

16 AUGUST 2026
ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

REFLECTION

Today's celebration is one of the four great Solemnities by which our Blessed Mother is honoured. No other person, other than our Lord, is honoured and celebrated with as much solemnity as the Mother of God. The Solemnity of the Assumption honours the fact that when the Blessed Virgin Mary completed her life on earth, she was taken body and soul into heaven to be with her resurrected Son so as to adore the Most Holy Trinity forever.

The dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been observed and believed by the faithful from the earliest times of our church. However it wasn't till November 1st 1950, that Pope Pius XII solemnly claimed it to be so, raising this teaching of our faith to the level of Dogma, meaning it must be held and believed by all.

Why does the Church give us this feast of the Assumption of Mary?

Why does the church teach us that, Mary was taken body and soul up to heaven?

This teaching is meant for us. It is meant to remind us that our bodies are engaged in the mystery of Christ. It is meant to remind us that it is no mere accident that we inhabit the body that we inhabit! It is meant to remind us that in and through our bodies, we make Christ present in the world.

In the scriptures today, bodies are front and centre. God's salvation is front and centre.

In the first reading a woman wails as she is about to give birth and a dragon waits to devour the infant as soon as it is born.

But the heavens snatch the body before the dragon can devour it. The mother flees to a safe place prepared for her by God.

Mary goes in haste to the hill country to visit Elizabeth who is pregnant. As soon as Elizabeth sets eyes on Mary, the child in her womb leapt for joy. Mary then speaks of God who works in a very physical, real way, as God uses the strength of His arm to scatter, to cast down, to lift up and to feed.

Mary's body was created to give birth to Christ. And our bodies are created to give birth to Christ through our actions. Without us, as St Thresa of Avila observed, Christ has no feet, He has no hands, He has no heart.

Our bodies are the body of Christ! In our bodies, Christ lives in the world. Christ feeds the world. Christ saves the world.

Our faith is not something intangible, something untouchable. Our faith is not something set apart from our regular life.

The feast reminds us that our bodies play an important role in God's plan for salvation.

Extracts from the writings of Fr Edward Linton & Catholic Daily Reflections.

RESTORED ROSARIES

We still have several restored rosaries ready for collection from the parish office. If one is yours please collect it from the parish office.



**HAPPY FEAST DAY -
 TIME TO CELEBRATE!!
 FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE
 AFTER ALL SUNDAY
 MASSES THIS WEEK**

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
 021 400 72
simona@fli.org.nz



Simon Archer

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

FLOWER ROSTER

We are urgently needing new volunteers for our flower roster. If you have a flare for and would like to help with 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!!!!

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

**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

NURTURE OUR FAITH' 2026

Next Faith Nurturing monthly evening is 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 "Catholic Sacraments - Encounters with the Divine".

To register, please email office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz.

"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!

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

**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.



**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
THIS WEEKEND!

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

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! Final orders & payment by Thursday 20th August, pickup on Sunday 30th August, from the parish hall after all Masses.** We are selling in boxes of 6 or 12 original glazed and assorted. Please fill in our google order form



[St Mary's Youth WYD Korea Donut Fundraiser](#) or via the QR Code to support our youth. Any queries northcoteyouth@gmail.com

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

St Mary's welcomes youth aged 13-17 years to our youth group! Our next Mass is TODAY 5pm followed by our youth group session from 6 to 8pm in the parish hall. Come along for prayer, games and fellowship.

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 14th August)

Email bookings: admin@depaulhouse.org.nz Any support with donations, gift vouchers or products to support the fundraising raffles/auctions, your support will help us to continue wrap-around care for families and seniors.

More info contact Lesley or Jan on 480 5959

CALLING ALL BAKERS!

Mary's Pantry is holding a fundraising bake sale after Masses on the 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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 5.30pm Aldrin & Florence Allwyn- Thanksgiving (Wedding Anniv.) And Maria Krupska celebrating her Birthday; Iris van Rooy RIP (14th Anniv)
Sun. 8.30am Thanksgiving Peñano Family; **10.30am** Thanksgiving Lilibeth Parades, for speedy recovery of Teresita Tiongson and Monica Co, RIP Luis Tiongson, Liwayway Parades, & Felisina De Vega.

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

DAILY READINGS

Monday			
Reading	Ezekiel	24:15-24	Cant. Deut.
Gospel	Matthew	19:16-22	
Tuesday			
Reading	Ezekiel	28: 1-10	Cant. Deut.
Gospel	Matthew	19:23-30	
Wednesday			
Reading	Ezekiel	34: 1-11	Ps. 23
Gospel	Matthew	20: 1-16	
Thursday St Bernard			
Reading	Ezekiel	36:23-28	Ps. 51
Gospel	Matthew	22: 1-14	
Friday St Pius X			
Reading	Ezekiel	37: 1-14	Ps. 106
Gospel	Matthew	22:34-40	
Saturday The Queenship of Mary			
Reading	Ezekiel	43: 1- 7	Ps. 85
Gospel	Matthew	23: 1-12	
21st SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME			
1st Reading	Isaiah	22:19-23	Ps. 138
2nd Reading	Romans	11:33-36	
Gospel	Matthew	16:13-20	

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

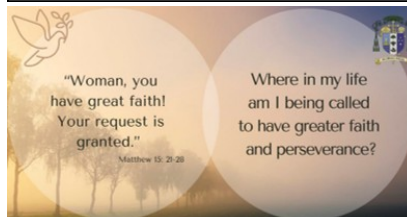
Local Youth Ministers Wanted! The Catholic Diocese of Auckland is looking for self-motivated relationship-builders to become part-time local Youth Ministers, working in a secondary school and/or parish. This is a unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people! To learn more and 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.

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/

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, Takapuna Mon. 17th to Wed. 19th Aug. sessions begin 7.00pm.



"Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." Matthew 15:21-28

Where in my life am I being called to have greater faith and perseverance?

CHURCH CLEANING

22 Aug Choy Family
29 Aug Butler Family
ALTAR LINEN
16 Aug Fleur B
23 Aug Jan S

PROLIFE FACTS

Christian churches both in New Zealand and internationally continue to emphasise respect for human life. The Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, in Life is Always a Good (2025), calls every diocese to strengthen pro-life pastoral care and highlights concerns such as abortion, contraception, IVF, euthanasia, and trafficking. The Lutheran Church of New Zealand affirms life from conception and supports practical care for mothers and babies. The Church of England's Ethics Advisory Group warns assisted-suicide laws endanger vulnerable people. Evangelical leaders, including the Southern Baptist ERLC, oppose abortion and euthanasia and support adoption and care for mothers.

For pro-life info, visit w.voiceforlife.org.nz.