

11th OCTOBER 2026
TWENTY EIGHTH WEEK ORDINARY TIME

REFLECTION

This time, the Gospel confronts us with realities we would often rather put aside. We usually seek comfort in God's word, yet here we are presented with images that evoke fear: the king dispatches his army, executes the criminals and burns their city, a man without a wedding garment is bound hand and foot and cast into the outer darkness, where "there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth". Finally comes the sobering punch line "for many are called but few are chosen" (cf. Mt.22:14). The Gospel king appears extraordinarily severe, almost ruthless. We find ourselves resisting. Is this truly how God, who is love operates?

To understand this parable, we must first notice that God is not inviting us to a labour camp, His reign is depicted as a wedding feast. Contrary to our initial impressions, God reveals Himself as One who begs us to let Him shower us with gifts. In the light of this parable salvation history is the story of a king - the Father of the chosen people - who has prepared a place for everyone to celebrate together, continually repeating, "Everything is ready come to the feast!" (cf. Mt. 22:4).

Why then do the invited guests reject God's call? At first glance, the reason seems almost laughably trivial. They are simply busy with their own work. In reality however, this reveals our greatest, and often overlooked spiritual trap, fleeing from unearned love and clinging to the illusion of self-sufficiency. We want to grant ourselves our own worth believing that true value lies only what we earn, achieve, and acquire on our own. We treat money, status, or personal achievements as tools to keep us independent - never having to ask anyone for help/grace. Yet receiving God's gift requires the capacity to stand before Him empty-handed. Fearing this dependence and unearned grace, we escape into work, seeking higher status, and fulfilling the demands of daily life. God, however, does not give up. His relentless pursuit of humanity leads Him to send His servants to the crossroads. These are symbolic places - turning points in our lives where competing priorities clash, uncertainties unfold, and life-shaping choices are made. God, through His servants, waits for everyone at all these existentially crucial junctions, extending His hand to the lost, desiring to invite them once more, without first sorting them into the good and the bad, to share in the feast.

Not much is required of us, it is absurd to imagine that we could ever earn an invitation to the royal wedding feast through our own efforts. Human ingratitude evokes a firm reaction from the king. What are we to make of it? Take a close look at the story. The king is disrespected by his subjects (the chosen people) when they decide they have better things to do than attend his son's wedding banquet. Second the aggressive treatment/murder of the royal messengers. Considering both situations it should not be a surprise that the guilty are punished. What should surprise us is that, despite all this, the king still does not give up on inviting people. Let us not run off to our various commercial pursuits or hide behind the armour of self-sufficiency or a superficial religiosity devoid of the inner flame of love. God stands at the crossroads of our lives. Let us strip away the rags of pride and put on Christ- His Love, His forgiveness. Let us not allow our self-sufficiency to close the door to the fullness of life in God.

exerts from the writings of Fr. Michal Paluch

**REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED
LOVED ONES - WEEKEND OF
31 OCTOBER/1 NOVEMBER**

If you have lost a family member or close friend during the past twelve months (i.e. November 2025 to September 2026) and you would like them to be remembered with a candle, and have a photo added to our photo collage then **please let the office know as soon as possible but no later than Thursday 22nd October.** We will need a photo of the person and their year of birth and death. If your relative/friend was farewelled from St Mary's then you will receive a personal invitation, via email and we will have a copy of the funeral leaflet and a photo. There is a basket, pens and paper for you to write the names of your loved ones whom you would like to be remembered at all Masses during November and a box to 'post' the paper with their names. As usual, everyone will be invited to light a t/light candle at which ever Mass they attend on the weekend of 31 October/1 November. Large named candles will be provided for the recently deceased who are advised to us.

ON SALE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE
Claretian Bible Diaries for 2027
only \$20.00 - also
St Columban Art Calendars
only \$12.00
both make wonderful gifts!

INVITATION!

Our Parish Thursday morning Scripture Reflections continue in the Foley Centre from 10.15 to 11.30am ALL WELCOME!

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 do so.

The classes are a requirement for those children wishing to register for the Sacramental Programme next year!

Classes are on Sunday mornings enq. childrensformation@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

**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

Please pray:

for all families who are struggling at this time.

**INVITATION TO - ANNUAL PARISH DAY
RETREAT 21 NOVEMBER 2026**

If you are involved in any of the Church Ministries, such as Minister of Holy Communion, the Word, Communion to the sick/elderly, Music, Projection, Care of Church linen, Hospitality, Catechist, Faith formation etc. etc. this is the day for you, we would love to see you there. Local venue, To cover all costs including morning & afternoon tea and Lunch \$40 pp. Please register by emailing the parish office office@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."

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

NURTURE OUR FAITH 2026

A monthly opportunity to reflect, nourish and strengthen our faith by delving into the meaning of what we believe next session Monday 25th October 7 to 8.30pm

THE ROSARY

A devotion with an uncertain origin - Pat McCarthy www.studyjoy.nz/2026/10/04/the-rosary-is-a-devotion-with-an-uncertain-origin/



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 us if you need help
office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

ST MARY'S YOUTH WILL ATTEND SUMMER CAMP AGAIN THIS YEAR - 12 TO 16 JANUARY 2027, CAMP KESWICK, ROTORUA!
 Campers aged between 13 and 17 years - Link to register <https://forms.gle/8dyTeJKH2jxrgrgT6> REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 10TH OCTOBER, LIMITED NUMBERS - FIRST COME FIRST SERVED, so be in quick, don't miss out on an awesome time! cost \$320, due by 20th November. We will carpool to and from camp together from St Mary's. Each year we have attended has been an incredibly enriching experience where we were able to grow in our faith and form stronger fellowship with each other! It will be another camp filled with FUN, FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP!
REGISTER NOW DON'T MISS OUT! CLOSING 10TH OCTOBER

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/NZCBCElecxtions26>

CHURCH CLEANING - 17 Oct. Malia & Tofu O - 24 Oct. Butler Family
ALTAR LINEN - 11 Oct. Fleur B - 18 Oct. Eresha D

SUPPOT LIFE SUNDAY 2026: LIVING PEACE

TODAY 11th October: Catholics across Aotearoa will celebrate Support Life Sunday. This year's theme, *Living Peace*, invites us to reflect on how we can promote a culture of life through prayer, compassion, and action.
Living Peace. Supporting Life, Building Hope.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun. 8.30am Kasia Rozmus RIP; **Thurs. 9.15am** Raul Orlanski RIP,

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	GALATIONS	4:22-24,26-27,32-5:1	PS. 113
GOSPEL	LUKE	10:29-32	
TUESDAY			
READING	GALATIONS	5: 1- 6	PS. 119T
GOSPEL	LUKE	11:37-41	
WEDNESDAY			
READING	GALATIONS	5:18-25	PS. 1
GOSPEL	LUKE	11:42-46	
THURSDAY ST TERESA OF JESUS			
READING	EPHESIANS	1: 1, 3-10	PS. 98
GOSPEL	LUKE	11:47-54	
FRIDAY			
READING	EPHESIANS	1:11-14	PS. 33
GOSPEL	LUKE	12: 1- 7	
SATURDAY ST IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH			
READING	EPHESIANS	1:15-23	PS. 8
GOSPEL	LUKE	12: 8-12	
SUNDAY 29TH ORDINARY TIME			
1 ST READING	ISAIAH	45: 1,4- 6	PS. 96
2 ND READING	I THESS.	1: 1- 5	
GOSPEL	MATTHEW	22:15-21	

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 next 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..

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. This role involves leading property projects, managing maintenance and compliance programmes, and partnering with school leaders to support Catholic education throughout Auckland and Northland. Relevant tertiary qualifications or significant industry experience required. To view full advert and position description visit <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/>
NZ Catholic the latest edition of the monthly diocesan newsletter
 NZ Catholic now available on the Diocesan Website.

Marriage and Family Life - Alpha for Couples Married, engaged or dating, Alpha for Couples is a welcoming and practical course designed to help strengthen your faith and relationship. Through videos and guided conversations. Register today and invest in your relationship, join us on Oct. 15, 22, 29.

https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/alpha_couples/

Marriage Preparation Course. Getting married in early 2027? Don't leave it too late! The final Marriage Preparation Courses for 2026 are filling quickly. If you are planning to marry in the first half of 2027 you will need to complete your preparation this year. We encourage you to register as soon as possible to secure a place. Courses are offered at St Michael's Parish, Remuera on Saturdays 9.00am to1.00pm and at St Luke's Parish, Flat Bush on Saturdays from 10th October 10.00am to 4.30pm. for more information and to register visit:
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/our-courses/>

"For many are called, but few are chosen" Matthew 22: 1-14

What might be distracting me from responding to God's invitation?

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

PROLIFE FACTS

According to reporting by Wesley J. Smith in National Review (17 September), a group of physicians is now under criminal investigation in Italy after declining to assess a well-known actress who requested assisted suicide. She later ended her life at a clinic in Switzerland, but her family lodged a complaint about the doctors. Prosecutors initially advised dismissing the complaint, but a judge has scheduled a hearing for 16 December to decide whether or not the doctors will stand trial for "refusal and failure to perform official duties". From a pro-life perspective, the case highlights pressure on clinicians to act against conscience. Arguably this is not an issue for Italy alone. In New Zealand, the conscience rights of pro-life medical professionals are limited, because they cannot refuse all involvement. They still must facilitate access indirectly by providing patients with information about how to access "assisted dying".

for more prolife facts visit:rightforlife.org.nz