

**08 MARCH 2026
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

REFLECTION

This gospel should be read in conjunction with the first reading from Exodus, in which the people of Israel, liberated from slavery in Egypt, are left thirsting in the desert.

God provides them with water to sustain their journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land.

In the gospel, the thirst of the Samaritan woman is a much more profound thirst, and her openness to the living water offered by Jesus and her gradual journey to faith are at the heart of this text.

She moves from a superficial understanding that Jesus may be offering her a permanent supply of water to a deeper appreciation of Him as one who intimately understands the yearning of the human heart and offers her a way forward.

Not only does the woman come to faith but she is also instrumental in leading others to belief, using the classic words of invitation to discipleship in John's Gospel:

'Come and see a man ... I wonder if he is the Christ?'

- Do you sometimes have a superficial understanding of what Jesus offers? How can you continue to deepen your appreciation of Jesus?
- What 'thirst' characterises your life at the moment?

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 5.30pm Raymond Fernandes RIP, & Ngarie Kennedy RIP **Sun. 10.30am** Paul Davidson RIP (13th Anniv.), **5.00pm** Jamie L. Jose RIP (1st Anniv.)

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!.

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

EASTER EGGS

When Easter Egg Shopping please include one or two for the children at De Paul House, so that children, including those in their outreach programme can enjoy an Easter treat too! Eggs should be left at the church after weekend Masses or bring to the Parish Office **by Friday 27th March** so that De Paul House have time to get the Easter treats to the children in good time!

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION TRAINING & FORMATION

Last training & formation session for Ministers of Holy Communion, all current ministers and those wishing to serve in this ministry must attend a session.
Thursday 12 March 6.00pm 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 03-0518-0211216-03 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!

HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE

Palm Sunday 28/29 March
(Palms will be blessed and distributed at all Masses)

5.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass
8.30am Sunday Mass

10.30am Mass will start in the school quadrangle with the blessing of the Palms and procession into the church.

5.00pm Sunday Mass

Monday 30 March

9.15am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Tuesday 31st March

9.15am Mass St Mary's

7.00pm Chrism Mass St Patrick's & St Joseph's Cathedral

Wednesday 01st April

9.15am Mass

6.30pm Stations of the Cross
7.00pm Mass

Holy Thursday 02nd April

NO MORNING MASS

7.00pm Mass of the Last Supper Includes presentation of the Oils and washing of the feet. After Mass wait and watch with the Lord till 10.00pm

Good Friday 03rd April

10am Stations of the Cross
3.00pm Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday 04th April

9.00am Morning Prayer

7.30pm Great Easter Vigil Mass Includes Baptisms and full Initiation into the Catholic Church of 27 new Catholics.

Easter Sunday 05th

Mass 8.30am - 10.30am & 5.00pm

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

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

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

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 Vai or Kirsten. They would love to meet you! Or come along to the first rehearsal after the 10.30am Mass THIS Sunday 08th March.

THURSDAY MORNING SCRIPTURE STUDY AND REFLECTION

continues this coming Thursday, 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

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

ANOINTING

Anointing of the Sick will take place next weekend at the Vigil Mass, 5.30pm Saturday 14 March & at 10.30am Mass Sunday 15 March. If the person to be anointed is unable to go to Father, please let them be seated at the end of a row so that it is easy for father to approach them.

PARISH NEWS- LETTER

You can now subscribe to get a link to our weekly newsletters via email for updates on Parish and Diocesan activities.



We encourage you to scan the QR Code,

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
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."

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 12TH APRIL 5.30PM AT ST BENEDICTS CHURCH

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, Blessing of Images, Holy Mass and Veneration of St Faustina's Relic. All are warmly invited to attend this Feast Day Celebration. Divine Mercy images & artefacts will be blessed. Free parking is available at Wilsons Carpark, as well as free street parking on Sundays.

MISSION 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 3 : THE SAMARITAN WOMAN MEETS JESUS AT THE WELL

Lord, You bring across our paths encounters with all sorts of people. Help us to see the deeper meaning and significance of the people we meet. May we encounter You in the strangers we meet, and their stories. In our exchanges may we grow in understanding. May we allow Your Spirit to flow, to transform the wilderness parts of our lives that are barren and arid. In our dryness, bless us with the vision to see how we are called to bring life-giving water to others. 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

Monday			
Reading	II Kings	5: 1-15	Ps. 42
Gospel	Luke	4:246-30	
Tuesday			
Reading	Daniel	3:25,34-43	Ps. 25
Gospel	Matthew	18:21-35	
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. 51
Gospel	Luke	15: 1- 3,11-32	
Sunday 4th Week of Lent			
1st Reading	Samuel	16: 1, 6- 7,10-13	Ps. 23
2nd Reading	Ephesians	5: 8-14	
Gospel	John	9: 1-41	

NOTICES FROM THE DIOCESE

The Upper Room, Wednesday 08 March at Good George, Mission Bay

This is a night of formation and fellowship for young adults. Guest speaker James Bergin will be presenting on the topic of 'Digital Integrity', where we will delve into how one can be authentically Catholic in an artificial digital world. \$10 tickets register at <https://events.humanitix.com/the-upper-room-march-2026>

Liturgy Last stocks of Annual Resources now on sale at cost price. Order via <https://form.jotform.com/liturgycentre/annuals>

Lent 2026 with Food for Faith visit 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

Lent Webinar Series - Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand Journey

Registrations have now 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 teamsnztaotearoa@gmail.com

St Joseph's Church Parish Hall, Takapuna "You are Chosen": Life in the Spirit Seminar Sat. & sun. 14 & 15th March. Deepen your relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. Time for teaching, worship, prayer, fellowship and activities. Please register at bit.ly/ur-chosen All Welcome.

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 and more Details/training will be given!

CHURCH CLEANING 07 March Nissa T - 14 March Choy family
ALTAR LINEN 08 March Prisca T - 15 March Ninette C

"Will you give me a drink?" John 4: 5-15, 9-26,39-42

What would it look like for you to honestly say to Jesus, "I am thirsty"?

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP 2026!

Next Meeting 05th April 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

PROLIFE FACTS

Recently, National President of Voice for Life, Lydia Posthuma, recorded a podcast with Alex Penk, CEO of the Ethos Alliance to discuss freedom of conscience. Among the topics discussed was ACT MP Todd Stevenson's proposed changes to our assisted dying laws, which would expand eligibility for euthanasia. Limitations would also be placed on the conscience rights of health practitioners with regard to participating in euthanasia, and also affect those who work at care facilities such as hospice and rest homes. Although this is only a proposed bill at present, and not yet on Parliament's agenda, Alex recommends engaging with local MPs at this early stage to help them start thinking through the issues. See ethosalliance.nz for more information on the services Ethos Alliance can offer.

For pro-life info, visit www.voiceforlife.org.nz.