

**23rd MARCH 2025
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

REFLECTION

“If you do not repent, you will all perish.”

Jesus knew that the ways and culture of the Empire led to death. I have recently begun to read Brian McLaren’s book *Life after Doom*. In the first few chapters, the author gives us a reality check. If we do not repent, change our ways and create systems in harmony with Earth and each other, society will collapse.

McLaren offers us four scenarios. In the worst-case scenario, humans become extinct, and the Earth can no longer maintain life.

The best-case scenario is that we avoid collapse. In between is a mixture of collapse and rebirth, or mere survival.

Are humans the fig tree, exhausting the soil and extracting Earth’s bounty at an unsustainable rate without giving back?

The effects of the climate crisis are affecting marginalized groups the hardest.

They are not to blame for the disasters or the suffering they are experiencing.

We must look at our systemic structures, big businesses and culture. While we can reduce, reuse and recycle to our heart’s content, our reliance on fossil fuel, industrial farming and livestock production, insatiable materialism fed by capitalism (profit over people and planet), racism and colonialism are some of the biggest contributors to the crisis.

For centuries many wise and intelligent people and the Earth herself have warned us of the direction we are going. So, what are we to do? How might we live in peace and harmony with other human and more-than-human beings?

We must repent and change our ways locally, nationally and globally.

This Lent, ask yourself what you can live without. Instead of giving that up for just a season, make it a life-long commitment. Also, do all you can to counter the structures and cultures that perpetuate violence and exploitation, and dream of and build communities and systems that support the well-being of all life. Extracts from writings of Sisters of Divine Providence

HEALING OF THE FAMILY TREE SEMINAR

Two talks by Fr Rory Morrissey, on Zoom at 7.30 to 9pm on Wednesday 26th March to give information and preparation, followed by a special HFT Mass on Sat. 29 March at Sacred Heart Church, Ponsonby 9.30 to 11am, followed by a cuppa. Register for Zoom link bit.ly/ACCPGN-HFT (nb link is case sensitive)

NORTH SHORE DEANERY RITE II LENTEN RECONCILIATION ALL AT 7.00PM

01 April Glenfield 02 April Takapuna
08 April Orewa 09 April Mairangi Bay

Thurs. 10 April Northcote

11 April Beachhaven 13 April Devonport

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

HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE

13th April - Palm Sunday

Palms will be blessed at ALL Masses 12/13th April. Our annual Palm Procession will be included in the 10.30am Mass.

14th April Monday

Usual Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at 9.15am

15th April Tuesday

9.15am Mass at St Mary’s
7.30pm Chrism Mass at the Cathedral

16th April Wednesday

9.15am Mass
6.30pm Stations of the Cross
7.00pm Mass

17th April Holy Thursday

NO MORNING MASS
7.00pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper includes presentation of the oils, the foot washing ceremony and “wait and watch with the Lord” through to 10.00pm

18th April Good Friday

10.00am Stations of the Cross
3.00pm Good Friday Liturgy, will include dramatization of the Gospel, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion.

19th April Holy Saturday

9.00am Morning Prayer of the Church
7.00pm Mass of the Resurrection (candles will be provided)
We will be welcoming 20 Catechumens and Candidates into full Communion with the Roman Catholic Church!

Sunday 20th April Easter Sunday

Usual Mass times
8.30am 10.30am 5.00pm

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Will continue next Thursday 27 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.

BISHOPS’ LENTEN APPEAL 2025

Put your compassion into action!

Caritas Giving envelopes for the Bishops’ Lenten 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!

SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND AT ALL MASSES FOR THE CARITAS APPEAL!

DURING THE SEASON OF LENT

1. We will have Stations of the Cross each Wednesday at 6.30pm followed by Mass at 7.00pm **ALL WELCOME!**
2. Rite I Reconciliation will be available from 3 to 4pm on Fridays.
3. Anointing of the sick will be at 5.30 pm Vigil Mass 29 March and 10.30am Mass 30th March.
4. Parish Reconciliation Rite II will be available Thursday 10 April, 7.00pm

WHEN YOU ARE SHOPPING THIS WEEK!

Please remember to include some extras for DE PAUL HOUSE! It is also time to think about an extra Easter Egg or two so that we can ensure children who are in need also receive the joy of Easter Sunday. We distribute our eggs to DE PAUL HOUSE and SISTER’S OF CHARITY (Mother Teresa’s Sisters) in turn they distribute them to those who are in need.

ATTENTION MINISTER’S OF THE WORD

the date for your Refresher Seminar/ Training/Re-Training **Tuesday 01st April from 7.30 to 9pm.** 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. RSVP to the office email. office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

Lenten Prayer

Jesus, Lamb of God, thank you for your forgiving heart. We are sorry for when we judge ourselves and others unfairly. Pour out Your love and mercy into our hearts so that it overflows to our sisters and brothers. Amen

NEW ROSTERS!

New weekend rosters through to end of June have been forwarded via email this week. If you did not get yours then contact the office. office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

PETITION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED AT CHANGES TO THE ONEWA ROAD CORRIDOR.

As you will remember from last weekend, Auckland Transport have proposed the addition of broken yellow lines on both sides of Onewa Road and **NO PARKING AT ALL TIMES!** This will be disastrous for our parish family congregation! In our petition we are asking that **NO PARKING AT ALL TIMES BE REMOVED TO ALLOW PARKING AT WEEKENDS, PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND EVENING PARKING FOR OUR CHURCH GOING COMMUNITY.**

Please take a couple of minutes this weekend, while you are at Mass, to write your name and sign the petition. It is imperative that we have as many signatures as possible.

You can also go online at haveyour-say.at.govt.nz/onewaroadcorridor to register your objections.

Please pray for all the sick and all families who are struggling to make ends meet at this time!

NOTICE FOR ALL TRAINED MINISTERS!

Please advise your availability for Liturgies/Masses over Holy Week Details of days and times in this newsletter, so we can start to make up rosters and schedule training where necessary. Also looking for a **Computer Operator for the 7.00pm Rite II Reconciliation Service on Thursday 10th April.** Please contact office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

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 aucklandcatholicchaplains.org.nz.

DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE MAY 23-25

Fr Chris Alar, Keynote Speaker. Divine Mercy is excited to bring back to New Zealand Fr Chris Alar MIV from the US plus several other international speakers. This Conference will be in a real sense an encapsulation of all that has gone before, and yet more to the point, now that is lived out, witnessed in the 3rd millennium.

Registrations are essential www.divinemercyconference2025.co.nz

Pat Barrett 03 359 2087 omfo@divinemercy.co.nz

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

To keep up with their meeting have a look at their newsletter www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/March-25-Newsletter.pdf

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY COURSES

The Promise of the Christian Life Sat & Sun 17 & 18 May Mission Bay Auckland. *Retreat for Women, prayer and Interior Life* 6pm 9 May to 11 May 3.00pm with time for Mass, Eucharistic Adoration Reconciliation, Personal Prayer and Spiritual Direction. To register www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz

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 incudes lunch) . 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 II Kings	5: 1-15	Ps. 42
	Gospel Luke	4:24-30	
Tuesday Annunciation	1st Reading Isaiah	7:10-14	Ps. 40
	2nd Reading Hebrews	10: 4-10	
	Gospel Luke	1: 26-38	
Wednesday	Reading Deut.	4: 1, 5- 9	Ps. 147B
	Gospel Matthew	5:17-19	
Thursday	Reading Jeremiah	7:23-28	Ps. 95
	Gospel Luke	11:14-23	
Friday	Reading Hosea	14: 2-10	Ps. 81
	Gospel Mark	12:28-34	
Saturday	Reading Hosea	5:15- 6: 6	Ps. 81
	Gospel Luke	15: 1- 3,11-32	
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	1st Reading Joshua	5: 9-13	Ps. 34
	2nd Reading I Corinthians	5:17-21	
	Gospel Luke	15: 1- 3,11-32	

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=PLYVDDAAH6gEBFpCzZxTLHlpW_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! 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 us all on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. 7 to 7.30pm on Zoom 26 March. **Wake Up & Pray** Meditation 6.15 to 6.45am on Zoom through to 20 April.

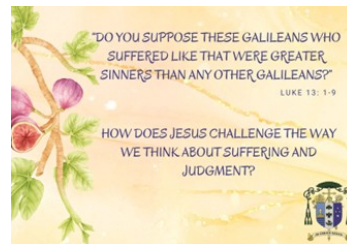
Wings Nga Parirau this Lent, and invitation to grow your relationship with Jesus. Reflecting on faith and our own faith journey, grace and spirituality, and experiences of prayer. The Sunday Gospels of Lent provide a particular framework for this reflection. Saturdays in Lent 2– 4pm 29 March 5,12 April 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 Ramon M Ajero RIP (Anniv.)
Thurs. 9.15am 1st Birthday of Brooklyn



"Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans?"

How does Jesus challenge the way we think about suffering and judgement?

CHURCH CLEANING

29 Mar. Malia & Tofu
05 April Kimberly G
ALTAR LINEN
23 Mar. Ninette C
30 Mar. Anne H

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

March 11 marked the anniversary of a stalwart pro-life worker, Gary Menzies, who passed away suddenly in 2017. His contribution to pro-life work was prolific. As early as the 1970s, he came to the defence of a young pro-life university student who was witnessing outside Auckland's National Women's Hospital. She was accosted by a man who threatened to return the next week, and, if she was there, douse her with petrol and set her alight. Hearing about this, Gary Menzies accompanied her next week to protect her. Fortunately for all concerned, the man didn't return. Gary was a totally committed pro-life worker, regularly involved in public witness. Those still praying near Epsom Day Clinic every Wednesday believe he's with God, still