

27th SEPTEMBER 2026
TWENTY SIXTH WEEK ORDINARY TIME

REFLECTION

Today's parable of the two sons should remind us of another parable that features two sons - the parable of the Prodigal Son. The Fathers of the church often refer to today's Gospel as the abridged version of the Parable of the Prodigal Son. The parable of the two sons reveals very important facts about the condition of the human person after original sin and the possibility of conversion from sin and death to virtue and life. This in turn, should explain why Jesus said that tax collectors and prostitutes were entering the Kingdom of God before the chief priests and elders, the Jewish religious leaders often thought to be "shoe-ins" to heaven. Finally, the parable should lead us to consider the example of the Lord Jesus and His life of obedience as the great answer to the profiles of the two sons in the parable.

The son who says "no" but later changes his mind proves that conversion and change is possible. The sudden change of heart shows us that no one is beyond conversion and that God's grace can overcome any hardness of heart. For this reason we should never think of anyone as "hopeless". If the human person wants to change, God will always provide the grace to make that happen. When Jesus warns the Jewish leaders that tax collectors and prostitutes were entering the Kingdom of God before them, what did that mean? How could it be possible? After all they were considered A-grade sinners. The reason was simple, Jesus warns the chief priests and elders not to become overconfident that their position would be a free pass into heaven. Christ suggests that conversion was more sincere and authentic, based in recognition of sinfulness and a deep desire to repent and make amends and become dependent on God's grace. Christ's obedience is the answer to the rebellion of the two sons. Christ is the one who says He will obey the Father's command and DOES SO. until we consistently imitate the Lord Jesus and avoid the example of the two rebellious sons, we will find ourselves either fighting God in our hearts or deluding ourselves into thinking that we have no need for continual conversion, much like the Jewish elders and chief priests. Therefore, let us pray that we accept the grace of humility to become little children once again. Let us pray that we will have the fortitude to follow through commands as our path to freedom and heavenly glory.

extracts from the writings of Fr Jerome Magat.

VOLUNTEERS LUNCH AFTER THE
10.30AM MASS 18 OCTOBER

If you are in any volunteer ministry and help in the church in any way you are invited to join us for a light lunch in the parish hall in appreciation of your help. For catering purposes it is essential we know numbers so if you are coming please let us know by Wednesday 15th October email: office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

NURTURE OUR FAITH' 2026

Next Faith Nurturing monthly evening Gathering is on Monday 28th September 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 "The Catholic Sacraments. Encounters with the Divine" to register email office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2026/7

The programme will start again on the 1st November 2026. Parents are asked to book an interview before the classes start. Interview times ARE AVAILABLE NOW AND WILL CLOSE ON 10TH OCTOBER. Don't delay and miss out! email the parish office NOW office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz 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 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 first parent-only sessions in October.

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

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."

PILGRIMAGE FROM FATIMA TO
THE VATICAN (23 DAYS)

Departs 11th April 2027 Home 3rd May 2027. Chaplain Msgr. David Tonks.

For more details contact email:

Laura.yap@travelmanagers.co.nz
phone: 021 390 055

"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 BEWARE!

contact the parish office
office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

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

DONATE BLOOD IN BIRKENHEAD

where: Brkenhead RSA, Recreation Dr.
when: Thursday 01 October
12pm to 5pm.
more info. on noticeboard

ON GOING REQUESTFORFOOD/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, longlife milk. Every contribution makes a difference. If you want to run a food drive, contact Lesley Farmerlesley@depaulhouse.org.nz

GIRL TIME

An invitation is extended 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 ur lives and faith.

A light luncheon will be provided.

10.15am Monday 05 October, in the Foley Centre, next to the church.
we look forward to welcoming you!

BONDS OF MARIAN LOVE

Totus Tuus

CONSECRATION CLASSES

To Jesus through Mary

A course that covers different topics regarding the role of Our Lady and learning more about the teachings and practices of the Catholic Church. 7 October to 8 December every Wednesday 7 to 9pm
Venue Columba Centre Vermont Street.

PRAYER RETREAT FOR WOMEN

9th Oct.6pm to 11 Oct.3pm

"Prayer & the Interior Life"

please register at:

www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.n z



ST MARY'S NORTHCOTE 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

BISHOPS' ELECTION STATEMENT

The New Zealand Bishops have published their statement for the 2026 General Election. Titled *Discerning our nation's future through a Gospel Lens*, the document encourages Catholics and people of good will to consider voting as a moral and civic responsibility, not just a matter of personal preference. The bishops invite people to consider how they cast their votes by reviewing candidates' and parties' positions across a range of key issues, and they also encourage people to pray for the country. Access the election statement at:
<https://bit.ly/NZCBCElections26>

LET'S GET TOGETHER! AN EVENING TO SUPPORT BEACHHAVEN YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

2 course meal, BYO drinks on Friday 30 October at Rate Payers Hall, 336 Rangatira Road, Beachhaven. Doors open 5pm formalities start 6pm Cosy \$50 pp. Music & performances payments by 16 October to 02-0108-078609-002 enq. Lolesio 021 0844 9900 or Christiana 022 646 9689

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 from January 2027 to work with young people in our Salesian community in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Mongolia. Applications close October 31st 2026. Send us an enquiry. www.cagliero.org.au OR ihichaabaa@salesians.org.au

CHURCH CLEANING - 03 Oct. Nissa T - 10 Oct. Choy Family
ALTAR LINEN - 04 Oct. Jan S - 11 Oct. Fleur B

Please pray for:

Anne COUGHEY, long time parishioner at St Mary's who used to work in the office, Anne returned home to God on Wednesday morning. Her Requiem Mass will be here at St Mary's on Tuesday at 11.30am

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

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, 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, Rachel W

DAILY READINGS

MONDAY

READING JOB 1: 6-22 PS. 17
GOSPEL LUKE 9: 46-50

TUESDAY STS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL

READING DANIEL 7: 9-10, 13-14 PS. 138
GOSPEL JOHN 1: 47-51

WEDNESDAY ST JEROME

READING JOB 9: 1-12, 14-16 PS. 88

THURSDAY ST TERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS

READING JOB 19:21-27 PS. 27
GOSPEL LUKE 10: 1-12

FRIDAY THE GUARDIAN ANGELS

READING EXODUS 23:20-23 PS. 91
GOSPEL MATTHEW 18: 1-5, 10

SATURDAY

READING JOB 42: 1-3, 5-6, 12-17 PS. 119A
GOSPEL LUKE 10:17-24

SUNDAY 27TH ORDINARY TIME

1ST READING ISAIAH 5: 1- 7 PS. 80
2ND READING PHIL. 4: 6- 9
GOSPEL MATTHEW 21:33-43

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/

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. Support can be financial & through prayer Bishop's Letter on noticeboard.

The Square Gift Shop With grateful hearts and trust in God's providence, we are delighted to announce that the Square Gift Shop has now moved to a new location. Suite 2, level 1, 9 Teed Street Newmarket. We look forward to welcoming everyone to our new home.

St Patrick's Cathedral Office Clear Out There is a range of office furniture, household items, religious items and Christmas decorations, ++ There might be a hidden gem at a good price just for you! Sunday 4 October 10am to 6pm, Liston Building directly opposite St Patrick's Cathedral. Carpark options Hobson Street (Old Farmers) \$4.50 via the ParkMate App only. Premo code STPATS to receive discount or Durham Lane (City Centre) \$3 validate physical ticket in the parking machine located by the noticeboard.

Youth Leader Hui Sat 3 October 10am-2.30pm at Pompallier Diocesan Centre. A day for youth leaders, share and shape the future of youth ministry in our Diocese. We want to hear your hopes, insights and ideas as we look ahead together! We're all in the same waka! Come ready to share, to learn and be inspired alongside others who share your passion for seeing young people encounter Jesus. Free barista coffee on arrival, lunch will be provided. To register <https://events.humanitix.com/youth-leaders-hui-2026>

Manager - Ministries to Young People, Auckland Diocese Are you a Catholic leader with a heart for young people? We are looking for someone who answers "Yes" to serve as a full-time manager. You'll lead a multidisciplinary team, oversee major diocesan initiatives and shape of youth and young adult ministry in NZ's largest diocese. go to www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies

Property Manager - Education (Secondary Schools) Join the diocese and help shape safe, future-focused learning environments across our secondary schools. The role involves leading property projects, managing maintenance & compliance programmes. to view full advert and position description visit www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/

"And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe"

Matthew 2:26-32

Are we letting our pride get in the way of a needed pivot?

**PRAY MASS
SUNDAYS @ 2PM
SHINE TV
free to air TV Chanel 25
SKY TV Chanel 201**

PROLIFE FACTS

End the Killing NZCBR is a dedicated group of pro-life advocates who have small teams operating between Auckland and Invercargill. They carry out public witness, using powerful images of preborn children at various stages of development to prompt reflection and conversation. Volunteers select high-traffic or high-pedestrian locations where adults are most likely to pass by. Their aim is to offer a visible reminder of the humanity of the unborn and the reality of abortion. Many people express genuine interest or amazement, and some are shocked to learn that these procedures are carried out as "health care" in New Zealand. Others are committed to other views and do not engage — a response the group expects and respects. Even so, the presence of these images often opens space for meaningful conversations about human development, and the impact of abortion on families and communities.

for more prolife facts visit: rightforlife.org.nz