

09th MARCH 2025
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

REFLECTION

In the wilderness, Satan tempts Jesus, like the Hebrews tempted God in the desert, to turn stones into bread so that he might eat. Jesus responds by quoting Deuteronomy 8: 3, "One does not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God". In other words, Jesus is reminding Satan, as well as you and me today, that life is much more than the here and now. We can, at times, get caught up in the business and pettiness of our daily lives, And we run the risk of prioritising those things which are really not so important when all is said and done. I think of some people who waste so much time obsessing over acquiring the best designer handbags and binge watching TV shows just so they can keep up with the culture and attempt to outdo their peers.

There is certainly, in each and everyone of us, at one time or another, the desire for glory, power and recognition in the world. There is that part of us that is so caught up in current events, politics, and the routines of everyday life that we can lose sight of that one thing, or rather, of that one person who is most important. Remember what Jesus says to the busy and preoccupied Martha, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her" (Lk. 10:41).

Brothers and sisters, may this Lent be for us a reminder to look beyond the here and now and focus on that which is eternal and beneficial to our souls. We are not just material beings - we are spiritual beings who need nourishment from the Word of God that we hear in scripture, and who need the ultimate nourishment, The Eucharist, the Word of God made flesh. Without this we become empty; we wind up like those objects which, though one time beautiful, are, in the end, strewn about, useless, with no life in them. And so we are reminded to focus, especially during the Lenten season, on spiritual things, to prioritise those things in our life that are really most important, those things which will bring us closer to love for God and neighbour, and to nourish our souls with spiritual riches that will bring us to everlasting life. Jesus Himself reminds us of this "Heaven and earth will pass away, but MY words will not pass away" (Mt.24:35). And so this Lent, when we find ourselves tempted by Satan in the desert to seek comfort and pleasure or attachment to passing things, let us respond with the words of Christ "One does not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Extracts from the writings of Fr Nicholas M. Colalella, SSL

ONEWA ROAD CORRIDOR FOR TRAFFIC

Next Tuesday 11th March, 10.30 am
There will be a meeting with AT to look at and discuss the proposed changes to traffic along Onewa Road. Please come along to see what it is about and what will change on Onewa Road. Venue will depend on how many people attend, either the Hall or in the Foley Centre. This will be of special interest to Parishioners - ALL WELCOME!

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

"Starting next weekend (15/16 March), in our Sunday Masses, we are providing kneelers to assist those wanting to receive Holy Communion kneeling. Kneelers would be positioned, one per each side of the church. Communicants have the option to receive kneeling or standing. Please be reminded that one is not considered better than the other. The most important of all is the reverence we manifest towards the Blessed Sacrament."

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 on a Sunday morning. email for more details Email: childrenformation@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

MAKE YOUR MARK - NATURE EVENT!

Sat. 22 March - 10am to 1pm Puāwai Cadness Reserve, Northcote. Only 40 volunteer spots left to join the *Regeneration & Rubbish Clean-up teams*. Book today kaipatikiProjectWebsite.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Will continue next Thursday 13 March from 10.15 to 11.15am in the Foley Centre. **Join us!** Discover the heart of our Saviour in **The Seven Last Words** A weekly Lenten Reflection on Jesus' final utterances while He hung dying on the Cross.

YOU TUBE RECORDING

Why does Lent have 40 days? - Prof Thomas O'Loughlin:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2021/02/12/prof-thomas-oloughlin/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

BISHOPS' LENT APPEAL 2025

Put your compassion into action!
Caritas Giving envelopes for the Bishops' Lent appeal are available after Mass Every donation given will support Caritas' life-changing, humanitarian, development work around the world, and create change not just for today but for the future. This year, Caritas are encouraging you to give online or through direct deposit if possible, to reduce costs and make processing donations faster. For more information or to donate visit Caritas.org.nz. Thank You!

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!!**

DURING THE SEASON OF LENT

We will have Stations of the Cross each Wednesday at 6.30pm followed by Mass at 7.00pm ALL WELCOME!

Lord Jesus, as we start our Lenten journey this year, help us to open our hearts and minds to hear Your voice in new ways. Reveal to us what we need to change in ourselves and in the world. Water the seeds of faith so we may proclaim the Good News and stand as Your witness always. Amen

VOLUNTEERS!

We are still hoping for volunteers in the following areas:

Mass Coordinator for 10.30am Mass
Caring for Church Linen - Cleaning Church
Musicians/Singers - Hospitality people
People to help with church ambience i.e. arranging flowers.

Car Parking weekend Masses
If there is any area where you feel you can Help please let the office know.

Many hands make light work!

See below separate appeal for help on alternate Friday afternoons Mary's Pantry

ATTENTION MINISTER'S OF THE WORD

We have now been able to set the date for your Refresher Seminar/Training/Re-Training **Tuesday 01st April from 7.30 to 9pm**. Please put this date in your diary now. We would like all Ministers, those who have been in the Word ministry for some time and all of the new people who have offered to join this ministry, to attend. Please RSVP to the office email. office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

VOLUNTEERS FOR MARY'S PANTRY FOODBAG COLLECTIONS!

Mary's Pantry is looking for helping hands! Our foodbag collections run fortnightly on Friday afternoons at De Paul House from 2:00 to 4:30 pm, & we need volunteers to assist. You can sign up for a slot as short as 30 minutes or stay for the whole session—whatever suits your schedule! A roster will be in place, you can volunteer as often as you're available. This is a great way to practically support those in need in our community. If you can lend a hand, please email economyofcharity@gmail.com or call/text Claire on 0223710893. Thank you for your support!

A GREAT PRAYER FOR LIFE THIS LENT

Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday, pray for an end to abortion. Sign up and receive educational resources and daily prayer intentions. Join peaceful prayer vigil near the abortion place on Wednesdays. Find out more at FLI.org.nz/prayerforlife

PRIVATE TUTORIAL SESSIONS

In Maths, Physics/Science or Numeracy after school times on weekdays or some agreed times on Sundays. Primary, Intermediate or High School Students all welcome. Please call Rhea on mobile 022 325 6302.

CALLING ALL AUCKLAND UNIVERSTIY STUDENTS!

There is a large, vibrant, Catholic student community in the Auckland CBD. Join us this year! To find out more please contact Daniel Story at dans@cda.org.nz and/or check out our socials search [aucklandcatholicchaplaincy](https://www.facebook.com/aucklandcatholicchaplaincy).

FREE COOKING & NUTRITION COURSES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Learn to plan and cook simple meals for one or two people, plus shopping tips, label readings & time saving strategies. Ideal for those lacking practical cooking skills or who need a boost of confidence to cook for themselves. 3-hour friendly & social classes for 4 weeks including morning tea and lunch. Mondays 10 & 17 March 9.30am to 12.30pm at Hugh Green Village, 105 Apollo Drive, Rosedale. To Register contact Anna 021 143 7308, or Priscilla 027 444 7648

CATHNEWS NZ

NZ Bishops this week launched the renewed CathNews NZ project. This ministry supports Catholics and people interested in accessing news and other content of interest. Best way to receive CathNews is by signing up at <https://cathnewsnz.com> publications sent on Tues. & Fri.

SINGLES MINISTRY

Is holding a meet & connect for single Roman Catholics looking to find a partner. Sat 29 March more info. Clytie 021 836 705

DOVE CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN

Is moving to small parish-based groups called Dovecotes, where women may experience the warmth and fellowship, the power of prayer and the joy of worship, the power of prayer and the joy of worship. If you feel a need for Dovecote in your area, please contact Gloria: dovenational.leader@gmail.com or ph: 027 245 6742.

RENTAL HOUSE WANTED CLOSE TO ST MARY'S SCHOOL

2 to 3 Bedrooms for a family of 4 who have just enrolled children at St Mary's References are available please call 022 479 9211 Rajitha or Anne

UPCOMING RETREATS & EVENTS AT ST FRANCIS RETREAT CENTRE

TIME OUT DAYS for those who seek a day retreat 9.30am-2.30pm (\$30 includes lunch) Tues. 11 Mar. Wed. 16 Apr. More info or to book visit www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz or ph: 09 625 6651

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, Jim & Patricia Maunsell.

DAILY READINGS

Monday	Reading Lev.	19: 1- 2,11-18	Ps.	19B
	Gospel Matthew	25:31-46		
Tuesday	Reading Isaiah	55:10-11	Ps.	34
	Gospel Matthew	6: 7-15		
Wednesday	Reading Jonah	3: 1-10	Ps.	51
	Gospel Luke	11:29-32		
Thursday	Reading Esther	4:17	Ps.	138
	Gospel Matthew	7: 7-12		
Friday	Reading Ezekiel	18:21-28	Ps.	130
	Gospel Matthew	5:20-26		
Saturday	Reading Deut.	26:16-19	Ps.	119A
	Gospel Matthew	5:43-48		
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT				
	1st Reading Genesis	15: 5-12,17-18	Ps.	27
	2nd Reading Philippians	3:17- 4: 1		
	Gospel Luke	10: 1- 2,17-20		

NOTICES FROM THE DIOCESE

Bishop Steve Speaks tune into the diocesan YouTube channel playlist Bishop Steve Speaks to hear him reflecting on the readings of Sunday and other moments of conversation

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYVDDAAh6gEBFpCzZxcTLHlpW_-gsxny4e

Summit –young leaders Weekend 28-30 March for Youth Ministry and young adult ministry leaders, get ready for an incredible weekend of formation, fellowship and being spiritually filled! **Summit** is a weekend specifically for **YOU**, featuring engaging keynote sessions, workshops equipping you with practical ministry skills, plenty of opportunities to pray and to be RENEWED, a whole community of fantastic leaders to connect with, Mass, Adoration, campfires and a whole lot more! Earlybird registrations \$120 untril 12 March, standard registration \$140. go to <https://SUMMIT25.eventbrite.com> this is an 18+ event.

Te Kupenga Catholic Theology College Webinars 2025 each session is unique Fee is \$20 per webinar or \$100 for all for details visit www.tekupenga.ac.nz/catholic-theological-college-2/weninar-2025

Lenten opportunities for prayer & pondering Pope Francis' letter to all on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. 7 to 7.30pm on Zoom 5,12,19 & 26 March. **Wake Up & Pray** Meditation 6.15 to 6.45am on Zoom 5 March to 20 April. **Wings Nga Parirau this Lent, and invitation to grow your relationship with Jesus.** Reflecting on faith and our own faith journey, grace and spirituality, and experiences of prayer. The Sunday Gospels of Lent provide a particular framework for this reflection. Saturdays in Lent 2- 4pm 8, 15,22,29 March 5,12 April at Pompallier Diocesan Centre. For more information on the Lenten opportunities or to register contact diannaf@cda.org.nz

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat offer a beautiful opportunity for healing to anyone who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion Venue Mary McKillop Centre 11-13 April . More info. Wendy Hill on 027 254 9222 or wendy@rachelsvineyard.org.nz

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun. 10.30am Thanksgiving & gratitude from Anne Brigid & family



Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert, for forty days to be tempted by the devil. Lk. 4:1-13
 In what ways does following the guidance of the Holy Spirit influence the decisions you make, especially during

CHURCH CLEANING
 08 Mar Choy Family
 15 Mar. Valdez family
ALTAR LINEN
 09 Mar. Eresha D
 16 Mar. Prisca T

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP 2025!

Meets on the first Sunday of every month at 6pm in the Foley Centre (immediately after 5pm Mass). Our next meeting is **06th April**. Anyone between the ages of 16-25 is most welcome. 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'd like to join please let us know. For more information or to register your interest please contact Dan: dandcstory@gmail.com / 0212993270

PROLIFE FACTS

A 'safe area' is a 300m bubble around an abortion facility, within which it is illegal to express any pro-life views or speech on the issue of abortion. Even offering help and support to pregnant women is banned inside these zones. It's hard to understate the implications of this degree of authoritarianism - in effect, there are now places in New Zealand where even a civil conversation about the issue of abortion, or charitably offering a woman caring alternatives to abortion, could result in a criminal charge. Regardless of authoritarian laws, however, the pro-life movement is continuing to speak out against the grave injustice of abortion, and working hard towards caring solutions. *For more pro-life information, visit www.voiceforlife.org.nz.*