

**30th AUGUST 2026
22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

REFLECTION

The Christian way of life is not about having it all figured out. The Christian way of life is about being on a journey with Jesus and not knowing where we are going. The Christian way of life is about wrestling with God who wants us to be on this journey with Him.

Only last week we heard Jesus give the same kind of authority to Peter that was given to the Master of the Palace. What the Master of the Palace closed, no one - not even the king - was to open. What the Master of the Palace opened no one - not even the king - was to close.

The keys of the kingdom were given to Peter by Jesus. Jesus gave him the name 'Peter' because he was such a reliable rock upon which the church was to be built. Jesus placed such authority on him because Peter stated that Jesus, was "the Son of God".

But in today's Gospel Peter rebukes Jesus. Jesus says that He the Son of God, must suffer and die. When He says this, Peter rebukes Him "That will never happen," Peter says. Peter thought that the authority Jesus gave him caused him to know it all. Peter shows that he really did not fully understand what he was saying about Jesus as the Messiah. Peter did not fully understand what it meant to be a disciple of Jesus. To follow Jesus means that we don't have it all figured out. We don't know it all. We often don't know where we are going. Peter thought he knew, though.

He still thought Jesus was a worldly Messiah. One who would, perhaps, throw the Romans out of Israel or at last get rid of the Scribes and Pharisees. Peter reminds us that we really never have it all figured out. In fact, if we think we have it all figured out, we risk letting our ego cause us to get it all wrong much like Peter. The Christian life is not so much about knowing as not knowing. It is about not knowing because we never completely possess what God is all about. The Christian life is about not knowing because we never completely know what God is going to ask of us or where God will take us. Married life is much the same. You probably did not marry the person you thought you were marrying! Often, not knowing turns out to be the biggest surprise! Especially when things don't turn out the way we expected, we know that God is on the journey with us. The Christian life is not about knowing! It's about loving. It is about persevering.

Sometimes, the more we think we know, the less likely we are to rely on God. When we realise that we don't know, we are more inclined to rely on God to help us figure things out.

The good news is that the Christian way of life is not about having it all figured out.

The Christian way of life is about being on a journey with Jesus and not knowing where we are going. The Christian way of life is about relying on God to help in our not knowing and to keep us from straying too far from the right path.

Extracts from the writings of Fr Edward Linton

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2026/7

The programme will start again on the 1st November 2026. Parents are asked to book for an interview before the classes start. Interview times will be available from 17th September. Please phone (480 7357) or email the parish office office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz as soon as possible to make an appointment time. There will also be compulsory parent-only sessions before each of the classes begin. The dates will be shared with the parents during the interview. The cost of the programme is \$50, this covers the cost of the resources, the books, and the party. We will also need to sight the children's baptismal certificates, please have them, and your donation available for the interview or the parent-only sessions in October.

TIMETABLE FOR NEXT WEEK

Mon. 31/8 LITURGY OF THE WORD (LOW)
with Holy Communion

Tues. 01/9 Mass

Wed. 02/0 LOW with Holy Communion

Thurs. 03/9 Mass

Friday and Saturday LOW with Holy Communion NO Reconciliations.

All Day Adoration with Benediction at 4pm as usual.

Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses as usual.

The above schedule is due to the fact that both Fr Lio and Fr Lalith are away next week.

MARY'S PANTRY AGM

Thanks to your support, we raised over \$5,600 from the Midwinter Event with \$1,050 from the sale of Fr Ivan's paintings. The generosity of our volunteers, donors and supporters has enabled Mary's Pantry to support 138 families and distribute 345 food bags during our first year as a registered charity. You are invited to our AGM to hear about the impact of your support and what's next for Mary's Pantry.

Sun. 13 Sept. 2-4pm

St Mary's Parish Hall

RSVP by 9 September for catering purposes.



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!

ST FRANCIS RETREAT CENTRE

Time Out Day - for those who seek to take a day off Tuesday 15 September. Cost \$35, includes lunch, prayer times, meditation and reflection from 9.30am to 2.30pm

**ST MARY'S COLLEGE AUCKLAND
PAST PUPILS**

High Afternoon Tea for scholarship Fund, \$60 2pm Sun. 20 Sept. To register contact Pat 021 622 044 or (09) 846 0230

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. register by emailing office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz or texting 'attending' to Rose on 022 580 7851

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 28th September, in the Foley Centre from 7 to 8.30pm. Delving deeper into what we believe!

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

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, 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

WYD 2027 FUNDRAISER

Krispy Kreme Donuts collection deferred to next Sunday 06 September! We will also have some extras for sale!

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP (AGES 18 TO 35 YEARS)

This group meets every 1st Sunday of the month after the 5.00pm Mass in the Foley Centre. Come along and meet other young adults in the parish for fellowship and to journey alongside one another in our Catholic faith.

Meeting NEXT **Sunday 06 September**. Enquires email: gnasrun88@gmail.com

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 hichaaba@salesians.org.au.

MARY'S PANTRY FUNDRAISER - BAKE SALE!

After Vigil (5.30pm Sat.) and Sunday 8.30 and 10.30am THIS WEEKEND 29th & 30th August. Any donations of slices, cookies & cakes to be sold please deliver to the parish hall prior to Mass. All proceeds will go towards providing fresh fruit and veggies to those in need in our community.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

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.

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://fli.org.nz/prolifeconference2026/> or use the QR Code

Enquiries to Simon Archer
simona@fli.org.nz



021 400 72

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				
Reading	I Corinthians	2: 1- 5	Ps.	119H
Gospel	Luke	4:16-30		
Tuesday				
Reading	I Corinthians	2:10-16	Ps.	145
Gospel	Luke	4:31-37		
Wednesday				
Reading	I Corinthians	3: 1- 9	Ps.	33
Gospel	Luke	4:38-44		
Thursday St Gregory the Great				
Reading	I Corinthians	3:18-23	Ps.	24
Gospel	Luke	5: 1-11		
Friday				
Reading	I Corinthians	4: 1- 5	Ps.	37
Gospel	Luke	5:33-39		
Saturday				
Reading	I Corinthians	4: 6-15	Ps.	145
Gospel	Luke	6: 1- 5		
23rd SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME				
1st Reading	Ezekiel	33: 7- 9	Ps.	95
2nd Reading	Romans	13: 8-10		
Gospel	Matthew	18:15-20		

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.

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)

Marriage & Family Life Invite and welcome all whanau with babies and children 0-5 years to a newly established monthly *Catholic Coffee Group* next meeting is NEXT Saturday 05 Sept. 11am to 1'2noon at Sacred Heart Church Hall, 16 Vermont St, Ponsonby. Come and meet other likeminded families where God resides. Lots of parking! For more info. Contact Gerry 021 0224 7442.

Scripture Study at St Michael's Apologetics: Arguments for the existence of God. Dr Dan Stollenwerk is presenting four talks on Tuesdays 8,15,22,29 September 10.30 to 11.45am. No registration required, just join us in the parish centre 6 Beatrice Rd. Remuera.

An Evening with St Pier Giorgio Frassati patron saint for Youth, Young Adults, Students, Mountaineers & Athletes. Guest Speaker Fr Dominic Murphy OP on 9th September 6.30 to 8.30pm at St Michael's Catholic Church Remuera. Register email: samuelb@cda.org.nz

"You are a stumbling block to me"

Matthew 16: 21-27

When someone challenges me, am I willing to listen, even when it is difficult?

PRAY MASS

Sundays @ 2pm

SHINE TV

Free-to-air TV Channel 25

SKY TV Channel 201

"You are a stumbling block to me"

Matthew 16:21-27

When someone challenges me, am I willing to listen, even when it is difficult?

CHURCH CLEANING

05 Sept. Valdez Family

12 Sept. Hoa N

ALTAR LINEN

30 Aug Eresha D

06 Sept. Anne H

PROLIFE FACTS

New Zealand's annual National March for Life returns to Auckland on Saturday 3 April 2027.

Participants will gather from 1 p.m. at Te Komititanga Square before marching up Queen Street from 2 p.m. More than half a million pre-born children have lost their lives to abortion in New Zealand, and many women and men carry deep emotional wounds of abortion. Across the country, pro-life people are responding with practical support, compassionate care, and a commitment to walking alongside families in need. Since 2017, thousands of pro-life New Zealanders have also taken part in the March for Life, to be a voice for the most vulnerable, and affirm the belief that every human life deserves protection. The day is positive, family friendly, and filled with music, inspiring speakers, and a strong sense of community. For more information: marchforlife.nz **For pro-life info, visit voiceforlife.org.nz.**