

02 AUGUST 2026
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

REFLECTION

Can you recall a time in your life when you didn't feel like you had the energy to pick up the pieces? It might have been after losing a job or after a divorce. Perhaps it was after the death of a loved one, such as Jesus in today's Gospel having heard about the death of His cousin, John the Baptist. These are moments when we feel sapped. We don't know how we will move forward with our lives. The emotion of these moments can often cause us to feel imprisoned and confused. Perhaps this was how Jesus was feeling when He heard about the execution of John the Baptist. We are told that He left the crowd and withdrew to a deserted place. He wanted to be alone. He needed to grieve. He needed to nurse His sadness and pain, rather than take of the needy crowd. He didn't have the energy to pick up the pieces, and so withdrew.

When He arrived, however, the crowds had already gotten there before Him. Rather than run away from them, He engaged them. When it was late in the day, the apostles recommended that Jesus tell people to go to the neighboring towns to find food. But Jesus didn't want to send them away. So, He took what little they had, 5 loaves and 2 fish, and gave thanks. And then, He began to share what little they had. At the moment that it didn't seem like He had any more to give, Jesus prayed. He gave thanks for what little He had. And the miracle happened. The 5 loaves and the 2 fish, the small portion of food, multiplied. It was enough to feed 5000 men, not counting the women and children. Jesus attempted to get away from the crowd after the death of His cousin, John the Baptist, to pick up the shattered pieces in His life. He showed that, by praying, giving thanks, and sharing with others, what little we have is multiplied.

The sight where this miracle happened is in a place called Tabgha in Israel. There is a Benedictine Monastery there and a few Monks. They are surrounded by misunderstanding and the pain of Muslims, Christians and Jews. There are few places where Palestinians and Jewish Israelis mingle. Thus there is even more misunderstandings and division. The monks know that they have very little to offer that will bring peace to this troubled region. But the monks take what little they have, a few cabins they have on the Sea of Galilee, and offer them to Muslim, Christian and Jewish families who have handicapped children to enjoy a few days of relaxation in a beautiful place. Slowly these troubled families of different cultural and religious backgrounds interact with one another. Mutual understanding grows, empathy emerges, compassion multiplies. The miracle of the loaves and fishes that happened there so many centuries ago continues to bear witness.

In our offertory, we take up a few pieces of bread and a few drops of wine and present them to the Priest.

The Lord will transform them into HIS living presence, HIS body, HIS blood.

He will transform us into HIS Body. HE will give us the strength to pick up the shattered pieces of life around us and transform them.

Extracts from the writings of Fr Edward Linton



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 15TH AUGUST 2026
THE PATRONAL FEAST FOR AOTEAROA AND OUR PARISH FEAST DAY,
IS FAST APPROACHING - TIME TO CELEBRATE!!

Lead up: Wednesday 12th, Thursday 13th & Friday 14th August:

Usual 9.15am Masses followed by the Rosary, in addition on 12/13/14th August we will have the Rosary at 6.30pm followed by Mass at 7pm.

This year the Assumption has been "Sundayized" so all Sunday Masses, including Saturday Vigil at 5.30pm will be celebrated for the Assumption.

Saturday 9.15 Mass followed by the Rosary and Reconciliation as usual.

Saturday 5.00pm Rosary followed by Vigil Mass at 5.30pm.

After Vigil Mass you are invited to join us in the parish hall to CELEBRATE!!

For an evening of fellowship, entertainment and fun. Please bring a bring a plate of finger food to share, we will supply tea and coffee.

We know it's winter, but promise you a VERY WARM WELCOME!

On Sunday after all Masses 8.30am, 10.30am and 5.00pm we will have a FREE Sausage Sizzle!!

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 ph: 480 5959

ST VINCENT DE PAUL
MONTHLY CASH COLLECTION AFTER
ALL MASSES THIS WEEKEND.

We now have an eftpost machine available if you don't have cash. Please be as generous as you are able.

RETREAT DAY FOR WOMEN - DOMINICAN
SISTERS OF ST. CECILIA

Women of all ages are invited to join the Sisters, visiting from Sydney, for a Retreat Day centered on the Eucharist. Sun. 02 Aug. 12.30pm to 6pm at St Luke's, 260 Chapel Road, Flat Bush. Cost \$10 including afternoon tea. Please register at <https://events.humanitix.com/recreat-for-women>

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, etc. Basics like crackers, biscuits, pasta sauce, tinned fish & meat, coconut milk & cream, jam, vegemite, milk powder, long life milk. Every contribution makes a difference. If you want to run a food drive, please contact Lesley Farmer lesley@depaulhouse.org.nz or call 480 5959

MIHA MĀORI – MASS IN TE REO MĀORI
AT HĀTO PETERA CHAPEL, NORTHCOTE

After a brief pause in the monthly Mass schedule due to vandalism, please join us to celebrate Miha (Mass) to reclaim our sacred place for prayer and worship. We look forward to celebrating Miha again on Sat. 8th August at 5.00pm in Hāto Petera Chapel, College Rd, Northcote. Any questions email ManuelB@cda.org.nz

INVITATION!

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

ONGOING "NURTURING OUR FAITH"

Next monthly meeting is on 24th August, in the Foley Centre from 7 to 8.30pm. Delving deeper into what we believe!

FLOWER ROSTER

We are urgently needing new volunteers for our flower roster (flowers done on a Saturday morning). If you have a flare for flowers, training will be given, come and join our happy team! We have a monthly roster please contact the office office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz We have at least 4 places vacant!!!!



Order of Christian Initiation for Adults
A Journey of Faith
OCIA adopted for Unbaptised Children of 7-15 years begins soon.
To enrol for the 2026/2027 OCIA process please email the Parish Office
christianinitiation@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz
By 16th August 2026

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. Childrenformation@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz



ST MARY'S NORTHCOTE PARISH AUCKLAND

TO REGISTER,
PLEDGE FOR YOUR
PLANNED GIVING,
OR GET OUR
NEWSLETTER ONLINE
Please go to our Web site

Don't hesitate to
contact the office if you need help!
office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

IMPORTANT NOTICE - SCAM EMAILS BEWARE!

Recently the frequency of scam emails pertaining to be from Priests has increased enormously. Please check carefully the email address of any pertaining to be from a priest. It is better to phone the parish office (480 7357) or send an email direct to the parish office office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz before responding if there is any doubt.

SILENT AUCTION - ORIGINAL WATERCOLOURS - BY FR IVAN LUNJEVICH

Now closed. Details about proceeds and more news from Mary's Pantry next week WATCH THIS SPACE! hello@maryspantry.org.nz

ST MARY'S YOUTH FUNDRAISER COMING NEXT WEEK

For youth activities and WYD Korea next year! WATCH THIS SPACE

HUMAN PERSON IN THE TIME OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Pope Leo XIV's first Encyclical now available in NZ cost \$23.50

Online stjosephscentre.co.nz/products/magnifica-humanitas or instore

St Joseph's Centre Gift Shop, 253 Dairy Flat Highway, Albany 489 5613

DE PAUL HOUSE FUNDRAISER

Join us for an evening of connection and fun with our loyal team of supporters and friends. Fantastic prizes—raffles, silent and live auctions.

Friday 21st August 6.30pm, Rosmini Auditorium

Tickets \$110 per person (early bird \$100 till 7th August)

Email bookings: admin@depaulhouse.org.nz

Any support with donations, gift vouchers or products to support the fundraising raffles/auctions, greatly appreciated. More info contact Lesley or Jan on 480 5959

ST MARY'S YOUTH GROUP (AGES 13 TO 17 YEARS)

St Mary's welcomes youth aged 13-17 years to our youth group! Our youth Masses are every 3rd Sunday of the month at 5pm followed by our youth group session from 6 to 8pm in the parish hall. Come along for prayer, games and fellowship.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun. 8.30am Special Intention for Ting Sie Mee, recovery from Bone Marrow Transplant; **5.00pm** Gregory Moverley RIP & Ronan Walker RIP.

Wed. 9.15am Guacira Almelda de Magalhaes Pereira RIP (1st Anniv.)

Please pray : For the elderly and frail & 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, Emily D, Sebastian C, Lucia, Anselmo S, Victoria R, Huda AW, Hilda P, David K, Alice C, Najla, Petros A, Jocell D-V, Luca M, Maselino L, Ann C, Yvonne P, Helen McBride, Aesop N, Patricia W, Elizabeth S, M O'S, Jason P, Maria & Andre T, Emily G, June B, John R, Patricia M, Cath S, Anne J, Patrick C, Cath S, Mike L, Neil M

DAILY READINGS

Monday St Dominic

Reading Jeremiah 28: 1-17 Ps. 119H

Gospel Matthew 14:13-21

Tuesday St John Vianney

Reading Jeremiah 30: 1- ,12-15,18-22 Ps. 102

Gospel Matthew 14:22-36

Wednesday

Reading Jeremiah 31: 1- 7 Cantic of Jeremiah

Gospel Matthew 15:21-28

Thursday Transfiguration of the Lord

1st Reading Daniel 7: 8– 10,13-14 Ps. 97

2nd Reading II Peter 1:16-19

Gospel Matthew 17: 1- 9

Friday

Reading Nahum 2: 1- 3,3: 1- 3,6-7 Cantic of Deut.

Gospel Matthew 16:24-28

Saturday St Mary of the Cross

Reading Colossians 3:12-17 Ps. 32

Gospel Matthew 6:25-34

19TH WEEK ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading I Kings 19: 9,11-13 Ps. 85

2nd Reading Romans 9: 1- 5

Gospel Matthew 14:22-33

NOTICES FROM THE DIOCESE

Diocesan Vacancies: Otahuhu Parish Coordinator 20 hrs a week Tuesday

to Friday 9am to 2.30pm Full details and job description go to

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz –Diocesan Services, staff vacancies. ST ANNE'S,

MANUREWA `PART-TIME Parish Receptionist more details go to SEEK

https://nz.seek.com/job/92934322

Alpha in the Catholic Context A local series on why Alpha in our parish-es will help and how it will generate vibrancy. All welcome to attend.

19 Aug.7pm Where does Alpha fit in the life of the parish, 16 Sept. 7pm ow to take your Alpha from good to great. Register on [Training Zoom for Alpha in a catholic context-Fill out form](#) more info. Contact

Clare@alpha.org.nz or Deacon Fraser stephenf@cda.org.nz

Eucharistic Healing Service Joy Healing Ministry, based in Onewa, are holding a Eucharistic Healing Service on Sat. 08th August, 3 to 5pm at St John's Church, Centreway Rd, Orewa. Visiting priest Fr Frankie Mulgrew, from Salford Cathedral, Manchester, UK will be conducting the service assisted by Fr James Mulligan, which will include Reconciliation. The 5.30pm Vigil Mass will follow and then refreshments.

Auckland Inter-Faith Council AIFC Annual General Meeting. Thurs. 6 August 7.30pm in Ponsonby. Please let us know if you can attend.

If you would like to be an AIFC member and support our volunteer work with your membership fee please see more info. at <http://www.aucklandinterfaithcouncil.org.nz/membership/aifc-membership/>

Grammarphonics Charity Concert A spectacular evening of music on Thursday 6th August 6.30pm at St Michael's Catholic Church, Remuera. Spot prizes to be won on the night. Hosted by acclaimed Opera performer, James Loelu, the concert features outstanding Auckland Grammar student performers with exceptional talents, alongside internationally acclaimed tenor Edward Laurenson and multi-award-winning New Zealand country and soul artist, Tami Neilson. From breathtaking opera and uplifting choral music to contemporary favourites, this will be an unforgettable evening celebrating young talent and outstanding New Zealand performers.

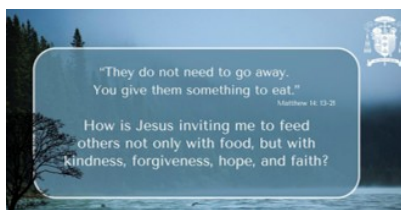
Tickets \$35, including light supper during the interval. Book on the

humanitix website: <http://events.humanitix.com/grammarphonics>

Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College is holding its 4th session for the WYD Seoul 2027 webinar series. "Witnessing: A Call for Young People to Evangelise" with the Auckland Diocese NET Team. Tuesday 1st Sept. 5-6pm ZOOM. www.tekupenga.ac.nz/uncategorized/online-webinars-2026/

JOHN PRIDMORE - INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC SPEAKER

In Auckland for a series of inspiring Parish Missions. For more than 30 years, John has travelled the world sharing his powerful story of conversion, hope and God's mercy, inspiring thousands to rediscover their faith. Each evening includes John's testimony, prayer and an opportunity to deepen your relationship with Christ through Eucharistic Adoration. St Joseph's, Takaupna Monday 17th to Wednesday 19th August sessions begin 7.00pm.



"They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat" Matt. 14:13-21

How is Jesus inviting me to feed others not only with food, but with kindness, forgiveness, hope and faith?



CHURCH CLEANING

08 Aug. Kimberley G

15 Aug. Nissa T

ALTAR LINEN

02 Aug. Ninette C

09 Aug. Birgitte R

PROLIFE FACTS

The ACTIV8 Pro-Life Week is open to people aged 18 and over who want to make a real difference in promoting a culture of life in New Zealand. Participants hear powerful testimonies, take time for personal reflection, join small-group discussions, and address prolife topics such as authentic activism, cultural influences, secular ethics, eugenics, abortion, euthanasia, disability, crisis-pregnancy care, post-abortion grief and leadership. Dates: 11:30am Mon 17 Aug – 2pm Fri 21 Aug Venue: Woodend Christian Camp, Canterbury. Registrations close: Sun 9 Aug 2026. Cost: \$399 per person, covering all meals, accommodation, and course materials. If cost is a barrier, local pro-life organisations or churches may be able to help with registration or travel support. To find out more or to register. **For pro-life info, visit w.voiceforlife.org.nz.**