

**15th MARCH 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

REFLECTION

There are two main points of today's gospel: the blind man's journey towards faith and belief, and the contrast between the attitudes of the blind man and his interrogators.

Like the Samaritan woman at the well in last week's gospel, the blind man gradually moves from lack of faith to faith.

First the blind man refers to the one who effected his cure as 'the man called Jesus', then he proclaims him a prophet and a man from God, and finally he declares, 'Lord, I believe' and worships him.

This openness to the revelation of God acting in Jesus is contrasted with the 'blindness' of the Pharisees, who, though physically able to see, do not recognise Jesus. The blind man tellingly declares, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes and you don't know where he comes from!'

John's use of the term 'the Jews' indicates that this group is from the religious leadership, the very people who are trained in the Law and ways of God. They, of all people, should know what is from God!

- Are there still things that block your total belief?
- What are the signs of God's presence in your life?

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

Sun. 10.30am Amelia Macapinlac RIP (mother of Marie)

Please pray for: All those who are in need and finding life a challenge at this time.

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!!**

NURTURING OUR FAITH

Monthly Faith Formation opportunity to gather, reflect, nourish and strengthen our faith. This month's formation is an in depth reflection on Holy Week. Date Monday 23rd March, 7 to 8.30pm in the Foley Centre. Facilitator is Joyce Ng. To register please email. office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD
TRAINING & FORMATION**

Last training & formation session for Ministers of The Word, all current ministers and those wishing to serve in this ministry must attend a session. Thursday 19 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 parish hall with the blessing of the Palms and a procession around and 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

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!

**NORTH SHORE DEANERY
LENT RECONCILIATIONS**

RITE II 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 rehearsal after the 10.30am Mass THIS Sunday 15th March.

INVITATION!

You are cordially invited to Our Thursday Parish Scripture Reflection *"Evangelizing with Scripture"* Starts 19th March 10.15am to 11.30am Venue Foley Centre

**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 THIS 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 NEWSLETTER



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, above, and subscribe now!

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."

GIFT OF DREAMS

Saturday 28th March 10am to 2pm at the Orewa Catholic Church.

The Auckland Christian Meditation Community is hosting a presentation by Tay-Marie Yorston. Dreams tell our stories, they anchor and deepen our faith in seasons of transition, anxiety, stress, grief and loss. BYO lunch, bring a koha and a friend, no need to book.

More details on christianmeditationnz.org.nz/community-days-retreats

THE UPPER ROOM, WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH AT GOOD GEORGE MISSION BAY

The Upper Room 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 here [www.https://events.humanitix.com/the-upper-room-march-2026](https://events.humanitix.com/the-upper-room-march-2026)

PALM SUNDAY CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

Come and join in a beautiful family friendly witness to the sanctity of human life from conception. This Vigil closes out the 40 Days for Life prayer vigil. Sunday 29th March 7.30pm at Potter's Park, cnr of Dominion and Balmoral Roads. For more information contact Simon 021 400 729 or simon@fli.org.nz or at FLI.org.nz/prolifeevents

WEEK 4 : JESUS HEALS A MAN BLIND FROM BIRTH

Open our hearts, Lord, to our own blindness, that we may see Your life in others. Help us to set aside ourselves and our own prejudices, to hear the truth in others stories. 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	Isaiah	65:17-21	Ps.	30
	Gospel	John	4:43-54		
Tuesday St Patrick	1st Reading	Jeremiah	1: 4- 9	Ps.	117
	2nd Reading	Acts	13:46-49		
	Gospel	Luke	10: 1- 2,17-20		
Wednesday	Reading	Isaiah	49: 8-15	Ps.	145
	Gospel	John	5:17-30		
Thursday St Joseph, husband of Mary	1st Reading	II Samuel	7: 4- 5,12-14,16	Ps.	89
	2nd Reading	Romans	4:13,16-18,22		
	Gospel	Matthew	1:16,18-21,24		
Friday	Reading	Wisdom	2: 1,12-22	Ps.	34
	Gospel	John	7: 1- 2,10,25-30		
Saturday	Reading	Jeremiah	11:18-20	Ps.	7
	Gospel	John	7:40-52		
Sunday 5th Week of Lent	1st Reading	Ezekiel	37:12-14	Ps.	130
	2nd Reading	Romans	8: 8-11		
	Gospel	John	11: 1-45		

NOTICES FROM THE DIOCESE

Prayer Retreat for Women Prayer and the Interior Life, Friday 17th April 6pm to Sunday 19th April 3pm. Time for Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, Personal Prayer and Spiritual Direction. St Francis Retreat Centre, Hillsborough. Earlybird registration and more details www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz

Rise up and Shine Festival Taste the World, Celebrate the Culture 30th May. Starts at 10am with Thanksgiving Mass. Followed by Social Entertainment until 3pm. Music, Zumba, Food Stalls and Cultural show. Join us at the Migrant Chaplaincy Rise Up and Shine Festival, where every bite tells a story and every dance sparks joy. Venue Malaeola Community Centre, 16 Waokauri Place, Mangere.

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/lenweb1regionong>

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

Charis NZ Chevalier Cyril John will be leading a 1.5 day, hosted by Current of Grace Auckland at Christy he King Church, Owhiraka. 11/12th May. Training on Prophetic Intercession.

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 at office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz and more Details/training will be given!

CHURCH CLEANING 14 March Choy family - 21 Mar. Valdez family
ALTAR LINEN 15 March Ninette C - 22 Mar. Birgitte R

"one thing I do know, I was blind but now I see" John 9:1-41

Are three areas in your life where God might be inviting you to see differently?

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

550 New Zealand pharmacies are now registered to supply Early Medical Abortion (EMA) pills, and EMA accounts for about 70% of all abortions in New Zealand. Right to Life reports that 11,892 preborn children were aborted by EMA in 2024 using pills supplied through pharmacies. Pharmacists may conscientiously object to dispensing abortion medication, but they must inform patients of the closest provider of the medication. Support is available for conflicted Christian pharmacists. The New Zealand Catholic Medical Association offers community and chaplaincy for health professionals, including pharmacists (go to newzealandcatholicmedical.co.nz), and Ethos Alliance provides assistance for health professionals facing conscience-related pressures (go to ethosalliance.nz).

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