	I Corinthians	15: 1- 8	Ps. 19A
Gospel	John	14: 6- 9	
Saturday			
Reading	Acts	16: 1-10	Ps. 100
Gospel	John	15:18-21	
Sunday 6th Week of Easter			
1st Reading	Acts	10:25-26,34-35,44-48	Ps. 98
2nd Reading	I John	4: 7-10	
Gospel	John	15: 9-17	

NOTICES FROM THE DIOCESE

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/
Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand Executive Assistant (EA) vacancy to support Chief Executive. Caritas is the Catholic Bishops' Agency for justice, peace and development, part of a global federation. Ideal candidate will have plenty of EA experience, excellent communication skills and the ability to manage time well. An exciting opportunity within a close-knit Wellington based team caritas.org.nz/work-with-us

Pilgrims of Hope - Bishops create a special webpage for Jubilee 2025
The NZ Catholic Bishops Conference has created a special online page of resources for parishes and individuals to use as we walk together towards Jubilee 2025-Pilgrims of Hope www.catholic.org.nz/about-us/jubilee-year2025/

Credit Controller & Admin, Pompallier Centre –Part-time Fixed term 7 months this role is to provide credit control and administration support to the Operations Manager for the collection of attendance dues in Auckland Diocese. To view full advert and position description pleased visit www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz under Diocesan Services and Staff Vacancies

Thinking about priesthood? Come and meet with seminarians and priests exploring your vocation in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. A great opportunity to connect, share experiences, and support one another on your journey of faith. 4 May at noon aucklandvocations.org.nz for more details.

The Israel Palestine Conflict-A Perspective from Prof. Mazin 18 May 1pm St Mary's Parnell The talk will be livestreamed. More details on the noticeboard.

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active



How am I actively showing God's love?

My Children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active

PRAY MASS
Sundays @ 2pm
SHINE TV
Free-to-air TV Channel 25
SKY TV Channel 201

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 have started 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 NEXT **Sunday May 05 from 6:00pm - 7:30pm (after the 5pm Mass)** To register your interest please contact Dan Story : dandcstory@gmail.com / 0212993270

PROLIFE FACTS

Dame Colleen Bayer, DSG, has served for thirty-two years as Family Life International (FLI) Chief Executive, and now her daughter Michelle Kaufman has been appointed as the new Chief Executive/ National Director, taking on the role of leading this vital pro-life and pro-family apostolate into the future.
Michelle is passionate about educating people on various life issues and motivating them to take action. She has written numerous articles, spoken at local and international events, and produced several resources. Colleen will retain an active role as Founder and Senior Executive, and will remain on the Board of FLI. She will also continue to lead Gianna's Choice Pregnancy Options and Support (which includes Saint Gianna's Home for Mothers and Babies and the Mobile Life Centre).

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