

27th OCTOBER 2024
THIRTIETH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall in Louisiana. Impacting the southern gulf Coast, including the city of New Orleans. Apart from extensive damage at least 1,836 people were killed. One elderly couple encountered by a priest shared the harrowing story of their survival. The wife asked if his cell phone worked and if she could call her daughter who didn't know if they were dead or alive. He gave her his phone and he was brought into their tear-filled audio reunion. Afterwards he mentioned to them that he wished he could take them home. She exclaimed "Father, just seeing you here has reminded us that God did not forget about us. He has rescued us and will bring us back". In the midst of destruction and suffering, there was hope and a promise of restoration, bringing comfort and immense peace. Today's readings reflect this divine promise of gathering, healing, and joy, and they invite us to recognise God's unwavering commitment to His people and our call to embody that same commitment in our own lives. In the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah, we hear a promise of restoration and hope from God "I will gather them from the ends of the world, with the blind and the lame in their midst ... They departed in tears, but I will console them and guide them" (31:8-9) This passage speaks to a time of profound upheaval for the Israelites. They have been exiled, scattered and broken. Yet God promises to gather them back, to bring healing and solace to those who are suffering. The imagery of the blind and the lame represents not only physical ailments but also spiritual and emotional distress. This image of God gathering His people, including those who are most vulnerable, emphasises His intimate care for every individual, regardless of their state. God's promise to console and guide His people is an assurance that His love transcends all boundaries and reaches into the deepest parts of our lives. In our own lives, how often do we find ourselves like the blind and lame - struggling with our own limitations, sorrows, and weaknesses? Yet God's promise remains true. He seeks to gather us, heal us, and lead us to His refreshing presence. In Mark's Gospel, Bartimaeus hopes for an encounter with divine mercy and grace. As Jesus is leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus, sitting by the roadside, cries out for mercy. Despite the crowd's attempts to silence him, Bartimaeus persists, showing a remarkable faith and determination to cast all abandonment onto the Lord's mercy. When Jesus asks him, "What do you want me to do for you?" Bartimaeus responds in faith, "Master, I want to see." The request for sight is not just physical healing but symbolises a deeper desire for spiritual enlightenment and clarity. Today's scripture readings offer a powerful message of hope, healing and joy. God's promise to gather, console, the joy of recognising His great deeds, the intercessory role of the high priest, and the personal encounter with Christ all converge to remind us of Christ's enduring love grace and presence. May we open our hearts to God's healing and strive to be instruments of His mercy and joy in the lives of those we encounter.

MANY THANKS

To those who came into the hall for morning tea after the 10.30am Mass last Sunday and to our Sri Lankan Community for hosting so it beautifully.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2024/2025

Just a reminder to parents, in the main group of enrolled children, the first lesson is next Sunday 03rd November as per the email already sent out.

**CHILDREN'S FORMATION
(EDUCATION IN FAITH)**

If your child has been baptised, attends a non-Catholic school and would like to know more about their faith, these classes provide an opportunity for them to learn and grow in understanding of our Catholic religion.

The classes are a requirement for those children wishing to register for the Sacramental Programme later this year.

Classes are held on a Sunday morning. Please email for more details, dates etc.

Email: childrenformation@stmmarysnorthcote.org.nz

THURSDAY SCRIPTURE SESSIONS

Please note that both the morning and evening Thursday session are now in recess till 2025!!

PARISH RETREAT NEXT

SATURDAY 02ND NOVEMBER Please pray for all of the parishioners who are participating in this retreat.

DE PAUL HOUSE FOOD BANK

Can you help replenish our empty food bank shelves. We have experienced a 100% increase in requests for help with basic food and household items
Toothbrushes, toilet paper, shampoo, nappies, laundry powder, dishwashing liquid, cleaning product, corned beef, tuna, biscuits, crackers, Snacks for children, milo, pasta sauces, sugar, coconut milk, 500 gm meat packs – mince, chicken, sausage. Supermarket vouchers accepted.

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. Helen Keller - Thank you

CAN YOU HELP A FAMILY OR SENIOR CITIZEN IN NEED?

De Paul House has had over 30 families and senior citizens, move out recently and resettle into new homes.

We are in desperate need of quality, sturdy furniture to help them set up home.

Single Beds, sets of drawers/dressing tables, dining suites, dining chairs, lounge suites, single lounge chairs, Coffee tables, bedside cabinets. (We cannot accept glass top tables.) We can help with collection on the North Shore. Please contact us by phone or email. Photos of the Furniture are needed to help us know if they are useful for the families and how much can fit in the truck.

Contact reception 480 5959 or reception@depaulhouse.org.nz

REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED LOVED ONES - WEEKEND OF 2/3RD NOVEMBER

There is a basket, pens and paper for you to write the names of your loved ones whom you would like remembered at all Masses during November and a box to "post" the paper with their names. As usual, everyone will be invited to light a t/light candle at which ever Mass they attend on the weekend of 2nd & 3rd of November. Candles will be provided.

IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE

It was decided at the Parish Council Meeting this week that, as time is running by so quickly, we will **not** have our Cultural Day in November this year. We plan to have Cultural Day in February 2025 as a great way to start the year - Date yet to be decided. Watch this space!!

ROSARY AFTER THE 8.30AM MASS THIS SUNDAY!

ALL SAINTS DAY IS NEXT FRIDAY SO PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE THE USUAL 9.15AM MASS AND AN EXTRA EVENING MASS AT 7.00PM

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

Please let us know you are here by contacting the parish office either on 480 7357, or by entering your name in our New Parishioners book in the church. alternatively email us on office@stmmarysnorthcote.org.nz

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DUES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support with payment of Attendance Dues for preference students attending both primary and secondary Catholic Schools in the Auckland Diocese. Families facing financial difficulties can contact their school office, or the ACFL Operations Manager on (09) 360 3069 at the Catholic Diocese for further information. Application Forms for this assistance are available from the school office, or can be downloaded from www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools-2/

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN OUR NEWSLETTER?

We are about to have a reprint of the newsletter covers. If you would like to have a spot for the next six months then please contact either the office or Ambi at Inkprint ph: 441 6011. the cost for 6 months advertising is \$300.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

The next, and final Course for 2024, is scheduled for 12 & 13th November. Two 1 1/2 Hr. sessions from 7.30 –9pm to be held in the Foley Centre. This Course is mandatory for your first child prior to Baptism, and can be completed prior to baby arriving. Contact the parish office for a registration form.

MASS INTENTION

Sun. 10.30am Thanksgiving Mass for the Birthday, 31st Oct. of Atasha Juanillo

SUMMER YOUTH CAMP – JANUARY 2025

Many of our youth are looking forward to the annual Camp in January. This year the camp is \$260 per person!! So, the youth group are looking to organize two fundraisers, one the weekend of the 2/3rd November and one weekend of 7/8 December, more details later. As a parish we are looking for any sponsorship or part sponsorship to help our youth participate. If you can help and would like to, please donate to our parish bank account 02-0108-0707200-000 & reference it 'youth camp'. Thank you for your help!

Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College - is accepting applications for the *Ruth Miller Scholarship*.

The Walter Francis Darby Trust Scholarship for Medical Students
4th & 5th year students

For more details or to apply for either scholarship
email: scholarships@cda.org.nz Applications close 15th November

UNWRAP THE SEASON

Saturday 9th and/or 30th November, 11–3.30 pm,
117 Onewa Rd, Northcote, Parking behind St Mary's Church.

Enjoy some creativity and make your Christmas cards and tags this year. Included are materials, equipment, and tips/techniques for each project, and refreshments. You leave having created more than 20 items. Plus there will be a raffle and sale items on the day.

Bring scissors and adhesives \$50 pp Reserve standard finger lunch for \$10 or BYO.

To register text 0272809599 or email katherine.gabriel@outlook.co.nz

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR THE UNBORN

Will you pray with us and bear witness to the precious gift of life and the dignity of every human being from its first moment of existence at conception? Sun. 3 Nov. 7.30pm at Potter's Park cnr. of Dominion & Balmoral Rds. Candles provided (a family friendly event). Or more info.

Contact Simon (Family Life International) 021 400 729

Or simon@fli.org.nz

NGA TAPUWAE

Registrations open 10-12th Jan. Come join us in experiencing the footsteps of Bishop Pompallier, Kupe, and the Poynton's with other pilgrims sharing our Catholic & Māori heritage. Guided pilgrimage.

Accommodation at \$80.00 per night/per person shared living, experience eating on the Marae. Own transport more info Dcn Seve

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, Max W, David P, Yvonne S, Andrew C, Lauren S, Fe T, Jamie S-W, Adam S, 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, Jocell D-V, Luca M, Maselino L, Ann C, Letalie V, Yvonne P, Helen McBride, Orille F, Connie B, Patricia W, Elizabeth S, P & M O'S, Jason P, Maria & Andre T, Chike E, Ted H, Eileen B, Dorothy T, Bridget & Helen R. Emily G

DAILY READINGS

Monday Sts Simon & Jude			
Reading	Ephesians	2:19-22	Ps. 19A
Gospel	Luke	6:12-16	
Tuesday			
Reading	Ephesians	5:21-33	Ps. 128
Gospel	Luke	13:18-21	
Wednesday			
Reading	Ephesians	6: 1- 9	Ps. 145
Gospel	Luke	13:22-30	
Thursday			
Reading	Ephesians	6:10-20	Ps. 144
Gospel	Luke	13:31-35	
Friday ALL SAINTS DAY			
1st. Reading	Apocalypse	7: 2- 4,9-14	Ps. 24
2nd Reading	I John	3: 1- 3	
Gospel	Matthew	5: 1-12	
Saturday COMMERATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED			
SELECTED READINGS			
31st Week Ordinary Time			
1st Reading	Deuteronomy	6: 2- 6	Ps. 18
2nd Reading	Hebrews	7:23-28	
Gospel	Mark	12:28-34	

NOTICES FROM THE DIOCESE

CDA Connect catch up with happenings in the diocese and get a 'heads up' on upcoming events www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/services/cda-connect/
Let's map Auckland City in prayer. Join Christians from throughout Auckland in praying for all people of the diocese. It is simple, its free, its powerful. Take a walk and prayer mapping your walk with the app. Do it as an individual, or do it with friends. Pope Francis has dedicated 2024 as a year of prayer. Here is a practical way to participate.

See noticeboard.

Join the Auckland Young Catholic groups going to The Send, Sat. 23 November Be part of an epic day with thousands of Christians from across NZ. Will feature international Christian Speakers like Francis Chan, as well as worship led by top Christian musicians. More info and to Register <https://cdathesend.eventbrite.com>

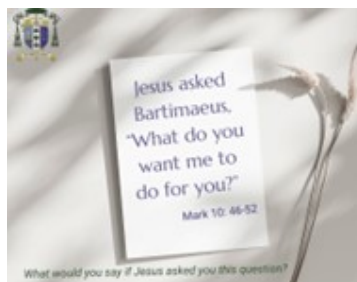
Anniversary Mass 2025 Registrations open for Coach Trip on 12 Jan 2025 this is a one-off day trip to attend the Anniversary Mass at Totara Point more details see noticeboard.

St Michael's Advent Retreat with Dr Robert Loretz Sat. 30th Nov. 9am to 5.30pm see noticeboard for more information.

NZ Catholic Medical Association (NZCMA) is an organization that provides community support and chaplaincy for those involved in providing health care in Aotearoa. We invite doctors, nurses, midwives, students, carers, pharmacists, physiotherapists etc. etc. anyone in allied roles to join us for a *Retreat & Seminar 25-16th November* based at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay, Wellington. For updates regarding events please email: newzealandcatholicmedical@gmail.com

"AS IRON SHARPENS IRON ..." Proverbs 27:17

All men are invited to join Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship. They meet in Glenfield on the last Wednesday of the month to pray, grow and worship together. Wed. 30th October 7.15pm for 7.30pm start at St Thomas More Church Hall, contact Russell on 022 034 5678 for more information.



What would you say if Jesus asked you this question?



CARE OF ALTAR LINEN
26 Oct. Ninette C - 03 Nov. Orille F
CHURCH CLEANING
02 Nov. Lai family -
09 Nov. Choy Family



CANS FOR CHRISTMAS Is a charity that has run for 10 years now. They coordinate Catholic Primary Schools and Colleges to collect canned food items for St Vincent de Paul. Over the last 9 years they have collected 160,000 cans and \$10,000 for the St Vincent de Paul Society to help those in need. Please join us by donating to us. QR Code attached

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Next Meeting **Sunday 03rd November at 6pm** (straight after the 5pm Mass) in the Foley Centre. All parishioners 16 - 30 year olds are welcome! Join us as we reflect on the Gospels, listen to talks, study Catholic theology, pray together and eat dinner together! Also if you would like to join our Young Adults Choir please let us know. Contact Dan : dandcstory@gmail.com or text 021 299 3270

PROLIFE FACTS

A moving video available on Youtube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_gB7tNOCfi) shows the raw grief of bereaved father, Tommy Kearns, who lost his unborn daughter Clementine at 20 weeks. Sadly, Clementine was aborted without Tommy's knowledge and he was grief stricken. Adding to his grief is that his daughter's body could not be located after his girlfriend received a free abortion under a fetal research programme. When asked what he would say to staff involved in aborting Clementine, Tommy said he would want to ask, "Was she as beautiful as I think she is?"

For more pro-life information, visit Voice for Life at www.voiceforlife.org.nz.