

23 AUGUST 2026
21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

REFLECTION

In today's Gospel, Jesus places the keys of the kingdom on Peter's shoulders. Jesus calls to mind the trust and authority ancient kings had in the Master of the Palace when He says to Peter, "What you bound on earth will be bound in heaven. What you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven". Jesus entrusted Peter to build a kingdom on Earth - the Church known for faith, hope and love. Jesus gave Peter and the Church awesome authority. Jesus recognized that He relies on us, His Church, to open and close doors so as to draw others closer to Him. Jesus entrusted Peter to save His Church as an instrument of justice and forgiveness by loosening and binding. Jesus placed a burden on Peter, the keys to the kingdom, to give witness to the work of justice and the power of forgiveness.

"Who do people say that I am?" Jesus asked His apostles. People were saying all sorts of things about Jesus. But Jesus needed to know what His friends thought about Him.

"But you, who do you say that I am," He asked them? The apostles could have been forgiven if they believed what they heard others saying. They could have been forgiven if they believed what they heard in the news about Jesus - that He was merely one of the prophets.

But Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." When Peter said this Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Heavenly Father."

Despite what others were saying around him, Peter had embraced a new form of life. Despite what others were saying and what seemed possible, Peter believed that Jesus, the Christ, had come to save His people. Peter embraced a new form of life that did not rely on what others were saying and doing. This new form of life informed Peter despite misinformation all around him. Jesus put His own trust in Peter and the new form of life he had embraced. Jesus entrusted Peter to save His Church by placing the keys of the kingdom on his shoulders.

Jesus entrusts us, who have embraced this new form of life in Him, to keep on believing. We have large scale structural defects in our institutions. Government, Church given over to scandal. We, ourselves, even sometimes contribute to the defects by nursing hatred, ignoring injustices and the needs of others, or by simply gossiping and spreading rumours. In the midst of all this Jesus calls on us to keep believing in what we do not know from mere flesh and blood. Jesus calls us to save His church by holding fast to the new form of life we know through Him. Holding fast requires that we never stop calling for the best, never stop saving others, never stop calling for whatever is most hopeful to ourselves. This new form of life places an awesome burden on us to loosen and bind, to save our world by continuing to believe.

Extracts from the writings of Fr Edward Linton

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE LAST WEEKEND A SPECIAL PARISH CELEBRATION, ESPECIALLY ALL THOSE WHO ATTENDED ON SATURDAY EVENING AND THOSE WHO COOKED AND ENJOYED THE SAUSAGE SIZZLE AFTER ALL THE MASSES ON SUNDAY!

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

TE KUPENGA CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Is holding its 4th session for WYD SEOUL 2027 webinar series. Join us for this session, "Witnessing: A Call For Young People to Evangelise" with the Auckland NET Team. This will be on Tuesday 1st September 2026. 5.00pm to 6.00pm on ZOOM online platform. Register through www.tekupenga.ac.nz/uncategorized/online-webinars-2026/ Free discounts apply.

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, 07 September, in the Foley Centre, next to the church. We look forward to seeing you there!

YOUNG WOMEN'S RETREAT

The Little Sisters of the Poor invite all young women 14 to 30 yrs. To a day Retreat - Sat. 29th August 9am to 4.15pm 9, Tweed Street, Ponsonby. Time in prayer, Adoration and Holy Mass as well as getting to know the Sisters and learn about St Jeanne Jugan foundress of the order. Register at northcoteyouth@gmail.com

FLOWER ROSTER

Still looking for new volunteers to help with the church flowers! Training given. We work on a monthly roster. If you can help please contact the office office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

HOPE FOR THE WORLD

International Conference on Life, Faith & Family - Friday 25 to Sunday 27 September. In Christ we can restore a culture where every life is protected from conception to natural death and where marriage and family are again seen as truly good for healthy, flourishing, individuals and society.

To find out more and register go to <https://prolifeconference.org.nz/> the QR Code Enquiries to 021 400 72 simona@fli.org.nz  ence2026.org/ or use Simon Archer

"PHISHING" SCAM EMAILS

If you receive an email, supposedly from a priest, please check carefully prior to opening and, if in doubt, do not open or reply to but contact the parish office office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz Lots of scam emails going around BEWARE!

INVITATION

You are cordially invited to a Thursday evening Scripture Reflective Study Series *The Bible and The Sacraments* Start date to be advised when at least two people register. (Free sessions!) 6.30 to 7.30pm on the 4th Thursday of the month, venue Foley Centre at St Mary's Parish. Please register by emailing office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz or texting 'attending' to Rose on 022 580 7851

NURTURE OUR FAITH' 2026

Next Faith Nurturing monthly evening is THIS Monday 24 August, 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 "Do our professions of faith (both Apostles & Nicene Creeds) fully expound the Trinity." To register, please email office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz.

ON GOING REQUEST FOR FOOD/CARE PRODUCTS FOR DE PAUL HOUSE!

First a BIG Thank You to those who regularly bring something along every weekend - everything helps!

De Paul House needs an ongoing supply of 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

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 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

ST MARY'S WYD 2027 KRISPY KREME DOUGHNUT FUNDRAISER

World Youth Day is an international gathering of young Catholics from around the world to celebrate faith, build friendships and grow closer to Christ! Several young people from St Mary's Parish have the opportunity to represent our parish at WYD Korea 2027. To help make this pilgrimage possible, we're selling delicious *Krispy Kreme Doughnuts!* **pickup on Sunday 30th August, from the parish hall after all Masses. Grateful thanks to those who have supported this fundraising.**

CALLING ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGED 8-12 YEARS!

Our next *St Mary's Knights* gathering will be on Friday 28th August, and we would love to see you there from 6-8pm in the parish hall. This month we will be focusing on the Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary. Refreshments, Pizza, provided. Any queries or to be added to the monthly reminders messaging list, contact youth leader Frankie on 022 059 0852.

CALLING ALL BAKERS!

Mary's Pantry is holding a fundraising bake sale after Masses NEXT Weekend 29th & 30th August and are requesting donations of slices, cookies and cakes to be sold. Please bring your baking ready for sale to the parish hall before 5.30pm, 8.30am or 10.30am Masses. All proceeds will go towards providing fresh fruit and veggies to those in need in our community. For more information, contact Claire 022 371 0893

JOSHUA CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP, NORTH SHORE

Introduction to the New Testament - Part 2 Wednesday 26th August
Venue St Thomas More Church, Glenfield 7.00pm Fellowship & light meal
7.30pm Meeting begins with Prayer, Praise & Worship followed by the presentation. ALL MEN WELCOME!
Enq. Dominic 021 0265 1151 or Ted-Woo 021 048 7767

LONG TERM VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AUSTRALIA-PACIFIC REGION - THE CAGLIERO PROJECT, SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO

We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for departure in January 2027 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Mongolia.
Applications close October 31st, 2026. Send us an enquiry - www.cagliero.org.au or lhichaaba@salesians.org.au.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 5.30pm Cheeli Madhuri RIP (1st Anniv.) ; **Sun. 10.30am** Gracea & Carlos Franko RIP; **Tues. 9.15am** Naria Olival RIP

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, 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, Ray & Noelene O, Sue M, Celine S, Kathleen F, Dorothy & Francis

DAILY READINGS

Monday St Bartholomew				
Reading	Apocalypse	21: 9-14	Ps.	145
Gospel	John	1:45-51		
Tuesday				
Reading	II Thess.	2: 1- 3,14-17	Ps.	96
Gospel	Matthew	19:23-30		
Wednesday				
Reading	I Thess.	3: 6-10,16-18	Ps.	128
Gospel	Matthew	23:27-32		
Thursday St Monica				
Reading	I Corinthians	1: 1- 9	Ps.	145
Gospel	Matthew	24:42-51		
Friday St Augustine				
Reading	I Corinthians	1:17-25	Ps.	33
Gospel	Matthew	25: 1-13		
Saturday The Passion of St John the Baptist				
Reading	Jeremiah	1:17-19	Ps.	71
Gospel	Mark	6:17-29		
22nd SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME				
1st Reading	Jeremiah	20: 7- 9	Ps.	63
2nd Reading	Romans	12: 1- 2		
Gospel	Matthew	16:21-27		

NOTICES FROM THE DIOCESE

Alpha in the Catholic Context A local series on why Alpha in our parishes 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 how 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

Local Youth Ministers Wanted! The Catholic Diocese of Auckland is looking for self-motivated relationship-builders to become part-time local Youth Ministers, working in a secondary school and/or parish. This is a unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people! To learn more and to apply, please visit: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/
Administration Assistant Wanted! Marriage & Family Life Ministry is looking for a highly capable Admin. Assistant to contribute to a ministry that supports marriage & family life. Someone who combines excellent admin. Skills with a genuine pastoral sensitivity and a commitment to serving others. Part-time role of 16 hours, working Mon, Tues, Wed. & Fri. 10.00am to 2pm (some evening and weekend work) at the Pompallier Centre. For full details and to apply visit: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/ Closing date 4 September.

Part-Time Catholic Chaplain for Auckland Regional Forensic Psychiatry Services We Are seeking and experienced or suitably qualified Catholic Chaplain to join the Chaplaincy team at the Mason Clinic, working 20 hours per week. The role involves providing spiritual, emotional and pastoral support to patients, families and staff, and working as part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team. The applicant will be able to support people from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds and work in a manner consistent with the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Job description and applications go to www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/ Applications close 28 August.

G.I.F.T. Special Needs Ministry "Saints and Angels DINNER DISCO Saturday 29th August 6 to 9pm at the Pompallier Centre. Everyone most welcome.
Season of Creation 2026 Christians around the world unite in prayer and action to celebrate Season of Creation. From 1st September (World Day of Prayer of Creation to 04th October, (Feast of St Francis of Assisi) we are invited to renew our relationship with God as Creator. For resources to celebrate visit www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/season-of-creation/

Growing Together in Christian Unity The Auckland Diocese Ecumenical section invites you to join evening formation sessions via ZOOM to learn about Ecumenism and the Church's call to Christian Unity. These sessions will explore and reflect on the Decree on Ecumenism (Unitatis Redintegratio). Wednesday evenings, fortnightly from 26 August 7 to 8pm on Zoom email louisar@cda.org.nz to register interest and the Zoom link will be sent to you. "that they may be one" (John 17:21)

Please pray for Sr Lilia, aunt of Fr Lio who returned home to God earlier this week - May She Rest in Peace



"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven" Matthew 16:13-20
How can I help open doors of faith, hope and love for those around me?

CHURCH CLEANING
29 Aug Butler Family
05 Sept. Valdez Family
ALTAR LINEN
23 Aug Jan S
30 Aug Eresha D

PROLIFE FACTS

The My Buddy campaign highlights a reality many New Zealand families carry quietly. Since 1974, more than 600,000 unborn children have been lost, leaving mums and dads missing a "little buddy" they will never see grow up. Grandparents feel that absence too. The campaign honours the stories of parents, mainly dads, speaking simply and openly about the "little buddy" they have lost. One father noted that "Having an abortion was a huge part of our emotional life, and having children did not resolve what had happened." Another father's message spoke of finding healing through seeking help: "The abortion created so much turmoil in my life that I couldn't believe. But through getting help I have managed to find peace and healing." Visit myvoice.nz to share stories or connect with support.
For pro-life info, visit voiceforlife.org.nz.