

19th APRIL 2026  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!  
HE IS RISEN!

REFLECTION

Is there any Gospel story more evocative than the one that we just heard from the Gospel of Luke, which tells us of Jesus' sudden appearance to two disciples on Easter Sunday itself, the very day of the resurrection, as they are on their way from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus? Jesus seems to come from nowhere and joins the two of them, walking along with them and conversing with them, and all the while they have no idea who this person is. When all three have arrived at their destination and are having supper, Jesus takes bread, blesses it, breaks it and gives it to them. All at once the two recognize Him, but instantly He vanishes from their sight. Then, as the Gospel recounts for us, they tell each other so beautifully and memorably, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"

With that they rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the others there what they have experienced, and the disciples there confirm that Jesus was indeed alive.

If we think about Jesus and His two disciples at supper in Emmaus this certainly alludes to the Eucharist itself. When the Gospel of Luke describes the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, it says very much the same thing as it does when it describes the supper at Emmaus:

"He took some bread, and, when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My Body ...'" Early in the history of the church, "breaking bread" became a metaphor for the Eucharist and the two disciples made use of the metaphor when they told the others back in Jerusalem that Jesus "was made known to them in the breaking of the bread" - in other words, in the Eucharist, where He is made known to us as well, if we are as open to His presence as His disciples were, whose hearts had been prepared by His explanation of the Scriptures, as they walked along together on the road to Emmaus.

The story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus is the story of a journey and a metaphor for our journey, during which Christ accompanies us unbeknown to us. Our journey is marked by doubt and confusion, as that of the two disciples, because that is how life is. We are good people. As those two disciples were, but, like them, we cannot arrive at the truth of things on our own, we cannot achieve completion or happiness on our own, we need someone else for that. When Jesus makes Himself known to us, however briefly, we catch a momentary glimpse of that truth and are struck by a sudden sense of that completion, of that happiness. But that glimpse and that sense do not remain long with us, but *HE* remains with us, and that is the meaning of the Eucharist that Jesus shared with His disciples at Emmaus just before He vanished from their sight.

Extracts from the writings of Fr Boniface Ramsey

POSTPONED!

NEW PARISHIONERS LUNCH

Due to insufficient response the lunch has been postponed. A new date will be scheduled soon.

Date to be advised—watch this space!

NURTURE OUR FAITH' 2026

Next Faith Nurturing monthly evening is on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 7-8.30pm, in the Foley Centre. This is an opportunity to reflect, nourish, and strengthen our Faith by delving deeper into the meaning of what we believe.

The topic that we will explore is 'Fit for Mission'.

New registrations, please email [office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz](mailto:office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz).

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](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/donate)

Please continue to pray for our seminarians.

MASS INTENTION

Sun. 10.30am Rey Modesh Calugcug RIP

Invitation!

You are cordially invited to our Parish Thursday Scripture Reflection: Theme "*Evangelising with Scripture*" continues: 23 April 2026 Time : 10.15am to 11.30am Venue: Foley Centre ALL WELCOME!

TAX RECEIPTS 2025-2026

For those on our Planned Giving Programme will be issued from week beginning Monday 20th April 2026

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 luncheon will be provided. 10:15 AM on Monday, April 20th, in the Foley Centre, next to the church. We look forward to seeing you there!

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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!

**ST MARY'S SENIOR YOUTH GROUP IS BACK FOR APRIL!**

Due to many requests, we are shifting youth gatherings to **3PM** to conclude with the summit of our faith - the **5PM youth Mass** on the third Sunday of every month. Youth Night **TODAY 19 April** - we will be having a Quiz night as we delve deeper into the Mass! All youth from school year levels 7 and up are welcome, so bring a friend and come along for fun, fellowship and to learn more about our faith!

**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! MEETING THIS WEEK 24TH APRIL**

**VACANCIES - 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

**Reshaping Facilitator** Seeking a mission - focused Reshaping Facilitator to support parishes on the reshaping journey. This role will equip parishes with resources, facilitation, and professional support. A 3 year fixed term role, full time or two part-time roles considered. Closed 24/4 For full job descriptions and applications go to [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz) under diocesan services and staff vacancies.

**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 Acts	6: 8-15	Ps. 119G
	Gospel John	6:22-29	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Reading Acts	7:51- 8: 1	Ps. 31
	Gospel John	6:30-35	
<b>Wednesday</b>	Reading Acts	8: 1- 8	Ps. 66
	Gospel John	6:35-40	
<b>Thursday</b>	Reading Acts	8:26-40	Ps. 66
	Gospel John	6:44-51	
<b>Friday</b>	Reading Acts	9: 1-20	Ps. 117
	Gospel John	6:52-59	
<b>Saturday Anzac Day</b>	1st Reading Wisdom	3: 1- 9	Ps. 116
	2nd Reading I Corinthians	1:18-25	
	Gospel John	12:23-28	
<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	1st Reading Acts	2:14.36-41	Ps. 23
	2nd Reading I Peter	2:20-25	
	Gospel John	10: 1-10	

**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

**The Graduate Choir NZ** FRANCISCUS—a special recital that commemorates the papacy of Pope Francis in song and Spirit. Tues. 21 April 7.30pm at St Michael's Church Remuera. Tickets from \$30-\$40 + booking fee <https://www.iticket.co.nz/events/2026/apr/franciscus>

**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.

**WYD 2027 WEBINARS**

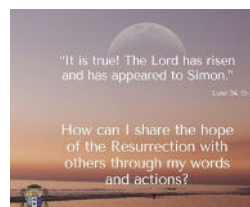
In preparation for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul Korea, Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College invites young people and everyone to grow in their faith, hope and missionary discipleship, with this year's webinar series, "Take Courage! I have overcome the world". (John 16:33) More information at [www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinars-2026](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webi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

**CALLING ALL AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY 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](mailto:dans@cda.org.nz) and/or check out our socials search [aucklandcatholicchaplains](https://www.facebook.com/aucklandcatholicchaplains).

**YOUNG ADULTS GROUP 2026!**

Next Meeting 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](mailto:gnasrun88@gmail.com)



*"It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Luke 24:13-35*

*How can I share the hope of the Resurrection with others through my words and actions?*

**CHURCH CLEANING** 25 April Upton Family - 02 May Kimberly G

**ALTAR LINEN** 19 April Anne H 26 April Prisca T

**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/](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools-2/)

**PROLIFE FACTS**

An experienced midwife, "Jane," says she was called to the bedside of a woman giving birth to a baby of 26 week's gestation, after a medical abortion attempt. The baby was born alive and breathing. According to Jane, the baby was not taken to NICU and took hours to die. Jane has now shared her account publicly on the Voice for Life website, showing the harsh reality of late-term abortion practices currently taking place within New Zealand. A baby born at 26 weeks gestation would typically survive with proper care, but Jane says she was not allowed to intervene. As a result of this harrowing experience, she ended her career as a midwife.

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