

**13th SEPTEMBER 2026
24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

REFLECTION

When considering the theme of Christian forgiveness, we might observe the following: First, the reason why we need to learn to forgive others is because we are debtors to God. When we pray the

Our Father, we ask God to forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Considering how slow or unwilling we can be to forgive others at times, we might ask if we really want God forgiving us as we sometimes fail to do. Furthermore, Christian forgiveness can only transpire when we rely on the Lord's grace to show mercy. Whenever we struggle to forgive, it is imperative that we allow ourselves to participate in the logic of Divine Mercy. In His apparitions to St Faustina, our Lord reminds us that the greater the sin, the greater the sinner's claim on God's mercy. This is the exact opposite of the legal justice system, which is always punitive when it comes to infractions. Genuine Christian forgiveness does not come from us - it comes from the Lord, who invites us to participate in His divine elixir.

Second, we might ask if we are called to forgive and forget. There are many pop songs that tell us to do as much. And yet, God doesn't! Christian mercy tempers strict justice without ignoring legitimate justice claims. The master of the servants (representing the Father) in the parable forgave the wicked servant but did not forget the wicked servant's previous debt upon learning of the wicked servant's lack of forgiveness of a fellow servant who owed much less. Purgatory is evidence that God forgives us by not sending us to hell (thank God) and yet He does not forget that we owe Him restitution for the sins of our past and detachment from our past sins - part of the price we pay in purgatory.

Third, we observe that certain types of forgiveness are easy - overlooking another's faults or looking beyond a momentary hurtful word. And yet other types of forgiveness are more difficult - forgiving those who have so deeply hurt us and yet don't see their sin and don't even see that they need to apologise. Or forgiving those who have committed serious crimes against us or our loved ones. And while we seek equity and justice that will lead to peace, even if that sometimes means armed conflict to guarantee our security, we must aspire to rise above an "eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" mentality. The Lord always calls us to the moral horizon of the peacemakers he extols in the Beatitudes.

Lastly, we recall that the command is to forgive those who sin against us "from the heart". This is significant. In some cases, it is impossible to be reconciled to an individual in-person. Perhaps they are deceased. Perhaps they are incarcerated and difficult to contact. Perhaps they are a danger (physically or spiritually) to us. Or perhaps there is some other insurmountable obstacle that prevents an in-person reconciliation. But we can still forgive those persons from the heart, even if we never get to say the words.

In the end, we know that genuine forgiveness is possible in and through Christ. It is not only a gift we give to others, it is also a gift we give to ourselves. Might we aspire to the Beatitude that promises that those who are merciful will receive the Lord's deep and abiding mercy in this life and in the next. 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.



**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

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

JOSHUA CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Meeting Wednesday 23 September 7pm fellowship, 7.30pm meeting. St Mark's Church 334 Pakuranga Road. Special Speaker from the USA Fr Shenan Bouquet President Human Life International, in conjunction with Family Life International NZ. Fr Bouquet will give a talk on *Men's Vocation to Purity and Love*. All men Welcome! More info. Contact Tet-Woo 021 038 0196 or Chris 027 568 7736

**EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
MONDAY 14 SEPT. WE WILL HAVE
MASS AT 9.15AM**

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 - 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

ST MARY'S KNIGHTS

Our next St Mary's Knights gathering is Friday 25th September! This youth group for children aged 8-12 runs every 4th Friday of the month from 6-8 pm in the church hall. There we discuss scripture, learn about significant people in the church and in the bible as well as focus on key events in the liturgical calendar. Allow your child to learn and grow in their faith as well as have fun, make friends from other schools. Save the date! see you here

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun. 10.30am Merly Ambrose & Rose Marie Peris RIP; **5.00pm** Stephen O'Sullivan RIP (48th Anniv.) husband of Phyllis and dad of Mary, Margaret and the late Peter & Paula; **Wed.** Carlos & Gracia Franco.RIP

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, 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, Mary G

DAILY READINGS

Monday Exaltation of the Cross

1st Reading	Numbers	21: 4- 9	Ps.	78
2nd Reading	Philippians	2: 6-11		
Gospel	John	3:13-17		

Tuesday Our Lady of Sorrows

Reading	Hebrews	5: 7- 9	Ps.	31
Gospel	John	19:25-28		

Wednesday Sts Cornelius & Cyprian

Reading	I Corinthians	12:31-13:13	Ps.	33
Gospel	Luke	7:31-35		

Thursday

Reading	I Corinthians	15: 1-11	Ps.	118
Gospel	Luke	7:36-50		

Friday

Reading	I Corinthians	15:12-20	Ps.	17
Gospel	Luke	8: 1- 3		

Saturday

Reading	I Corinthians	15:35-37,42-49	Ps.	56
Gospel	Luke	8: 4-15		

25th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading	Isaiah	55: 6- 9	Ps.	145
2nd Reading	Philippians	1:20-24,27		
Gospel	Matthew	20: 1-16		

NOTICES FROM THE DIOCESE

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 15,22,29 September 10.30 to 11.45am. No registration required, just join us in the parish centre 6 Beatrice Rd. Remuera.

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

Feast Day of St Vincent De Paul All Auckland Vincentians are invited to come and celebrate the Feast Day with a Shine Televised Mass. Saturday 19th September at 2pm in Sacred Heart Church, Ponsonby, celebrant Fr Martin Wu. Mass followed by a shared afternoon tea in the St Columba Centre, please bring a plate to share. Note: Shine Masses are recorded before the weekend they will be screened, this Mass will be aired on St Vincent's actual feast day. 27th September.

Mission Sunday 100th Celebration on Sunday 18th October a day set aside to pray for the Church's mission and support those who carry the Gospel.

Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?
Matthew 18: 21-35

What helps you choose forgiveness when you have been hurt?



PRAY MASS

Sundays @ 2pm

SHINE TV

Free-to-air TV Channel 25

SKY TV Channel 201

"Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?"
Matthew 18:21-35

What helps you choose forgiveness when you have been hurt?

CHURCH CLEANING

19 Sept. Upton family

26 Sept. Kimbly G

ALTAR LINA

12 Sept. Prisca T

19 Sept. Ninette C

PROLIFE FACTS

Human life and family are under increasing pressure, from challenges to the dignity of the pre-born and elderly to confusion about marriage and family. Family Life International's Hope for the World Conference (September 25 -27th, Auckland) offers a timely opportunity for solid information, encouragement, and renewed hope. The programme is designed to strengthen participants in understanding key issues and responding with clarity, charity, and confidence. Attendees will hear outstanding speakers, join in prayer, and take part in practical sessions that equip individuals, families, and parishes to uphold the dignity of every human life. With its focus on Christian hope rooted in Christ, this conference is an excellent opportunity to learn, grow, and stand for life. For more information, visit fli.org.nz/conferences and seminars **For pro-life info, visit fli.org.nz**