

06 SEPTEMBER 2026
23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

REFLECTION

This Sunday's Gospel passage presents us with something quite uncomfortable: the principle of fraternal correction. Fraternal correction is the art of charitably correcting or reproving another person for their sin and helping to move them to conversion. It runs contrary to our hyper-individualistic culture which admonishes us to "mind our own business" or "stay in our lane". By contrast, fraternal correction assumes that we are responsible for each other (and we are!) We ought to take note of several important facets of this art.

First, we must engage in fraternal correction. Uncomfortable as it may be, it is an expression of charity. The first reading from Ezekiel explicitly tells us that if we do not dissuade a wicked person from his way, the wicked person will die, but God will hold US responsible for his death. If, on the other hand, we try to dissuade a wicked person from their evil ways and they still do not listen, the wicked person will surely die, but we will be saved. Therefore, no one can excuse themselves from engaging in fraternal correction, as if to say, "That's none of my business, I'm staying out of it". We have responsibility for one another because we are all members of the same Body of Christ. To overlook or ignore another's sin, says Ezekiel, can be perilous!

Second, fraternal correction must be regarding *sin*.

Fraternal correction does not apply to tastes or preferences, but to sins, Jesus says, "If your brother sins against you" It is tempting to correct someone under the guise of fraternal correction, when in fact, the infraction involves nothing sinful.

But we should not take this so far as to ignore actions that show a lack of prudence. After all, prudence is a virtue and imprudent behaviour can be sinful. Moreover, there is always an allowance for fraternal correction when it involves things such as etiquette infractions. When brutish behaviour (which is often tied to a lack of charity) is observed, individuals are well within their rights and duties to address such behaviour in a kind and loving way.

Third, the art of fraternal correction must be respectful. Not only must correction be done in a spirit of charity, the Gospel passage also warns us that it should be done in privacy. This protects the reputation of the offender and avoids further embarrassment. If that proves fruitless, then others may be brought in to collaborate the correction.

If that does not suffice, the matter should be referred to the Church, and if that does not satisfy, the person may be penalised by the Church - what Jesus means by treating the offender as a tax collector or Gentile. In Canon Law this can include the penalty of excommunication. It should be noted that excommunication is a medicinal penalty, intended to heal and restore the sinner. The offender is given time to repent, if they refuse they are barred from the Sacraments. An excommunicated person can always return to the Church if they make proper penance and restitution. St Paul reminds us "Love does no evil to the neighbour". Fraternal correction, done properly, is tough love, but love nonetheless. It is no act of love to allow sinners to persist in their evil ways. It is a heroic love to confront an other while admitting one's own sinfulness and help the sinner to repentance and conversion.

Extracts from writings of Fr. Jerome Magat

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.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

We have two more Infant Baptism Preparation Courses scheduled for this year, one in October and one in November. Courses are compulsory if you have not taken a course previously. So if you have an infant for baptism or if you are expecting a baby (a good time to do the course before baby arrives). Please contact us to register office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz or phone 480 7357. The Course consists of two 1 1/2hr sessions from 7 to 8.30pm on consecutive evenings and is held here in the Foley Centre.

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!

SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK 6-12 SEPTEMBER

This year marks the beginning of a new 3 year theme for 2026-2028 - "*YOU BELONG*". In his encyclical *Laudato Si* published in 2015 Pope Francis writes that our lives rest on 3 connected relationships: with God, with our neighbour and with the earth itself. Each of these relationships will be explored over the next three Social Justice Weeks. You are invited to reflect on *God knows you, God loves you, You belong*.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
TO ALL OF OUR DAD'S & GRANDDADS,
NOT FORGETTING ALL OF THE IMPORTANT
FATHER FIGURE'S - GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

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

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 NORTH COTE PARISH AUCKLAND

To register, Pledge for your Planned Giving, get our newsletter online, or update your address and contact details: 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 orders collect today! If you missed out on ordering there will also be some extras for sale after all Masses!

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 TODAY **Sunday 06 September**. Enq. email: gnasrun88@gmail.com

MASS INTENTION: Sun. 8.30am Rube Stutton RIP (18th Anniv.)

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.

EMBRACING HUMAN DIGNITY - A CATHOLIC YOUTH EVENT

Sun. 20 Sept. 2 to 8pm St Ignatius of Loyola College, 485 Burt Rd. Drury. Come with your friends, an epic afternoon *games, good vibes, free food, deep chats*. Fr Shenan Bouquet, an inspiring speaker from the US will explore masculinity & femininity through the lens of our faith. register with Amie 027 350 8227 or email: werthenextgen@gmail.com

INVITATION FROM HOLY CROSS SEMINARY, PONSONBY.

Invite you to join their celebration of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Bishop Richard Laurenson will be the principal celebrant. Mass celebrated at 7pm on Monday 21 Sept. at Sacred Heart Church, Ponsonby. Light refreshments will be served at Holy Cross Seminary after the Mass. Everyone most welcome!

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. More info and register go to <https://fli.org.nz/prolifeconference2026/> or use the QR Code enquiries to Simon Archer 021 400 72 simona@fli.org.nz



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, Serge, 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, Aria J, Neil M, Ray & Noelene O, Sue M, Celine S, Kathleen F, Dorothy & Francis

DAILY READINGS

Monday				
Reading	I Corinthians	5: 1- 8	Ps.	5
Gospel	Luke	6: 6-11		
Tuesday Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary				
1st Reading	Micah	5: 1- 4	Ps.	13
2nd Reading	Romans	8:28-30		
Gospel	Matthew	1: 1-16,18-23		
Wednesday				
Reading	I Corinthians	7:25-31	Ps.	45A
Gospel	Luke	6:20-26		
Thursday				
Reading	I Corinthians	8: 1- 7,11-13	Ps.	139
Gospel	Luke	6:27-38		
Friday				
Reading	I Corinthians	9:16-19,22-27	Ps.	84
Gospel	Luke	6:39-42		
Saturday				
Reading	I Corinthians	10:14-22	Ps.	116B
Gospel	Luke	6:43-49		
24th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME				
1st Reading	Ecus.	27:30-28:	Ps.	103
2nd Reading	Romans	13: 8-10		
Gospel	Matthew	18:21-35		

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. 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/

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/

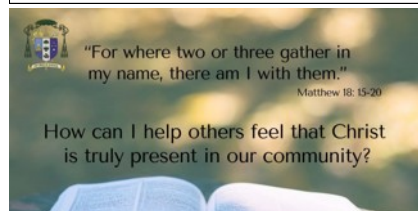
Growing Together in Christian Unity The Auckland Diocese Ecumenical section invites you to join evening formation sessions via ZOOM to learn about Ecumenism and the Church's call to Christian Unity. These sessions will explore and reflect on the Decree on Ecumenism (Unitatis Redintegratio). Wednesday 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)

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

Catherine McAuley Symposium Join leading thinkers from the UK, USA and Aotearoa at the Catherine McAuley Symposium in Wellington, 13-15 December. Explore what it means to be a faith-based organisation in a changing global environment. Quality speakers exploring leadership, identity, mission and the challenges facing religious organisations today. Earlybird registrations close 24 September. CatherineMcAuleySymposium-Whanau Mercy Ministries

Marriage Preparation Course Getting married in 2027? Don't leave your marriage preparation too late! The final Marriage Preparation Courses for 2026 are filing up quickly. If you are planning to marry in the first part of 2027, you need to complete your marriage preparation this year, so we encourage you to register as soon as possible to secure your place. Courses offered at St Michael's Remuera, Saturdays from 26 September 9am to 1pm & at St Luke's Flat Bush on Saturdays from 10 October 10am to 4.30pm. More info & register www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/our-courses



"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am with them."
Matthew 18:15-20

How can I help others feel that Christ is truly present in our community?

CHURCH CLEANING

12 Sept. Hoa N
19 Sept. Upton family
ALTAR LINEN
06 Sept. Anne H
12 Sept. Prisca T

PROLIFE FACTS

After moving from Texas to Waihi 14 years ago, Ellen and Nick saw New Zealand's adoption landscape narrow. With Oranga Tamariki the sole gatekeeper of adoption, open adoption was quietly disappearing from most pregnancy conversations. Today, some women who are considering abortion even late in pregnancy, are never told that open adoption exists. The Gift of Love: Open Adoption is an organisation set up to restore that "missing option". Open adoption enables birth parents to remain part of their child's life, and the couple point to long-term research showing strong satisfaction among birth parents, adoptive families, and adopted children. For more information, please visit their website at openadoption.org.nz.

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