

**17TH MAY 2026  
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**



**REFLECTION**

We need the truth of the resurrection. Jesus eats with disciples after the resurrection. He walks about with them, the way He did before He died on the cross. One should doubt that naturally. We are possessed of reason and reason is good. One should hold His intellect above the potential deception of His senses. This is how we survive in a world of dark forests, desert mirages and demonic trickery. Jesus spends forty days with His disciples after His resurrection in order to give their minds time to assimilate what their senses are telling them. He makes them feel the reality of the resurrection, at every meal, in every shared conversation, and in the repeated promise Jesus makes of the gift of the Holy Spirit. The event of the resurrection is not over. In the Acts of the Apostles, Jesus says to those gathered for His Ascension, "You will receive the power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." This follows very closely on what Jesus has said about himself at the end of Matthew's Gospel: "All power in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." The power that Jesus has raised Jesus from the dead, the power by which the one who is true God and true man lives in perfect unity of divine spirit and human flesh, that same power belongs to those who believe in Christ, who receives the Holy Spirit, who, themselves, will rise from the dead when God speaks His last word. Doubt in the meantime, is met with work. We do the work of making Christ Jesus known as risen from the dead and the more we do this work, the more we feel His resurrection power, the grace of God, at work in us. Faith does more than receive a fact. Faith moves mountains and faith in the resurrection of Jesus carries the mountain of humanity upward, from its slumping acceptance of life and death in a fallen world into the celestial Church. Faith is a lifetime's work and the apostles of Jesus do this work over their lifetime. Matthew and Mark can confidently include notes about the disciples' doubt because those same disciples are at work decades later, proclaiming the Gospel, performing the works of mercy, and offering their bodies in living sacrifice, certain, without a doubt, that they will rise with Christ Jesus on the last day.

Extracts from the writings of Rev. Peter A Heasley S,Th.D

**WE ARE STILL URGENTLY WANTING YOU TO BECOME INVOLVED IN YOUR PARISH NOW!!!**  
*Hospitality people (AD HOC)*  
*Car Parking attendants*  
**( ALL Sunday & Special Masses)**  
*Projectionists for all Masses*  
**Contact the office on**  
[office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz](mailto:office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz)  
**more Details/training will be given!**

**NURTURE OUR FAITH' 2026**

Next Faith Nurturing monthly evening is on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 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 "Mary Mother of God". New registrations, please email [office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz](mailto:office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz).

**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

**TAX RECEIPTS 2025-2026**

For those on our Planned Giving Programme please email the office if you would like your receipt for the 2025 to 2026 tax period sent to you. [office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz](mailto:office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz)

**STUDY THEOLOGY AT UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO**

Otago offers many opportunities for the study of Theology, Biblical studies, Church History, Ministry, Pastoral Theology (including Chaplaincy) and Māori/Pacific approaches to Christian Theology. Either on campus or across Aotearoa New Zealand through our distance study programme. Semester 2 starts 13 July. For details of papers go to <https://www.otago.ac.nz/thrology/study/papers/> To enrol go to <https://www.otago.ac.nz/stry/enrolment/> To keep up-to-date like us on Facebook

**CAN YOU HELP DE PAUL HOUSE?**

You can get some good bargains at The Warehouse or Briscoes! De Paul House needs your help to restock their 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

**PENTECOST**

**WEEKEND OF 23/24TH MAY**

As you may know, we have a tradition here at St Mary's that for all of the Masses over the Pentecost weekend we offer our Prayers of intercession in different languages. We need 6 prayers for each Mass, so we need 24 volunteers!! As we are blessed with many different ethnicities this should be a simple task! Please email the office with your name, Mass time and the language you will pray in and we will send you a short prayer to translate.  
**Update on Prayers in Languages**  
**5.30pm only 1 –we need 5 or 6 more**  
**8.30am 4 -we need 2 or 3 more**  
**10.30am 7 well done!**  
**5pm 5 possibly one more**  
**Please give the Mass Coordinator your name email and language or contact the office on Monday.**  
**We need to be organized!!**  
We look forward to your emails [office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz](mailto:office@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!!

**INVITATION!**

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

**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)

**TAIZE PRAYER EVENING**

Friday 12th June  
Mary MacKillop Chapel, 56 Selwyn Avenue, Mission Bay 7 to 8pm  
Light refreshments will be served after prayer

**MASS INTENTION**

**Sat. 9.15am** Fred Bremford RIP (2nd Anniv.) husband of Erin

**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!

**JUBILEE YEAR OF ST FRANCIS (1226 –2026)**

Franciscan Friars Vocation Dinner. You are warmly invited to join the Franciscan Friars for an evening of prayer, fellowship and conversation, Wednesday 27th May 6pm (Mass and evening prayer followed by a shared meal) at the Franciscan Friary, Hillsborough Road, Mt Roskill. This gathering is a wonderful opportunity for single men aged 18 to 40 years to learn more about Franciscan Religious Life and to ask questions in a relaxed and welcoming environment. RSVP/Enquiries to Br. Philip Jeffares OFM 021 414 642 or Br Yornes Panggui OFM 022 525 993 or email: vocatons@franciscans.org.au

**THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

Falls this week 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 kids aged 8-12!*

*We have an exciting group for our younger youth called St Mary’s Knights which takes place every fourth Sunday of the month between 6-8 pm in the parish hall which is adjacent to the church. However during this month of May, St Mary’s Knights meeting will take place on the 5th Friday 29th of May, because of the Rosmini/Carmel Social on 22nd. This group allows children to learn and explore their faith and also make friends across schools in a safe environment. The group is lead by graduates or current senior students from Rosmini, Carmel and St Mary’s Colleges. Feel free to message youth leader Francesca on 022 059 0852 if you would like to receive monthly updates/reminders. Updates are also provided on the St Mary’s youth instagram page - @smy\_northcote - Save the date, see you there!*

**ROSARY BEADS FOR REPAIR**

Can be left in the container provided in the church foyer with your name/contact number. They will be collected and repaired by a kind parishioner FREE OF CHARGE. You can also place beyond repair blessed beads in the container, they can be used to repair other Rosaries.

**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	19: 1- 8	Ps. 68
Gospel	John	16:29-33	
<b>Tuesday</b>			
Reading	Acts	20:17-27	Ps. 68
Gospel	John	17: 1-11	
<b>Wednesday</b>			
Reading	Acts	20:28-38	Ps. 68
Gospel	John	17:11-19	
<b>Thursday</b>			
Reading	Acts	22:30:23: 6-11	Ps. 16
Gospel	John	17:20-26	
<b>Friday</b>			
Reading	Acts	25:13-21	Ps. 103
Gospel	John	21:15-19	
<b>Saturday</b>			
Reading	Acts	28:16-20,30-31	Ps. 11
Gospel	John	21:20-25	
<b>Pentecost</b>			
1st Reading	Acts	2: 1-11	Ps. 104
2nd Reading	I Corinthians	12: 3- 7,12-13	
Gospel	John	20:19-23	

**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 youthmin@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.

**Mission Hub** Accompanying others in Faith—Mission Hub will explore a practical and hope filled approach to accompanying others in faith, Carly Mulqueen will guide us through the “thresholds of conversation” - helping us to recognize where someone might be on their journey and how to enter into a meaningful, evangelizing conversations with sensitivity, courage and trust in the Holy Spirit. Monday 18 May 7 to 8.30pm Online - All are welcome, Register bit.ly/missionhubmay2026

**The Upper Room** Wed. 20 May 6.30pm Good George Mission Bay for young adults—James Bergin will sit with Frank Ritchie to explore his remarkable journey from serving as a Wesleyan Methodist Minister to entering the Catholic Church this Easter, they will reflect on the faith, discernment and courage required to surrender fully to God’s call. Be sure to grab your ticket early! For more info and tickets go to@AKCYM on Facebook or search for the –upper-room-may-2026 on Humanitix.

**Youth Day Launch** on 7th June at Holy Family Korean Parish, Flatbush. Begins with Mass at 2.30pm, Bishop Steve Lowe celebrant. Priests are welcome to join this Mass with their parishes’ Young Adult groups, there will be sessions and programmes after Mass.

**Billings Life NZ Seminar** a two day Natural Fertility Awareness seminar in Whanganui on June 19 & 20th. This event is designed for couples using or considering the Billings Ovulation Method, health professionals or others wanting to learn more about the method, and people interested in becoming accredited Billings teachers. More info and to register www.billingslife.org.nz/training-seminar

**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 years webinar series, “Take Courage! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33) 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.

*“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth”* John 14: 15-21

*How can I become more attentive to the presence of the Holy Spirit each day?*

**PRAY MASS**  
Sundays @ 2pm  
**SHINE TV**  
Free-to-air TV Channel 25  
SKY TV Channel 201

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**CHURCH CLEANING**  
23 May Choy Family  
30 May Valdez Family  
**ALTAR LINEN** 17 May Jan S  
24 May Fleur B

**PROLIFE FACTS**

Right to Life is an active pro-life organisation that has been defending the right to life from conception to natural death since 1975. It challenges unjust laws those that endanger the unborn, the elderly, the disabled, and others whose lives are vulnerable. The organisation monitors government health and justice agencies through complaints, submissions, and Official Information Act requests, escalating matters to the Ombudsman when required. It has taken abortion-related cases to the Supreme Court to ensure government accountability. Right to Life also holds media to account, issues regular releases, educates the public, and has led national campaigns opposing the End of Life Choice Act 2019 and the Abortion Legislation Act 2020. It supports women, joins vigils and marches, and collaborates widely to protect human life.

*For more pro-life information, visit www.voiceforlife.org.nz.*