

17th OCTOBER 2026
TWENTY NINTH WEEK ORDINARY TIME

REFLECTION

The Gospel scene presented to us this time begins with a cold-blooded provocation. The Pharisees join forces with their enemies, the Herodians, to drive Jesus into a deadly trap. They approach Him with false flattery on their lips "Teacher, we know that You are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth." Yet their visit is an intricately prepared snare. They ask a question which, so they believe, there is no safe answer. "Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" If Jesus answers, "Do not pay".

He will immediately be accused of inciting rebellion. Refusing to pay at that time would be treated as an act punishable by death. If on the other hand, Jesus was to answer, "Pay", He would lose credibility in the eyes of a people exhausted by occupation. Israel was awaiting a Messiah who would break the yoke of pagan Rome and allow God to reign over Israel again.

Jesus, however, refuses to accept the terms of this false dilemma, and elevates the debate from a political squabble to an existential level. He asks them to show Him the coin. His opponents immediately produce a Roman denarius, which at once exposes their lack of moral integrity, they carry the occupier's coin even within the Temple precinct, using it daily in trade and benefiting from the economic structure built by Rome. In other words, their practical lives, in the Temple itself! Long since acknowledging Caesar's dominion. Then Jesus asks the decisive question. "Whose image and inscription is this?" They reply "Caesar's". Jesus responds with words that entered history forever, delivering a brilliant comeback. "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

Jesus' answer could be translated like this. "Since the coin bears Caesar's image, render that piece of metal to Caesar. But yourselves were created in the image and likeness of God. Remember, then, that just as the coin belongs to Caesar, you belong to God, and therefore your worship belongs to Him alone (Gen. 1:27; cf. 1 Chr. 29:14)". Here is the heart of this Gospel passage. Caesar may demand your taxes, and the Roman denarius may jingle in your pocket, but no Caesar of this world has a right to your heart, your dignity, your conscience, or your freedom. You are not, and must never allow yourself to become, a coin in a ruler's purse.

You are a child of God.

Let us take a closer look at our lives today. This is not about fleeing from the world or scorning the state of society. A Christian lives in the world, pays taxes, and commits to building the common good. Yet we do so in a radically new spirit, a spirit of freedom and love. When you know God is your only Lord, you stop fearing people. You no longer need to fight for power through trickery and violence, like the Pharisees in the Gospel. You can become a person capable of serving, forgiving, and building fraternal relationships. Remember, at no turn in life, under no political system or financial hardship are we the property of this world. We are sons and daughters of God who know to whom we belong.

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 TODAY 18 OCTOBER**

If you are in any volunteer ministry and help in the church in any way you are welcome to join us for a light lunch in the parish hall in appreciation of your help.

BABY GWEN!

Can baby Gwen's grandmother please contact the parish office (09) 480 7357 or 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

ST VINCENT DE PAUL NEEDS HELP!

Recently retired? Have some spare time? or simply want to make a difference in your local community? We'd love to welcome a few more friendly volunteers to our Takapuna Store on Saturdays or Wednesdays. We're especially grateful for the support already provided by volunteers from St Joseph's and St Mary's, and there is room for more helping hands. St Vincent de Paul profits go back into supporting the local community. If you can support us once a month/fortnight or weekly your time would be greatly appreciated. Pop into **25 Barry's Pont Road, Takapuna** for a chat or contact takapuna.vinnies@gmail.com

**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

RED NOVEMBER 2026 - AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED
THE DIOCESE PLANS TO LIGHT THE POMPALLIER CENTRE RED IN
VISUAL SUPPORT OF RED NOVEMBER THROUGHT NOVEMBER
THEY WILL ALSO CELEBRATE RED WEDNESDAY MASS AT THE
CENTRE ON 18 NOVEMBER. DETAILS TO BE ADVISED.



LIGHT THE NIGHT: REMEMBER THE FORGOTTEN
STAND WITH THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS
AROUND THE WORLD. RESOURCES, REGISTRATION
& DONATIONS OPEN NOW. REDNOVEMBER.ORG

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/NZCBCElectons26>

CHURCH CLEANING - 24 Oct. Butler Family - 31 Oct. Hoa N
ALTAR LENEN - 18 Oct. Eresha D - 25 Oct. Anne H

ST MARY'S KNIGHTS (AGES 8-12)

Next meeting (30 October) we will be doing an All Hallows Eve party in honour of All Saints and All Souls Days. Please dress up as your favourite saint. Prizes for the Best Dressed!
6 to 8pm in the parish hall - Pizza will be provided. More info/queries contact Frankie 022 059 0852

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun. 10.30am Maria Ornelas RIP and Ramon Ajero RIP, Kathy Silverdrio-Reyes RIP, Romeo Macapinlac RIP and Thanksgiving for Lilibeth Parades and the Gabito family; **Wed 9.15am** Souls in Purgatory,
Please pray: For the elderly and frail & the sick in our parish, especially, Philip, Yohann, Linda S, John McC, Megan S, Peter D, Peter C, John W, Mary L, Shannon, Owen B, Susan C, Serge, Kanya, 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 C, Caroline C, Emily D, Sebastian C, Lucia, Anselmo S, Victoria R, Hilda P, David K, Alice C, Naja, Petros A, Jocel D-V, Luca M, Maselino L, Yvonne P, Helen McBride, Ason N, Patrics 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 S, Francis, Mary G, Rachel W

DAILY READINGS

MONDAY			
READING	EPHESIANS	2: 1-10	PS. 100
GOSPEL	LUKE	12:13-21	
TUESDAY			
READING	EPHESIANS	2:12-22	PS. 85
GOSPEL	LUKE	12:35-38	
WEDNESDAY			
GOSPEL	EPHESIANS	3: 2-12	CANT. ISAIAH
READING	LUKE	12:39-48	
THURSDAY			
READING	EPHESIANS	3:14-21	PS. 33
GOSPEL	LUKE	12:49-53	
FRIDAY			
READING	EPHESIANS	4: 1- 6	PS. 24
GOSPEL	LUKE	12:54-59	
SATURDAY			
READING	ROMANS	8: 1-11	PS. 24
GOSPEL	LUKE	4: 7-16	
SUNDAY 30TH IN ORDINARY TIME			
1 ST READING	EXODUS	22:20-26	PS. 18
2 ND READING	I THESS.	1: 5-10	
GOSPEL	MATTHEW	22:34-40	

Local Youth Ministers Wanted! The Catholic Diocese of Auckland is looking for self-motivated relationship-building 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

Manager - Ministries to Young People, Auckland Diocese Are you a Catholic leader with a heart for your 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 and young minister in NZ's largest diocese. go to www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies

Property Manager - Education Join 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 the relationship. Through videos & guided conversations. Register today & invest in your relationship. [Oct 22 29 https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/alpha-couples/](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 to 1.00pm and at St Luke's 9.00am to 1.30pm. If you are not in the 10.00am to 11.00am to 1.30pm, more info. & register <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/scips/for-courses/>

Administration Assistant Wanted: Marriage & Family Life is looking for a highly capable Admin Assistant who combines excellent administrative skills with a genuine pastoral sensitivity & commitment to serving others. Part-time role of 16 Hrs, Mon. Tues. Wed and Friday 10am-2pm (some evening and weekend work) visit www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/

"So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to hold what is God's." Matthew 2:15-21

What can I offer God this week through my words, actions and love for others?

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

PROLIFE FACTS

According to reporting by Wesley J. Smith in National Review (17 September), a group of physicians in non-under criminal investigation in Italy after declining to assess a well-known actress who requested assisted self care. She live in auklandcatholic diocesan. But her family lodged a complaint about the doctors. Prosecutors intently 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 fail 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 investigations. The diocesan and the diocesan are not inescapably for patients with information about how to access "assisted dying".

for more prolife facts visit: rightforlife.org.nz