

26TH APRIL 2026
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!
HE IS RISEN!

REFLECTION.

This is the 4th Sunday of the Easter season, and every 4th Sunday of Easter we hear a passage from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of John, in which Jesus refers to Himself as a shepherd. Because of that, this Sunday is often known as Good Shepherd Sunday, Jesus Himself, of course, being the Good Shepherd. This is also the Sunday when vocations to the priesthood are emphasized and encouraged, the Latin word for shepherd is *pastor*, and to some extent all priests are shepherds, even if not, all of them have the title of pastor.

The image of a shepherd is probably an attractive one for most of us, just as sheep are probably attractive animals for most of us. Yet in Jesus' day being a shepherd was not an attractive profession, and shepherds were not necessarily attractive people. However, according to the familiar story in the Gospel of Luke shepherds were the first to learn of the birth of Jesus and they learned of it from angels no less! However, like all shepherds at that time in Palestine those shepherds were at the bottom of the social ladder, they spent most of their time outdoors and in rough shelters and were uneducated. Yet despite their lowly position in society, shepherds had serious responsibilities. A flock of sheep was a valuable commodity. In the Gospel that we heard, Jesus describes what a shepherd did, he brought the sheep out of the sheepfold where they were kept at certain times, usually at night. He knew the individual sheep well enough to have given each one of them names, and he called each one by name. He went ahead of the flock and the sheep followed. Jesus is not just the shepherd He is also the gate of the sheepfold:

"Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep ... whoever enters through Me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture." it seems strange that Jesus would compare Himself to a gate- or to a door, as some translations have it, but makes sense when He explains "whoever enters through me will be saved". As He says elsewhere, "I am the way the truth and the life." He is both the way and the gate and the way leads to eternal life, and gate opens up to it. The shepherd and the gate are images of Jesus, and the sheep are images of us, the strangers, the thieves and robbers are images of bad people, bad things, bad ideas that threaten the good people of the flock. We know well they are temptations to us many times over the course of the day, via internet and our wandering eyes and thoughts. The Pharisees, Jesus' antagonists, who were in the crowd He was speaking to, didn't understand.

But we know what Jesus is trying to tell us, and although we are an imperfect flock of sheep, we trust in Jesus, who will lead and protect us and guide us all the way on our long journey and through the gate to eternal life.

Extracts from the writings of Fr Boniface Ramsey

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Grateful thanks are expressed to our PPC members for their work over the past years. As some members are standing down now, I invite expressions of interest to anyone who feels they would like to minister in this area please email with details: office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz
God bless, Fr Lio

VOCATIONS SUNDAY

Today is Vocations Sunday, Bishop Steve Lowe asks us to support our seminarians studying towards their priestly vocations at Holy Cross Seminary. Your contribution will positively influence the future of the church here in Auckland.



Donate at
www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/donate
Please continue to pray for our seminarians.

MASS INTENTION

Tues. 9.15am Katherine Theng RIP
(7th Anniv.)

INVITATION!

Our Parish Thursday Scripture Reflection: Theme "*Evangelising with Scripture*" continues in the Foley Centre
Time : 10.15am to 11.30am

JOSHUA CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP - NORTH SHORE

Join us for an evening of fellowship and praise to Our Lord, as we learn how we can become closer to Him in our daily lives.
Topic: The Universal Call to Holiness.
Presenter: Dr John Evangelista, Director, Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College.
Wednesday 29th April, venue St Thomas More Church, time: 7pm
Fellowship 7.30pm - Praise and Worship followed by our presentation. All men warmly invited. Enq: Woo 021 0380196 or Dominic 0211003694

TAX RECEIPTS 2025-2026

For those on our Planned Giving Programme please email the office if you would like your receipt sent to you.
office@northcote.catholic.org.nz

THE INSTITUTION OF THE LAST SUPPER

With Fr Kevin Waldie sm Monday 18 May
7 to 8.30pm ZOOM
www.studyjoy.nz/2026/04/21/the-institution-of-the-last-supper/

MARY UNTIER OF KNOTS

With Beate Matthies Tuesday 26 May
7 to 8pm venue St John the Baptist Church, Mairangi Bay
www.studyjoy.nz/2026/03/08/mary-untier-of-knots

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

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

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME

Are you in our Planned Giving Programme? Would like to join? If so please contact the office for a personal number. office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz
If you join you can gain a tax rebate at the end of the tax year (April) of 1/3rd of your contributions, a way of saving, perhaps for a winter treat!!

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

Next Course, 2026 will be held on 12 & 13th May. 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

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

WE ARE STILL URGENTLY WANTING YOU TO BECOME INVOLVED IN YOUR PARISH NOW!!!

Hospitality people (AD HOC)
Car Parking attendants
(ALL Sunday & Special Masses)
Mass Coordinator for 10.30am Mass
Contact the office on
office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz
more Details/training will be given!

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!

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

Book/Study Course using Dr Edward Sri's Men, Woman and the Mystery of Love- based on St John Paul II's Love and Responsibility. This course is for young adults (18-35 years) single, dating, engaged and married. Wednesday evenings starting 6th May, Hillsborough, Auckland. More info. Visit theologyofthebody.nz

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.

ST MARY'S KNIGHTS (Junior Youth Group)

Calling all parents of children aged 8-12 years old!

We have a youth group called 'St Mary's Knights' which is run by senior students and graduates from Carmel, St Mary's and Rosmini College. We provide a safe environment where children can socialise, have fun and learn more about their faith. These nights are run every 4th Friday of the month from 6-8 pm in the Parish hall which is adjacent to the Church. Please tell your kids about it and see if they are interested in coming along! If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Frankie (Youth Leader) on 022 059 852 initially. Updates are provided on the youth Instagram page: @smy_northcote We look forward to seeing you there!

VACANCY - CATHOLIC DIOCESES OF AUCKLAND

Head of Pastoral Services We are seeking a committed, faith-filled leader to support the Bishops' pastoral mission and provide strategic leadership across diocesan ministries. — closes 30/4
www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz, Diocesan Services and staff vacancies.

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH REMUERA

Scripture Study by Dr Dan Stollenwerk. In the lead up to Pentecost Sunday, Dan will dive deep into the common themes that link Pentecost and the book of Exodus.
Wednesday mornings 6th, 13th, 20th, 27 May.
10.30am to 11.45am in the parish centre, followed by midday Mass - All Welcome

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	Acts	11: 1-18	Ps. 42
Gospel	John	10: 1-10	
Tuesday St Peter Chanel			
Reading	Acts	13:44-52	Ps. 96
Gospel	John	15:12-17	
Wednesday St Catherine of Siena			
Reading	Acts	12:24-13: 5	Ps. 67
Gospel	John	12:44-50	
Thursday			
Reading	Acts	13:13-25	Ps. 89
Gospel	John	13:16-20	
Friday			
Reading	Acts	13:26-33	Ps. 2
Gospel	John	14: 1- 6	
Saturday St Anthonasius			
Reading	Acts	13:44-52	Ps. 98
Gospel	John	14: 7-14	
Fifth Sunday of Easter			
1st Reading	Acts	6: 1- 7	Ps. 23
2nd Reading	1 Peter	2: 4- 9	
Gospel	John	14: 1-12	

NOTICES FROM THE DIOCESE

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

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.

Mass of the Neophytes Bishop Steve invites all those who were initiated into the Church at Easter, their families and friends to return to the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph for the Mass of Welcome on Sundt 24th May at 4.30pm. This is an opportunity to give thanks for the gift of faith and share with Bishop Steve in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Te Kupenga Catholic Leadership Institute Enrolment for Semester Two 2026 Wether you are starting or continuing your journey of faith. Study full-time or part-time enrolment for Bachelor of Theology & Diplomas open 28th April. More info go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/timetables

WYD 2027 WEBINARS

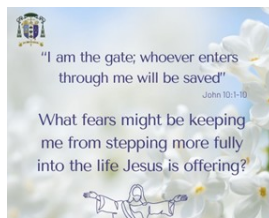
Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College will hold its second webinar on the WYD2027 Series titled "Courage: A call for young people to be bold and confident in their faith", with Bishop Michael Gielen as speaker. On Tuesday 05 May, 5to 6pm via Zoom. For more info and to register www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinars-2026

CALLING ALL AUCKLAND UNIVERSTIY STUDENTS!

There is a large, vibrant, Catholic student community in the Auckland CBD. Join us in 2026! To find out more please contact Daniel Story at dans@cda.org.nz and/or check out our socials search [aucklandcatholicchaplaincy](https://www.facebook.com/aucklandcatholicchaplaincy).

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP 2026!

Meeting NEXT Sunday 03rd May 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: gnasrun88@gmail.com



"I am the gate, whoever enters through me will be saved" John 10: 1-10

What fears might be keeping me from stepping more fully into the life Jesus is offering?



CHURCH CLEANING 02 May Kimberly G - 09 May Nissa T

ALTAR LINEN 26 April Prisca T 03 May Ninette C

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DUES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support with payment of Attendance Dues for preference students attending both primary and secondary Catholic Schools in the Auckland Diocese. www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools-2/

PROLIFE FACTS

Many Christians want to offer comfort to those nearing death but may feel unprepared for conversations about dying and grief. Hub of Hope NZ equips believers to bring the hope of Jesus to people at the end of life. *Journeying Alongside* is a nine-module online course that helps participants understand the emotional, spiritual, and relational realities of the dying process. Alongside theory, the course encourages deep personal reflection and prepares learners to support the terminally ill, their families, and their wider communities with a steady, hope-filled presence. Although *Journeying Alongside* has just begun, late-comers are warmly welcomed. More details at www.hubofhope.nz. For more pro-life information, visit www.voiceforlife.org.nz.