

Dates for your Diary: Monday 20th – Sunday 26th Feb 2023

Mon, 20 Feb	Funeral Mass, 10am, Church
Tue, 21 Feb	Tongan Community (funeral) 7pm – 9pm, Fr McGrath Room
Tue, 21 Feb	Tongan Community (funeral) 7pm – 9pm, Church
Wed, 22 Feb	ASH WEDNESDAY – Masses at 9.00am & 7.00pm
Thu, 23 Feb	Tongan Community Choir, 7.00pm – 9.00pm, Fr McGrath Room
Fri, 24 Feb	WDP Organising Churches meeting, 10.30am, Church foyer
Sat, 25 Feb	Legion of Mary meeting, 10.00am – 11.30am, Whare Iti
Sat, 25 Feb	Church Cleaning: Samoan Sunday School, 9.30am – 12.30pm
Sat, 25 Feb	Church Flowers: NO FLOWERS during Lent
Sat, 25 Feb	Samoan Community Choir, 3.00pm – 5.00pm, Fr McGrath Room
Sat, 25 Feb	Tongan Community Choir, 5.00pm – 7.00pm, Fr McGrath Room
Sun, 26 Feb	Tongan Sunday School, 12.00pm – 2.00pm, Fr McGrath Room

KIDS CORNER

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Seventh-SUNDAY-OF-OT.pdf>

MASS SCHEDULE 2023

Sunday:

8.30am / 10.30am / 6.00pm

Monday:

No 9.00am Mass and no Liturgy of the Word

Tuesday – Saturday:

Mass: 9.00am

Daily Rosary:

Tue – Sat, 8.20am | Sun, 7.45am

Friday Adoration (after 9.00am Mass):
9.30am – 10.30am

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday after 9am Mass
(other times by appointment)



St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

2134 Great North Rd, Avondale, Auckland 0600

Vision / Tirohanga

Growing in Faith Together / Oranga i roto i te Whakapono

Goal / Whainga

*To Grow in Awareness as One Parish Family / Kokiritia te Oranga
Kotahitanga o te Whanau Whakapono*

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME ~ 19th February 2023

Readings: Levit 19: 1-2, 17-18 | Ps 103 | 1 Corinthians 3: 16-23 | Matthew 5: 38-48

Gospel Reflection



“You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.” Matthew 5: 43-45

Nowhere in the Old Testament does it say that we should hate our enemies. Note that Jesus did not say “It has been written...” Instead, He says, “You have heard that it was said...” So who said this? Some traditions among the scribes and Pharisees held this erroneous belief. Because some held that position, Jesus addressed it.

In this passage and in many others, Jesus calls us to a new depth of love that many thought impossible. In fact, even Jesus Himself acknowledged the height of His teaching when, at the conclusion of this passage, He says, “So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Too often in life we settle for everything other than perfection. And though we may never achieve that level of holiness in this life, it must be our constant goal. In regard to our “enemies”, perfect love for them must become our daily mission.

So who is your “enemy”? Though Jesus does not define this for us, we should consider it to be anyone with whom there is some form of tension or discord. Perhaps there is someone who hates or dislikes you and speaks ill of you or treats you poorly. Or perhaps there is someone who you dislike and find yourself angry at or even judgemental toward. So begin by trying to identify anyone with whom you have a lack of perfect affection. In truth, there might be many more people on that list than on the list of those you “love”.

Once you identify those who fall into the category of enemy to one extent or another, consider whether you love them. One Church Father says that we love our enemy “when we are not sorrowful at his success, or rejoice in his fall.” This is a very helpful definition to consider. Ultimately, this is the definition of envy.

If someone whom you dislike succeeds in something praiseworthy, how do you react interiorly? If there is an immediate visceral reaction or if you find yourself trying to figure out why they should be congratulated, then you might struggle with this sin. Or consider what you think, say or feel if you hear that someone you dislike has some problem, gets into some trouble, or encounters some misfortune. The ideal response is empathy and a desire for their well-being. If this is not the response within you, then pay attention to that.

Jesus concludes His teaching by saying that His Father “makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.” In other words, God bestows His perfect love and mercy upon everyone equally. The only difference is that some people choose to accept that mercy and others reject it. As for ourselves, just like our loving God, we must offer love and mercy to everyone equally and as completely as we can. And though some may reject that love, just as they reject the love of God, it must be offered and never rescinded. This is love of neighbour and also love of our enemies.

*Excerpt from <https://mycatholic.life> – Sunday Gospel Reflection – Loving Even Your Enemies: 19th February 2023
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)*



To Our Volunteers

Church Cleaning Roster

Sat 25 Feb 2023

Samoan Sunday School

Sat 4 Mar 2023

St. Mary's Avondale YOUTH

Sat 11 Mar 2023

African Community (Gertrude)

Flower Arrangement Roster

Sat 25 Feb 2023

No Flowers (Lent)

Sat 4 Mar 2023

No Flowers (Lent)

Sat 11 Mar 2023

No Flowers (Lent)

Catholic Diocese of Auckland
Te Taumata o te Hahi Katorika

A JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY
Salvation History
THE BIBLE FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION

POMPALLIER DIOCESAN CENTRE
30 NEW ST. PONSONBY

Over 2 Saturdays, 9:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.
SATURDAYS 4 MARCH & 11 MARCH 2023

PRESENTED BY
JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRAYER GROUP
MONS. DAVID TONKS
DEACON STEPHEN FRASER

Please register by 28th February 2023
To Deacon Steve on stephenf@cda.org.nz
Or Engelbert on engelbert.dsousa@yahoo.com



St. Mary's Parish Youth
are calling out to all our
young people!
Come and join us!

If you're interested or
would like to know more,
please call/text our Parish
Youth Leader – Lemo
021 08904317 or email the
Parish Office.

Parish Priest: Pa Peter Tipene
Email: ppriest@avondalecatholic.org.nz
Parish Secretary: Gwendoline Jessop
Email: office@avondalecatholic.org.nz
Website: www.avondalecatholic.org.nz
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmarysavondale
School Principal: Kathryn Hira
Email: principal@stmarysavondale.school.nz

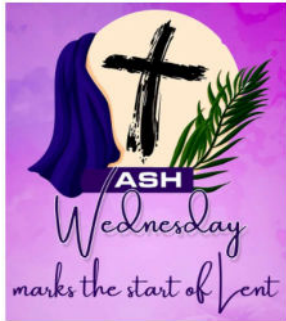
Parish Office:
Phone: (09) 828 9309
Tue – Fri: 9.15am – 3.30pm
Monday: Closed
School Office:
Phone: (09) 828 5599

Pledge Giving Account Number: 02-0100-0120958-04
Mass Offering Account Number: 02-0100-0120958-05
SMACC Building Fund: 02-0108-0339938-04

~ News and Updates from the Parish and Diocese ~

ASH WEDNESDAY – 22nd February 2023:

Masses will be at 9am and 7pm.



The Caritas Lenten Giving Envelope packs for the Bishops' 2023 Lenten Appeal are now available in the Church foyer. You can either use the weekly donation envelopes or use a single donation envelope. You may either return your donation envelopes during the parish offertory collection or send them to Caritas directly. A freepost envelope is available for this option. NZ Post specifies that cash must not be sent through the post. Donations received by Caritas in these envelopes by 31 March 2023 will be sent receipts for the 2022/2023 tax year. Donations received by Caritas after 1st April will be sent receipts for the 2023/2024 tax year. **Thank you for your generous support.**

The St. Mary's Education Grant has been providing financial assistance to poor students at our local St. Mary's School and overseas, especially in our Pacific neighbourhood. We are looking for new donors. Can you please help with a monthly contribution of just \$10? Yes just \$10 a month can make a difference in some student's life. You can set up automatic payments to the parish account 02-0100-0120958-04 through your bank. Please include the following details; **Reference:** Educ Grant. **Code:** Your phone number. **Particulars:** Your surname and initials. You can set this up yourself through internet banking or take the automatic payment forms to complete from one of us in the Church foyer. For more information, please contact Tony Rea (Email: tonirea@xtra.co.nz), Sumit Luis (sumit.luis@gmail.com) or Joe James (Email: joejames@yahoo.com / Phone: 09 8281577).

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass on Friday 3rd March 7.00pm, St. Mary's Church, 20 Kiteui Ave, Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy (sung), Benediction, Mass, followed by general blessing of St. Faustina's relic.

World Day of Prayer Ecumenical Service: Friday 3rd March 2023 at 10am – Hosted by St. Mary's Catholic Parish, 2134 Great North Road, Avondale. All are welcome to attend. Each year the service is written by women in a different country who share the hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, opportunities and needs of their country. It affirms that informed prayer and prayerful action are inseparable. This year's world Day of Prayer has been prepared by the WDP Committee of Taiwan. *Our parish of St. Mary's Avondale is hosting the WDP 2023 and in preparation for this event, we are keen to contact any Taiwanese parishioners we may have. If you are Taiwanese or have any connection to Taiwan, we would love to hear from you. We also kindly ask for volunteers to help out with morning tea afterwards.* Please contact Gwendoline in the Parish Office or see Pa Peter.

Caring Foundation Emergency Flood Response Appeal: Bishop Steve has launched an emergency flood response appeal to help families in desperate need. The Caring Foundation will be accepting donations to help Catholic agencies in the diocese deliver vital help to the many families severely impacted by the floods. Donations received will be used for food, shelter, clothes and other essential supplies and support services. Donations can be made directly online to the Foundation <https://caringfoundation.org.nz/donate-3/> so that assistance can get to families quickly.

Responding to the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. We join the rest of the global community in shock and horror reading about the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. We pray that the love of God may be seen in the care and concern of the international family in responding to their needs. Caritas are in contact with partners on the ground as they assess the scale of damage and critical needs at this time. They are also accepting donations for this: <https://www.caritas.org.nz/donate-online>

DRCNZ – Lenten Retreat: DRCNZ is organising a Lenten Retreat led by Fr. Joseph Edattu VC, Director, Divine (UK) from Sunday 19th March to Sunday 26th March. No registration fee. All are welcome. Retreat dates and venues: Sun 19 March: 2pm-7pm (includes Holy Mass) at Christ the King Church, Owairaka. Mon 20 to Thu 23 March: 7pm-9pm at Christ the King Church. Fri 24 March: 6pm-8pm Hamilton. Sat 25 March: 2pm-7pm (includes Holy Mass) St. Therese Church, Mt Albert Road. Sun 26 March: 2pm-7pm (includes Holy Mass) Christ the King Church, Owairaka. Contact: Brian 0210309144 / Cynthia 0210642157. Website: www.drcnewzealand.org

~ Special Acknowledgments ~

WEDDING BLESSINGS

Congratulations to

Ayesha D'Souza and Lucas Fairweather, married at St. Mary's Old Chapel, Ponsonby on the 18th February 2023.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday Blessings to the following parishioners:

- Palepa Muliaga (72) – 19 February
- Bob Newson (75) – 20 February
- Marlene Tipene (57) – 20 February
- Tuala Filipo Muliaga – 23 February
- Katrina McKee (34) – 24 February

RECENT DEATHS

Condolences and prayers to the families who have lost loved ones recently, especially

Tevita Fuimaono – a founding member of our Tongan Community, died on 14th Feb 2023. Family Service at St. Mary's Avondale on Sunday 19th Feb at 7.30pm and Funeral Mass at 10am on Monday 20th Feb at St. Mary's Avondale.

Jillian Hopgood-Luyers died 14th February. Funeral Mass at Good Shepherd Parish, Balmoral on Tuesday 21st February at 11am.

Sr. Esther MC died 17th January 2023

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Please pray for our dearly departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time

- 19th February: **Bernadette Tariu** (12th Anniversary) **Loretha Pereira** (1st Anniversary)
- 20th February: **Noel Colaco** (44th Anniversary)
- 22nd February: **Annamaria Joseph** (13th Anniversary)
- 24th February: **Elizabeth (Bep) Gruijters** (16th Anniversary)
- 25th February: **Mercy Francis** (15th Anniversary)

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – 26th February 2023

Readings: Genesis 2: 7-9, 3:1-7 / Ps 51 / Romans 5: 12-19 / Matthew 4: 1-11

	Sunday, 8:30am	Sunday, 10:30am	Sunday, 6pm
Commentator	Fotu Hoglund	Soanetai Tu'ima	Ruth Xavier
Word	1 st : Mafi Funaki-Tahifote 2 nd : Susan Healy	1 st : Laina Muliaga 2 nd : Tania Starr	1 st : Don Perera 2 nd : Leena Rebello
Holy Communion	Jacinta James Colleen Lewis Richard Miranda	Beatrice Ngunzira Sr. Amalia MC Sr. Xenia MC	Wilfrid Rodrigues
Choir/Musicians	Congregation / Choir (Filipino Choir)	Samoan Children's Choir	Congregation / Choir (Colaco Family)

Note: If you are unable to read/serve on the date that you are rostered, please contact the Parish Office via email: office@avondalecatholic.org.nz