

**01 MARCH 2026  
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

### REFLECTION

In the later part of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples that he must journey to Jerusalem to suffer and die and to rise again. He begins his journey towards his fate, but that journey is interrupted by this wondrous moment where he is revealed as the glorious Messiah, the beloved Son of God. In the language of this text, there are echoes of the Jewish expectation of the Messiah coming in glory at the end of time.

Through the appearance of Moses and Elijah in this scene, Matthew links Jesus intimately with Jewish expectation. The law, represented by Moses, established a covenant with the chosen people, and it was the role of the prophets, represented by Elijah, to constantly remind the people of their covenant obligations. Both the law and the prophets looked forward to God's final intervention in human history, and here, Jesus is presented as that intervention. The disciples want to capture this moment and freeze it in time by building shrines, but Jesus is adamant that the journey must continue to its final outcome, which will confirm God's action in human history. It is not until Christ has been raised that the truth of this vision will be known.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

This year at St Aidan's, 97 Onewa Road  
10am NEXT Friday 6 March, followed by a  
delicious morning tea.  
ALL WELCOME!

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Sun. 10.30am** Mary Rammers RIP (1st Anniv.)  
mother of Helen Smith. Helen's son Christophers'  
1st anniversary Mass was celebrated on Tuesday  
24 February. Also at **10.30am** Annie Rufino RIP 23  
Feb. and Dr Glenn Yazon RIP 24 Feb.

### DE PAUL HOUSE

needs on going help to support families and  
seniors in need, basics like Bedding/towels, new  
or nearly new single/double duvet inners,  
Sheets, pillows, beds, tables, chairs anything  
that turns a house into a home!  
Thank you St Mary's !

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
AND AN EVENING MASS EACH  
WEDNESDAY DURING LENT  
STATIONS 6.30PM & MASS 7.00PM  
COME AND JOIN US,  
ALL WELCOME!!**

### GIRL TIME!

We extend an invitation to all women for our  
"Girl Time" meeting, a group for friendship,  
laughter and inspiration. Join us for morning tea,  
as we explore topics that resonate with our lives  
and faith. A light lunch will be provided.  
10.15am TOMORROW Monday 2nd March  
in the Foley Centre. Optional extended session till  
2.00pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

### MIISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION TRAINING & FORMATION

We are running two training and  
formation sessions for Ministers of  
Holy Communion, all current ministers  
and those wishing to serve in this  
ministry must attend one of these  
sessions. Saturday 07th March at 2.30pm  
Or Thursday 12th March 6.00pm  
Both sessions will be held in the church.

### BISHOPS' LENTEN APPEAL

The beginning of Lent marks the start of  
the Bishops' Lenten Appeal, donations  
can be made to Caritas directly via direct  
credit or credit card through the Caritas  
Aotearoa New Zealand website  
<https://www.caritas.org.nz/ways-to-give>  
The Bank Account for Caritas Aotearoa  
New Zealand is 03-0518-0211216-000  
Please use "Lent" as the code and your  
first and last name as particulars.  
Free Post envelopes are available from  
church if you prefer to give that way.  
All funds received by 29 March will be  
processed as part of the 2025/26 tax  
year. Your generous support enables  
Caritas to help poor & marginalized  
communities around the world. Thank  
You!

### PALM SUNDAY & GOOD FRIDAY

Can you sing? If you would like to  
join our Mary Fitzwilliam Choir for  
the Palm Sunday and Good Friday  
liturgies, Please contact  
[music@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz](mailto:music@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz)  
Vai or Kirsten. They would love to meet  
you! Or come along to the first rehearsal  
after the 10.30am Mass next Sunday  
08th March.

### THURSDAY MORNING SCRIPTURE STUDY AND REFLECTION

continues this coming Thursday,  
19 February 10:15am to 11:15 am in the  
Foley Centre. Current series:  
"The Bible and the Sacraments"  
Contact: Parish Office (09) 480 7357 or Text/  
Call Rose 0225807851 for further info.

### CHILDREN'S FORMATION

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  
the faith. **The classes are a requirement  
for those children wishing to register for  
the Sacramental Programme later this  
year.** Classes are on a Sunday morning.  
Enq. [Childrensformation@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz](mailto:Childrensformation@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz)

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Are still in need of non perishable food  
items such as, pasta, tin fish and meat,  
sugar, tea, spreads for school lunches,  
biscuits, tin vegetables, long-life milk etc.  
You can also bring other necessities for  
homes i.e. Soap and Soap powder,  
washing-up liquid, toilet rolls, toothpaste,  
tooth brushes etc.  
The usual monthly cash collection, **THIS  
WEEKEND** will be taken up after all  
Masses. We will have an epost machine  
available this year. The money is used to  
buy fresh meat, vegetables and fruit for  
food parcels.  
Please give as generously as you can!

### THANK YOU TO OUR OUTGOING FINANCE COMMITTEE

We extend our sincere thanks to our  
outgoing Finance Committee for their  
time, dedication and expertise during  
their term. Your service has been greatly  
appreciated. We are now seeking  
parishioners interested in joining the  
newly forming Finance Committee. If  
you have skills in finance or a desire to  
support the parish in this way, please  
email your expression of interest to  
[parishpriest@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz](mailto:parishpriest@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz)

### NORTH SHORE DEANERY LENT RECONCILIATIONS

**RITE 11 all at 7pm**  
Mairangi Bay Tues. 17 March  
Orewa Wed. 18 March  
Takapuna Tues. 24 March  
Glenfield Wed. 25 March  
**Northcote Thurs. 26 March**

### BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

Next Course, and first for 2026 will be  
held on 10 & 11th March. It consists of  
Two 1 1/2 Hr. sessions, 7.30-9pm, and is  
held in the Foley Centre. This Course is  
mandatory for your first child prior to  
Baptism, can be completed prior to baby  
arriving. Reg. [office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz](mailto:office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz)

### DATES TO NOTE

Anointing Masses  
5.30pm Sat 14 March  
10.30am Sun 15 March  
Ministers of the Word formation  
Saturday 14th March 1.30pm  
Thursday 19th March 6.30pm

### ACTORS WANTED LAST CALL!

We are in need of actors for our Good  
Friday dramatization of the Gospel.  
Both male and female actors required  
must be 14 years or older. Please contact  
the parish office if you would like to  
Audition and find out the rehearsal times  
[office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz](mailto:office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz)

### THEOLOGY OF THE BODY & PRAYER RETREATS 2026

**NEW TOB** Called to Holiness 28 March  
**Love & Responsibility** starts 6 May  
**NEW TOB: Called to Holiness** 5 Sept.  
Suitable for ages 20 years plus  
To Register go to: [theologyofthebody.nz](http://theologyofthebody.nz)



### WEEKEND PILGRIMAGE RETREAT TO NORTHLAND, NZ

You are cordially invited to join  
a week-end Pilgrimage to the  
Hokianga in Northland Place:  
Tamatea Marae & St Mary's Catholic  
Church, Motuti, Hokianga Northland Date:  
14-15 March; Leaving Auckland at 6:00 am  
Saturday 14 March Registration: \$90 per  
person (for Marae accommodation, meals  
and refreshments) Transport: Participants'  
arrangement (car-pooling suggested)  
Contact: Text Rose 0225807851  
email: [northwestcurianz@gmail.com](mailto:northwestcurianz@gmail.com)

**ST MARY'S PANTRY - THANK YOU!**

Thank you to everyone who supported Mary's Pantry in 2025. Together, we distributed 360 fruit & veg bags, supporting over 85 families in our community. We have three fundraising events planned for 2026, along with plans to expand our Community Bags programme and launch our social supermarket. More details will follow soon.

Mary's Pantry is now also a registered charitable trust and if you would like to make a one-off or regular donation this can be done directly to the Mary's Pantry bank account 02-0200-0315568-000. To receive a tax receipt, please email your details and bank reference to [hello@maryspantry.org.nz](mailto:hello@maryspantry.org.nz)  
Thank you to all our volunteers, donors, and supporters for helping us live our parish motto:

*"Together we grow to reflect the face of Christ."*

**MASS FOR LIFE (AND ADORATION)**

Before the National March for Life, you are invited to attend Mass to pray for the protection of all pre-born children from conception and for the conversion and healing of all those who are wounded by, or participate in, abortion. Eucharistic Adoration follows Mass, Saturday 7 March 9am at Holy Family Catholic Church - 94 Taikata Rd, Te Atatu Peninsula.

**MARCH FOR LIFE**

Gather from 1pm at the bottom of Queen Street, March starts at 2.00pm up to Aotea Square. Did you know that New Zealand has one of the most extreme abortion laws in the world? YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! March for life together with thousands of others, and speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Visit [Marchforlife.nz](http://Marchforlife.nz)

**MISISON HUB**

Ephesians 4: The five gifts for building the church. Every member of the church has a role to play in building up the Body of Christ. This March, join us at Mission Hub where we reflect on Ephesians 4 and the five gifts Christ gives His people: Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd, and Teacher. Together, we'll explore how to recognize these gifts in ourselves, how they strengthen the church, and how we can respond with courage and faith. Monday 9th March, 7 to 8.30pm online via ZOOM Prayer, inspiring content, discussion, everyone invited to register here: <https://bit.ly/march9webinar>

**WEEK 2 : The TRANSFIGURATION**

God, we thank you for Your revelations in the sharing of our lives and Your Word. Help us to be attentive in the coming week to how You touch us and lead us. May we see You as You truly are in both spectacular and the down-to-earth.  
Amen.

**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, Keira, Max W, David P, Yvonne S, Andrew C, Lauren S, Fe T, Jamie S-W, Adam S, James F, Lu P, Caroline C, Connie B, John H, Emily D, Sebastian C, Lucia, Anselmo S, 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, Aesop N, Patricia W, Elizabeth S, M O'S, Jason P, Maria & Andre T, Chike E, Emily G, June B, John R, John S, Patricia Maunsell, Mary G, Cath S, Anne J.

**DAILY READINGS**

<b>Monday</b>	Reading Daniel	9: 4-10	Ps. 79
	Gospel Luke	6:36-38	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Reading Isaiah	1:10,16-20	Ps. 50
	Gospel Matthew	23: 1-12	
<b>Wednesday</b>	Reading Jeremiah	18:18-20	Ps. 31
	Gospel Matthew	20:17-28	
<b>Thursday</b>	Reading Jeremiah	17: 5-10	Ps. 1
	Gospel Luke	16:19-31	
<b>Friday</b>	Reading Genesis	37: 3- 4,12-13,17-28	Ps. 105
	Gospel Matthew	21:33-43,45-46	
<b>Saturday</b>	Reading Micah	7:14-15,18-20	Ps. 103
	Gospel Luke	15: 1- 3,11-32	
<b>Sunday 3rd Week of Lent</b>			
	1st Reading Exodus	17: 3- 7	Ps. 95
	2nd Reading Romans	5: 1- 2,5-8	
	Gospel John	4: 5-42	

**NOTICES FROM THE DIOCESE**

**Life Teen Aotearoa Leadership Convention 13/15 March @ Sacred Heart College** whether you are new to the ministry or looking for the best practices to continue in your ministry. Expect incredible keynote speakers Register now earlybird price available till 9 March.

<https://www.eventbookings.com/b/event/life-teen-aotearoa-leadership-convention>

**New Zealand Catholic Medical Association (NZCMA) Retreat and Seminar** The NZCMA provides community, support and chaplaincy for those involved in health care in Aotearoa. The Association welcomes doctors, nurses, midwives, carers, pharmacists, physiotherapists, psychologist, dentists, health administrators any anyone in allied roles. The next nationwide event is a retreat and seminar at St Francis Friary & Retreat Centre 20 & 21st March. More info. or to register visit <https://bit.ly/NZCMA2026> or email [newzealandcatholicmedical@gmail.com](mailto:newzealandcatholicmedical@gmail.com)

**Lent 2026 with Food for Faith** visit [www.foofforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foofforfaith.org.nz) and sign up to receive daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor. Prepared especially for those seeking greater maturity of faith.

**WYD 2027 Webinars** In preparation for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul Korea, Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College invites young people and everyone to grow in their faith, hope and missionary discipleship, with this year's webinar series, "Take Courage! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33) more info [www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinars-2026](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinars-2026)

**Lent Webinar Series - Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand Journey** Registrations have ow opened for the next Webinar Series involving our Catholic Bishops, for all dates: <https://link.caritas.org.nz/lentweb1regionong>  
**Teams Oceania Conference 20-22 March** Team members from around Oceania, including the Philippines & Timor Leste. For enquiries and registrations contact Jan & Tony on [teamsnaotearoa@gmail.com](mailto:teamsnaotearoa@gmail.com)

**WHY NOT BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN YOUR PARISH IN 2026?**

**URGENTLY NEEDED NOW**

**Car Parking attendants ( ALL Sunday & Special Masses)**

**Mass Coordinator for 10.30am Mass**

**Hospitality people**

**Contact the office on [office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz](mailto:office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz) and more**

**Details/training will be given!**

**CHURCH CLEANING** 28 Feb. Kimberley G - 07 March Nissa T

**ALTAR LINEN** 01 March Anne H - 08 March Prisca T

*"Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." Matthew 17: 1- 9*

*Are there situations where fear is keeping you from moving forward in faith?*

**YOUNG ADULTS GROUP 2026!**

We relaunch on 01st March after the 5.00pm Mass. Anyone between the ages of 18-35 is most welcome. Come along and meet other young adults in the parish for fellowship and to journey alongside one another in our Catholic faith. Enquires Email: [gnastrun88@gmail.com](mailto:gnastrun88@gmail.com)

**PROLIFE FACTS**

Mrs Margaret Tighe, long-serving President of The Right to Life Australia Inc., passed away on 15 February 2026, aged 94. Widely regarded as the most recognised leader of the pro-life movement in Australia's history, she dedicated more than six decades to defending the dignity and value of every human life. Margaret sacrificed her career as a pharmacist to serve the pro-life cause with courage, clarity, and conviction. Margaret continued contributing to the organisation right up until her passing. Her strategic brilliance, determination, and fearless advocacy made her a formidable defender of the inalienable right to life. We honour her extraordinary legacy and the example she leaves behind—a life poured out in service, perseverance, and love for the most vulnerable.

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