

**02nd FEBRUARY 2025
PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

REFLECTION

With Christmas feasts over the church gives us a welcome reminder, there's one more event to celebrate, The Presentation of the Lord, or Candlemas. It has been a while since this feast last fell on a Sunday. This is a moment to give it its due - to remember the "reason for the season" that somehow has been nudged aside like the dried up tree and the crinkled wrapping paper. This is a chance to cherish once more the greatest gift that arrived 40 days ago on Christmas. The gift of our salvation. The gift of Christ. The gift of light. The holy and aged Simeon in this Sunday's Gospel said as much, when he finally saw himself what the world has been waiting for.

"My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

In a beautiful way, his words take us back to how everything began. In Genesis, God's first words speak to a formless world bathed in shadow. From nothing, He created everything, and He began His creation with those simple, profoundly important words: "Let there be light." It would be countless generations after that - after man's fall and his wanderings, and his exile and his despair and his sin before light would again come into a world lost in darkness. That was Christmas. The birth of Christ offered us a second Genesis. Once more with the incarnation, God whispered words that began a new creation, "Let there be light".

Now, the Feast of the Presentation, Candlemas, remembers that, and it does this at a moment when we might be tempted to forget. Let's be honest, it's 40 days after Christmas. It seems like it was eons ago. The decorations are down, gifts have been broken and the last of the Christmas cake has been thrown out. We are not singing Carols and it looks like we are back into ordinary time. Candlemas says: no! wait, you are wrong. The light still burns. A flame defies the dark. Bring out the candle and let's share in that light.

This feast cries out to us that Christmas is just the beginning there is more.

It says to those who have forgotten the bright promise of a star, there is still light. More than light there is still hope. Forty days ago the angel told the shepherds, do not be afraid. Now, all these weeks later, the feast we celebrate today repeats that message.

This week, as we commemorate the infant Jesus being presented in the temple, maybe this is a moment to present *ourselves* to the Lord and do it with renewed fervour and faith and hope - to rededicate ourselves to keeping "the Christmas spirit" alive as "the Christian spirit." To recommit ourselves to the generous good will that we all sang about during the holidays and that inspired us to give time or treasure to those in need.

The God who came into the world as an infant, who gave Himself to us in a manger and then went on to surrender Himself for the world on a cross is still giving Himself to us.

We are about to witness that very giving once more. God is still coming to us.

We need to hold fast to that beautiful reality and carry that gift with us - a gift that reminds us that Christmas never really ends.

PLEASE NOTE

If you need to email Fr Lio the correct & only address to USE: parishpriest@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED!

In all areas of the parish. Have a look at the list below and see where you and your family can help and become involved with our parish -

*Ministers of Holy Communion
Ministers of the Word, Mass Coordinators
Computer Projectionist, Altar Server (must have made 1st Holy Communion)
Car Parking at weekend Masses*

For all the above we would hope to roster you on a monthly basis.

We also need help with *Cleaning the Sacristies, Sanctuary and Children's Room, dusting ledges in church.*

*Laundering Altar Linen
Helping with flower arranging.*

Above jobs are done weekly and, if we had enough volunteers, could be rostered on a two monthly basis. Cleaning is ideal for family participation.

If you can sing or play the piano or another instrument you are welcome to audition for our music ministry.

We hope to start a Mainly Music/playgroup on a weekly basis so help in this area. (would be a weekly commitment.)

Working Bees (twice a year) includes some gardening, spring cleaning the church and hall etc. dates to be advised.

Ad Hoc Help with *Hospitality, sometimes providing a meal for a family, driving people for doctor/hospital/shopping when necessary.*

We are sure there is something in the above that you can participate in. Training would be given in all areas. Dates for training/refreshing of Ministers of Holy Communion 14th & 21st February (6pm) and Altar Serving 19th & 26th February 4pm have been set and dates for Ministers of the Word to be advised. Please contact the office an let us know which session you can attend.

office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

Many hands make light work!

For further information or to volunteer for any of the above please contact the office phone 480 7357 or office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

**SO FEW REPLIES COME ON EVERYONE!
WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

WEEKEND ROSTER FOR FEBRUARY

Has been sent out via email.

We are hoping for more volunteers before so we can make up a roster for the next three months!

START-UP DATES

Children's Liturgy at 8.30 & 10.30am
Masses Sunday 02nd February
Young Adults Group Sunday 02nd Feb.
Friday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7th February
RCIA/C Sunday 9th February

**2025 BIBLE DIARY
TO SUPPORT THE CLARETIAN
MISSIONS** is now available in the church foyer for a donation.

ACTORS NEEDED!!!

For our Good Friday dramatization of the Gospel. Must be **SENIOR YOUTH**, Costumes will be supplied. Please let the office know your contact details email office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

MESSAGE FROM DE PAUL HOUSE!

**A Heartfelt Thank You to
St Mary's Parishioners**

"It is a sin to despise one's neighbour, but blessed is the one who is kind to the needy". Proverbs 14:21

De Paul House thanks you all for generously supporting their Annual Christmas Appeal 2024. Many individuals, families, businesses, schools, corporates, churches arrived with gifts, toys, Supermarket and Warehouse vouchers. In 2024 we had over 100% increase in the number of individuals who were able to choose gifts, xmas treats and receive supermarket vouchers. Over 746 individuals, 277 adults and 469 children shared in the magic of Christmas!



**DE PAUL HOUSE, Can you help?
Our cupboard is bare!**

De Paul House, transitional and social housing provider, has had a huge turnover of families leaving their accommodation. In 2024 they assisted 148 adults and 212 children into long term rentals or social housing. Last year they took over 602 calls requesting help with housing. Families and Senior Citizens are supported with access to bedding, linen, food, furniture, household goods and clothing. They are in **urgent need of good quality** towels, flannels, bathmats, hand towels. Single linen is always low as they have 133 single beds and families take the bedding when they move out. Single duvet inners and covers, single sheets, new pillows, Queen duvets inners and tea towels. If you can help Phone: 480 5959 or email admin@depaulhouse.org.nz www.depaulhouse.org.nz

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@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

REMINDER RE PARKING!

You must not block the entrance and exit ways onto church grounds in case there is a need for an emergency vehicle to be called. Only park in the marked spaces, so as not to block another vehicle. **When parking on the street, DO NOT PARK ACROSS NEIGHBOURS DRIVEWAYS, if you do you WILL be TOWED AWAY!!**

WEDNESDAY 29TH January 2025
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF OUR
CHINESE AND KOREAN PARISHIONERS
May this year of the Wood Snake
be filled with many blessings
for everyone. Happy Celebrations!!!



ETHNIC CHAPLAINCY OFFICERS & LEADERS FORMATION DAY

Sat. 22nd Feb, Pompallier Centre from 9.30 am till 12noon. You will be provided with updates on Migrant Chaplaincies Norms on Community Establishments, Finance, Safeguarding. Registration is essential
 Email: pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz for further information.

YOUNG LEADERS MASTERCLASS

Is back so, if you are a Youth Ministry Leader or Young Adult Ministry Leader, you are invited to our quarterly event dedicated to equipping, empowering and energizing you for ministry, on Sun. 23 Feb from 2 to 6pm at 30 New Street, Ponsonby. Email youthmin@cda.org.nz for more info & to register. Commissioning Mass at St Patricks Cathedral 7pm on 23rd February .

DOVE CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN

Is excited to be launching a new initiative called Dovecotes. We invite you to prayerfully consider joining us by forming a Dovecote in your Parish. All it needs is two or more women, to support each other to deepen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ, through regular shared prayer. Their leaflet called "Welcome to Dovecotes" contains all the relevant information. It is on the website www.dove.org.nz or email Gloria.Stafford@dovenational.leader@gmail.com

ROSARY BEADS FOR REPAIR

Can be left in the container provided in the church foyer with your name/contact number. They will be collected and repaired by a kind parishioner FREE OF CHARGE. You can also place beyond repair blessed beads in the container, they will be used to repair other Rosaries.

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY - Registrations OPEN for 2025.

Human Love in the Divine Plan: Beginners Course Sat. & Sun. 15th Feb. Mission Bay, Auckland. Book Study on Dr Edward Sri's Men, Women and the Mystery of Love. Wed. evenings starts 12th Feb. in Hillsborough. All Adults 20+ are welcome. More details on the noticeboard and to register please visit: theologyofthebody.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, 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, M O'S, Jason P, Maria & Andre T, Chike E, Ted H, Eileen B, Dorothy T, Bridget & Helen R. Emily G, June B, John R, John S, Pearl D,

DAILY READINGS

Monday	Reading	Hebrews	11:32-40	Ps.	31
	Gospel	Mark	5: 1-20		
Tuesday	Reading	Hebrews	12: 1- 4	Ps.	103
	Gospel	Mark	5:21-43		
Wednesday St Agatha	Reading	Hebrews	12: 4- 7,11-15	Ps.	103
	Gospel	Mark	6: 1- 6		
Thursday Waitangi Day	Reading	Hebrews	12:18-19,21-24	Ps.	27
	Gospel	Mark	6: 7-13		
Friday St Paul Miki & Comps.	Reading	Hebrews	13: 1- 8	Ps.	27
	Gospel	Mark	6:14-29		
Saturday	Reading	Hebrews	13:15-17,20-21	Ps.	23
	Gospel	Mark	6:30-34		
SUNDAY FIFTH WEEK ORDINARY TIME					
	1st Reading	Isaiah	6: 1- 8	Ps.	138
	2nd Reading	I Corinthians	15: 1-11		
	Gospel	Luke	5: 1-11		

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/
Year of Jubilee Pope Francis has proclaimed 2025 as a year of Jubilee - Pilgrims of Hope. As well as local initiatives the diocese has a calendar of **Jubilee Events** At this stage they are presented as date claimers so that you can put them in your diaries so that when notification of registrations have been opened your calendars are free. Explore and return regularly <http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/jubilee2025/jubilee-calendar>. See Calendar on Notice Board

Sale now on for Annual Resources from the Liturgy Centre Cost Price Sale. Be quick as limited numbers. Jubilee Prayer Cards also available 10cents each plus postage. Order via <https://form.jotform.com/liturgycentre/annuals>

Story of the Stations of the Cross across the diocese people will gather throughout Lent to walk and pray the Stations of the Cross. Why has this become such a popular devotion? How come there are 14 Stations and not 6 or 23? You are invited to prayerfully consider these and other questions as we explore with Sr Sian the meaning and the history of the Stations of the Cross. To register email pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz

Bishop Steve Speaks tune into the diocesan YouTube channel playlist Bishop Steve Speaks to heart him reflecting on the readings of Sunday and other moments of conversation www.youtube.com/playlist?List=PLYVDDAAh6gEBFpCzZxcTLhpW_gsxny4e

The Diocese is seeking a talented and creative **Multimedia Journalist** (part-time 20 hours per week) to create engaging digital multimedia content (stories, photos, videos) that shares the news of the diocese, Bishop, Parish, Schools and Agencies. These stories will contribute to supporting the national CathNews platform which delivers news, Analysis, and commentary of interest to the Catholic Community. For full details, please visit the website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz—Diocesan Services—Staff Vacancies

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun. 10.30am Ruben Guevarra RIP and Thanksgiving from Marissa Palileo; **Fri. 9.15am** Thanksgiving Kate & Leo (Birthdays)



"Now Master you can let your servant go in peace" Lk. 2: 22-32
How do I stay faithful to God during my struggles in life?

CHURCH CLEANING
 08 Feb. Kimberley G - 15 Feb. Upton Fam
ALTAR LINEN
 09 Feb. Orille F - 16 Feb. Birgitte R

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP 2025!

Is on, like donkey kong! Our first meeting is **THIS Sunday 2nd Feb at 6pm** (immediately after the 5.00pm Mass). Anyone between the ages of 16-25 is most welcome. Parents please let your YA know 'cause we both know they aren't reading this! Come along and meet other young adults in the parish and learn more about our amazing Catholic faith. **BONUS!** We also have a Young Adults Music Group. If you would like to join please let us know. For more information or to register your interest please contact Dan - 021 299 3270 or dandcstory@gmail.com

PROLIFE FACTS

The recent annual March for Life in Washington DC was held in freezing weather, but an estimated 100,000 pro-lifers attended from all over the USA. Vice-President JD Vance addressed the marchers: "The sacred truth is that every single child is a miracle and a gift from God." He also told the crowd that President Trump endorsed the Born-Alive Abortion Act, which ensures that babies born alive after failed abortions enjoy equal protection under law and are not left to die. President Trump spoke to those attending the March in a video message: "We will again stand proudly for families and for life."

For more pro-life information, visit www.voiceforlife.org.nz.