

29th MARCH 2026
PALM SUNDAY

REFLECTION

"Who is this?" the whole city asks as this man enters Jerusalem, the holy city.

A great crowd precedes Him, crying out "Hosanna to the Son of David." Could it be?

Could it really be the promised one has finally come to save His people?

But why does He ride on a beast of burden? If He is the Son of David, where is His mighty steed?

Who is this? The chief priests see none other than a false prophet, a rabble rouser, a rebel - "it is better for you that one man should die instead of the people, so that the whole nation may not perish" (John 11:50).

A Bag of thirty pieces of silver is a small price for national security. If Judas is so willing to hand Him over, then perhaps there is nothing more to this man from Nazareth.

After all, is Judas not one of the twelve?

Who is this that they should come after Him with clubs and swords?

A blasphemer who makes the high priest tear His garments? A failed revolutionary before a powerless governor?

A condemned man? A crucified man?

A dead man? It is only a centurion who recognises who He truly is.

A Roman centurion - to whom nothing had been promised, whose gods turn away from grisly events, who expects absolutely nothing from this man - is the one who declares who this is "Truly, this was the Son of God!"

It is only Jesus Christ, the God-man, who stays true to who He is throughout.

His people fail to recognise their King.

One of the Twelve loses faith and despairs.

The high priest rejects his long-awaited Messiah.

The governor barely holds onto power.

"All have sinned" - you and I have sinned, "and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23,

RSVCE). We find ourselves in the crowd confused by our sin. One moment, we cry, "Hosanna!" Next, we plead "Crucify Him!"

As we journey towards Calvary,

Christ passes by carrying His cross.

"Who do you say that He is?" (Matthew 16:15)

Extracts from the writings of Fr Aaron Salvan

JOSHUA 40-YEAR CELEBRATION WEEKEND!

All men are invited When : Fri pm 14 August to Sun midday 16 August Venue: Keswick Christian Camp, 5 Cooper Ave, Holden's Bay, Rotorua Keynote

Speaker: Robert Falzon, Leader of Australia's

menALIVE and Author of "Importance of a Present Dad" Cost: \$247pp including accommodation and meals To Register: Follow the link below **OR** Scan the QR Code **OR** contact Mike Lobo (021) 2809285 or

Greg Sullivan (021) 437747 Link: <https://menforchrist.wufoo.com/forms/joshua-40th-anniversary-celebration-rotorua>



BISHOPS' LENTEN APPEAL

The New Zealand Bishops are encouraging the Catholic community to prayerfully consider how they can contribute to the annual Lenten Appeal. The Appeal supports the work of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, which through its global network serves some of our world's most vulnerable and needy communities. The Bishops explain that acts of Christian Charity can change the lives of those who benefit from that charity, but also transform those who give with generosity - according to their own circumstances.

You can donate 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.

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

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

You are invited to join in the Divine Mercy Novena, after the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, venue is the Children's Room in the church.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
AND AN EVENING MASS EACH
WEDNESDAY 01st APRIL
STATIONS 6.30PM & MASS 7.00PM
COME AND JOIN US, ALL WELCOME!!

COMMISSIONING OF ALL MINISTER'S OF THE WORD AND MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Will be done over the second weekend of Easter the 11/12th April.

INVITATION!

You are cordially invited to
Our Thursday Parish Scripture Reflection
"Evangelizing with Scripture"
10.15am to 11.30am
Venue Foley Centre

CAN YOU HELP DE PAUL HOUSE?

Cold weather is fast approaching, and De Paul House needs your help to restock our warm bedding and towel banks. You will be helping homeless and low-income families and senior citizens stay warm this winter. De Paul House has had a huge increase in calls for help both with housing and support services. Please share the message with friends, family and work colleagues. Matthew 25:40 The King will reply *"Truly I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*
admin@depaulhouse.org.nz ph: 480 5959

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

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Kindly note, there is a letter from the Dicastery regarding the Good Friday collection for the Holy Land posted on the notice board in the church foyer.

FOOD BANK SHELVES ARE EMPTY!

De Paul House needs food and especially personal and household care products. Shampoo, soap, hand-wash, deodorant, dish wash, clothes wash, spray and wipe. Basics like crackers, biscuits, pasta sauce, tinned fish and meat, coconut milk and cream, jam, vegemite, milk powder, long life milk, milo. Every little contribution makes a difference. If you want to run a food drive, please contact Lesley Farmer lesley@depaulhouse.org.nz or call 480 5959

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."

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Falls on 17-24th May. Gather your people, join us and other Christian communities to the Ecumenical Day of Prayer for Christian Unity 7pm on Friday 29th May at St John's Presbyterian Church, 422 Mt Albert Road, Mt Roskill. Let us respond to Christ's prayer to the Father, "that they may all be one". It is our calling to be synodal, to 'reshape' our ways, to be Catholic.

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 information at www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinars-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. TODAY 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 6 : Lord, may we walk the journey to Jerusalem in whatever way we are called to do so. May the compassion of God find a home in us, the forgiveness of Christ transform us and heal us, and may the peace of the Spirit abide in us now and always. 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	42: 1- 7	Ps. 27
Gospel	John	12: 1-11	
Tuesday			
Reading	Isaiah	49: 1- 6	Ps. 71
Gospel	John	13:21-33,36-38	
Wednesday			
Reading	Isaiah	50: 4- 9	Ps. 69
Gospel	Matthew	26:14-25	
HOLY Thursday No Morning Mass, Mass at 7pm			
1st Reading	Exodus	12: 1- 8,11-14	Ps. 116B
2nd Reading	I Corinthians	11:23-26	
Gospel	John	13: 1-15	
GOOD Friday 3pm Liturgy			
1st Reading	Isaiah	52:13-053:12	Ps. 31
2nd Reading	Hebrews	4:14-16, 5: 7- 9	
Passion of The Lord to be dramatized			
HOLY Saturday			
A selection of five readings			
Gospel	Matthew	28: 1-10	Ps. 104
EASTER Sunday			
1st Reading	Acts	10:34,37-43	Ps. 118
2nd Reading	Colossians	3: 1- 4	
Gospel	John	20: 1- 9	

NOTICES FROM THE DIOCESE

Good Friday Stations of the Cross 9am-11am 03 April Gathering at Albert Park rotunda and concluding at St Patrick's Cathedral. Join us for the 18th Annual Stations of the Cross Procession through Auckland CBD this Good Friday! Experience a powerful and moving journey through the heart of the City as we walk together in prayer, remembering Christ's Passion. Each year, hundreds of people from across Auckland come together for public witness of faith. We invite you, your family, and your faith community to be part of this sacred tradition. More details go to Facebook page: @AKCYM.

Diocesan Youth Mass Last Sunday of each month 4.30pm February through November at St Patrick's Cathedral. For more info contact youthmin@cda.org.nz

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.

world" (John 16:33) more info www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinars-2026

Charis NZ Chevalier Cyril John will be leading a 1.5 day, hosted by Current of Grace Auckland at Christy he King Church, Owairaka. 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 on office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz and more Details/training will be given!

CHURCH CLEANING 28 Mar. Butler Family - 11 April Valdez family
ALTAR LINEN 29 Mar & 06 April Fleur B -



"What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you?" Matthew 26:14-27

What helps you remain faithful when you face temptation?

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

If you have experienced abortion, it takes courage to break the silence and take the first step toward healing. There is help, there is hope, and you don't have to face it alone. Reaching out can be the beginning of a new chapter in your life. SaveOne can help you and is now operating in New Zealand; it is a life-saving, life-changing ministry. SaveOne is dedicated to helping women and men recover mentally, emotionally, and spiritually after the choice of abortion. God wants to heal you, and through SaveOne's confidential small group study, we will help you navigate forward toward healing. Your grief is valid, and we will work through it with you. If you would like more information about SaveOne or to enquire confidentially about upcoming programmes, please contact Gina regarding programmes for women at gina@voiceforlife.org.nz or Graham at graham@voiceforlife.org.nz for men.