

**13th APRIL 2025  
PALM SUNDAY IN LENT**

**REFLECTION**

This week celebrates the foundation of our faith. During the last six weeks, strengthened by our prayer, fasting, and charity, we have been preparing ourselves to dance with the foundational mysteries of what it means to be Catholic. The liturgies this week are ancient and contemporary, they are deliberate and poetic, they are simple and baroque. They take seriously the human experience. They are also a challenge for the preacher, they are humbly reminded that their homily is just a small part of the liturgies. There is a lot of *cheap grace* (spiritual junk food) being offered these days. There are some who have declared charity is a vice, empathy a sin, and poverty a divine punishment. Doubt and dialogue are signs of weakness and pity memes have replaced study and self-reflection. There is nothing new here, Pastor Bonhoeffer spoke of the same thing over eighty years ago. The task of preachers is to offer brief words that will invite and highlight the journey of their community through the spectacle of Palm Sunday, the Hope of Holy Thursday and the scandal of Good Friday, the silence of Holy Saturday and the promise of Easter. It's their job to connect the ancient stories to the reality of our lives in 2025. On this Palm Sunday, the Gospel at the procession sets the stage for the whole week! The confident preparation, the exuberant crowds and, the fear of the authority are met with a confident Jesus. He is unfazed by the extremes. He understands His destiny and will do it His way. The disciples are preparing for the week. Two are given a simple task with the authority of Jesus. When their work is challenged, they reply the Master needs it! There is no doubt that the Lord is in charge of it all. But terribly quickly, as we read the passion, the joy and hope turn to anger and fear. Is Jesus really in charge? Jesus' passion is not difficult (algebra is difficult), it is an existential catastrophe. *How are we expected to worship this broken one?*

Each aspect of Luke's passion demands the rethinking of what it means to follow Christ.

\*The betrayal by His friend Judas.

\*The cowardice of Peter.

But we are not without hope.

Extract from writings of Deacon Kevin McCormack

**GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION TO HELP THE UP KEEP OF SACRED PLACES IN THE HOLY LAND**

The experience of this last year has been truly difficult for those who live in the Holy Land. War on several fronts has brought death, destruction and sown hatred between neighbouring people. ... However, there is still a need to reach out and beg the love to support them in prayer by returning to visit the Holy places as pilgrims. On Good Friday when the collection for Holy Places is made please be as generous as you can as this collection serves to help them continue to take care of Holy Places.

Extract from letter of Fr Patton OFM

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

*All those who are struggling to cope at this time.*

**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

**BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE**

The next Course is scheduled for 12 & 14th May. 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.

**STATEMENT FROM CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND**

Every year in this sacred time, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference asks Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand to run a six-week fundraising campaign on their behalf called **the Bishops' Lent Appeal**. The money raised during this time is essential to the mission of Caritas. It provides much of the funding necessary for them to continue their life-changing work in Aotearoa, the Pacific and beyond. This year's appeal is even more urgent than usual. The US government recently stopped almost all foreign aid. France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany and the UK have also cut their overseas development aid budgets. These decisions will cause significant suffering for those facing poverty, conflict, disasters and the effects of climate change. Your support is needed so Caritas can step in across the Pacific as donor governments withdraw. Every year, individuals and parishes across New Zealand demonstrate great generosity by donating to this appeal. We hope that this will continue for this Lenten season.

**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!

**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

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Sun. 8.30am Annetee Kazandji RIP  
Returned to God 5th April, aunt of Linda & Fadia Batta, **Wed. 9.15am**  
Peter O'Sullivan RIP 2nd Anniv., brother of Mary, Margaret and the late Paula.

**Lenten Prayer**

*God of Hope, as we remember the events of Palm Sunday and the Passion of Christ, we are reminded to welcome Jesus into our hearts and choose to follow You. Help us to fix our sight on Yu and the hope of the resurrection. Amen*

**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!!**

**PRIVATE TUTORIAL SESSIONS**

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

**JOB VACANCY**

The Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph are looking for a parish secretary. 36 hours per week 8.30am to 5.00pm Tuesdays to Fridays and half a day on Sundays. Hours/days could be negotiable for right applicant. Seeking a talented person able to ensure the efficient day to day running of the Cathedral office and support the Dean of the Cathedral. Applicants must have NZ residency or a valid NZ Work Permit. To view the full advert, position description and how to apply, please visit the Diocesan website [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz) Diocesan Services, Staff Vacancies.

**WORKING BEE!!**

Thanks to those who were able to help with the Working Bee.

### 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.

### 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](mailto:dans@cda.org.nz) and/or check out our socials search [aucklandcatholicchaplaincy.com](http://aucklandcatholicchaplaincy.com).

### 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](http://www.divinemercyconference2025.co.nz)  
Pat Barrett 03 359 2087 [omfo@divinemercy.co.nz](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz)

### DIVINE MERCY FEAST

**Sunday 27th April 5:30pm at St Benedict's Parish,**  
1 St Benedict's Street, Eden Terrace.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Blessing of Images, Benediction, Holy Mass, Veneration of St Faustina's relic. You are warmly invited to attend this Feast Day Celebration. Bring your Divine Mercy images & artefacts to be blessed.

Jesus told St Faustina "My Heart rejoices on this Feast Day".  
Free parking is available at Wilson Carpark, including free street parking on Sundays

### 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

<b>Monday</b>				
Reading	Isaiah	42: 1- 7	Ps.	27
Gospel	John	12: 1-11		
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Reading	Isaiah	49: 1- 6	Ps.	71
Gospel	John	13:21-33,36-38		
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Reading	Isaiah	50: 4- 9	Ps.	69
Gospel	Matthew	26:14-25		
<b>HOLY THURSDAY NO MORNING MASS ONLY 7PM MASS</b>				
1st Reading	Exodus	12: 1- 8,11-14	Ps.	116B
2nd Reading	I Corinthians	11:23-26		
Gospel	John	13: 1-15		
<b>GOOD FRIDAY NO MORNING MASS 3PM LITURGY</b>				
1st Reading	Isaiah	52:13,53;12	Ps.	31
2nd Reading	Hebrews	4:14-16:5; 7- 9		
Gospel	John	18: 1-19:42		
<b>EASTER VIGIL Mass 7.00pm</b>				
Readings and Psalms s selected (5)				
Gospel	Luke	24: 1-12		
<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>				
1st Reading	Acts	10:34,37-43	Ps.	
2nd Reading	Colossians	3: 1- 4		
Gospel	John	20: 1- 9		

### 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](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?List=PLYVDDAAh6gEBFpCzZxcTLhlpW_-gsxny4e)

**Join us for the 17th Annual Good Friday Stations of the Cross Procession through Auckland CBD** each year hundreds of people from across Auckland come together in a powerful public witness of faith. Gather at 9am at Albert Park Rotunda, procession concludes at 11am at St Patrick's Cathedral 18th April 2025.

**Invitation to join Bishop Steve on a special Jubilee Pilgrimage.**

**Te Ara o te Tūmanako-The Way of Hope-29 September to 19 October**  
Every 25 years the church proclaims a Holy Year, a special gift of grace and mercy for all God's people. The theme for Jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope". Bishop Steve embarking on a pilgrimage from Lyon to Rome as we celebrate Jubilee 2025. On the way you will meet pilgrims of the past, who were known as saints, but were once pilgrims of the past who have influenced our local and the universal church and who will inspire us in hope as we journey to the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica in Rome.

For more info. contact Harvest Journeys 0800 819 156 or [info@harvestjourneys.com](mailto:info@harvestjourneys.com)

**The Upper Room Wed. 7th May 6.30pm Good George Mission Bay.**  
Young adults, this is an awesome opportunity to grab a drink, chat to other young adults and dive into some relevant topics that don't usually feature in your Sunday Mass homily. Free bar snacks! FR Frank Bird is guest speaker. This event is for 18 years and over. Tickets: [https://events.humanitix.com/upper\\_room](https://events.humanitix.com/upper_room)

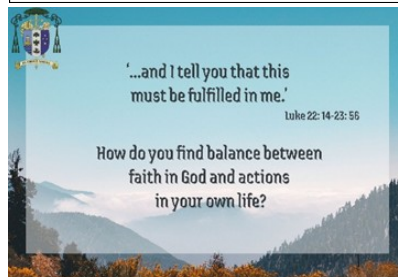
### HOU MANA WAI MERCY WELLSPRINGS

#### LET US REMEMBER SIMPSON'S DONKEY

Wed. 23 April 2 to 3.30 or 7.30 to 9pm Fe \$35.00 or KohaSat. 5.30pm  
**WEEKLY CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUPS**  
Mondays 7.30-8.15pm Thursdays 10.30-11.15am

All welcome, just turn up!

Contact Sr Cathryn Wiles-Pickard, 104 The Drive Epsom  
Phone 021 187 6986 Or [cathryn@mercywellsprings.org.nz](mailto:cathryn@mercywellsprings.org.nz)



'... and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me' Luke 22:14-23:56  
How do you find balance between faith in God and actions in your own life?

### CHURCH CLEANING

19 April Malia & Tofu O

26 April Lai Family

**ALTAR LINEN**

13 April Jan S-20 April Fleur B

### 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 will be on **Sunday 4th May** 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](mailto:dandcstory@gmail.com) / 0212993270

### PROLIFE FACTS

Recent court cases in the UK and Scotland have seen pro-lifers penalised by big fines for peacefully witnessing outside abortion clinics. To the surprise and discomfort of the British Government, American Vice-President J D Vance condemned the arrests and fines as attacks on the freedom of speech. In February this year in Glasgow, Rose Doherty, a 74 year old grandmother, was arrested inside an exclusion area for holding a sign saying "Here to talk, only if you want." Four officers took Rose away in handcuffs and she was charged with violating the Abortion Services Act. She is awaiting trial and could be fined up to £10,000 (pounds).

For more pro-life information, visit [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz).