

<i>Dates for your Diary: Monday 16th – Sunday 22nd October 2023</i>	
Wed, 18 Oct	Parish Youth Choir practice, 6pm – 8pm, Church
Thu, 19 Oct	Tongan Community Choir, 7pm – 9pm, Fr McGrath Room
Thu, 19 Oct	Samoan Community Choir, 6pm – 8pm, Meeting Room 1 (classroom)
Fri, 20 Oct	Tongan Sunday School – Rosary, 6pm – 7pm, Church
Fri, 20 Oct	Tongan Community Mass, 7pm, Church
Fri, 20 Oct	Tongan Community, 7pm – 9pm, Fr McGrath Room
Sat, 21 Oct	Legion of Mary meeting, 9.45am – 10.00am, Whare Iiti
Sat, 21 Oct	** Church Cleaning 9.30am – 10.20am: Legion of Mary Prayer Group ** PLEASE NOTE TIME **
Sat, 21 Oct	** Church Flowers 9.30am – 10.20am: Telesia & May ** PLEASE NOTE TIME **
Sat, 21 Oct	Baptism, 10.30am, Church
Sat, 21 Oct	Wedding, 12.00pm, Church
Sat, 21 Oct	Sacramental Programme classes, 3pm – 4pm, Meeting Room 2, Fr McGrath Rm & Whare Iiti
Sat, 21 Oct	Sacramental Programme sessions for parents, 3pm – 4pm, Church
Sat, 21 Oct	Samoan Community Choir, 3pm – 5pm, Meeting Room 1 (classroom)
Sat, 21 Oct	Divine Mercy Prayer Group, 3pm – 5pm, Te Whau Iiti
Sat, 21 Oct	Tongan Community Choir, 5pm – 7pm, Fr McGrath Room
Sun, 22 Oct	Samoan Sunday School, 8.30am – 10.30am, Meeting Room 1 (classroom)
Sun, 22 Oct	Samoan Sunday School, 8.30am – 10.30am, Fr McGrath Room
Sun, 22 Oct	Samoan Sunday School, 8.30am – 10.30am Whare Iiti (M Tapusoa)
Sun, 22 Oct	Tongan Sunday School, 12pm – 2pm, Fr McGrath Room
Sun, 22 Oct	Tongan Community (Group 4), 4pm – 6pm, Fr McGrath Room

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*

~ TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME ~ 15th OCT 23 ~

Readings: Isaiah 25: 6-10 | Ps 23 | Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20 | Matthew 22: 1-14

Gospel Reflection

Immediately after criticising the religious leaders through the parable of the tenants in last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus proceeded to tell another parable, again directed at the religious leaders. We hear this parable in today's Gospel.

In the parable of the wedding feast, Jesus offers an image of the kingdom of Heaven using the symbol of a wedding banquet. In today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah and in today's psalm, the Lord's goodness is evident in the symbol of a feast of good food and wine. Jesus' listeners would have been familiar with the image of a wedding feast as a symbol for God's salvation. They would consider themselves to be the invited guests. Keeping this in mind helps us to understand the critique Jesus makes with this parable. The context for this parable is the growing tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem. This has been the case for the past two Sundays and will continue to be true for the next several weeks.

The parable Jesus tells is straightforward. The king dispatches his servants to invite the guests to the wedding feast that he is planning for his son. The listeners would have been surprised to learn that the first guests refused the invitation. Who would refuse the king's invitation? A second dispatch of servants follows. Again to the listeners' great surprise, some guests ignore the invitation. Some of the invited guests even go so far as to mistreat and kill the servants. The king invokes his retribution against these murderers by destroying them and burning their city.

We might stop here for a moment. Why would some guests kill the servants sent to invite them to the king's wedding feast? It might be possible that the king was a tyrant, evidenced by the destruction of the city of those who refused his invitation. But if we follow this idea, then the allegory seems to be about something other than the kingdom of Heaven. It is more likely that the destruction of the city would have been a powerful image corresponding to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D., which would have been an important event for Matthew's audience.

With the invited guests now deemed unworthy to attend the king's wedding feast, the servants are sent to invite whomever they can find. The guests arrive, but it appears that accepting the king's invitation brings certain obligations. The guest who failed to dress in the appropriate wedding attire is cast out of the feast. We are reminded that while many are invited to the kingdom of Heaven, not all are able to meet its requirements. God invites us to His feast, giving us His salvation. Yet He asks us to repent for our sins.

Jesus' message in the parable cautions against exclusive beliefs about the kingdom of Heaven. The parable also teaches about humility. Those who assume that they are the invited guests may find that they have refused the invitation, and so others are invited in their place. To accept the invitation is also to accept its obligations. God wants our full conversion in complete acceptance of His mercy.

Excerpt from www.loyolapress.com – Sunday Connection – Twenty Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)

The Gospel of Mark
with Kieran Fenn fms

The Gospel of Mark is a gospel of pace.
In this gospel Jesus is active. Jesus shows us that his leadership is not about greatness but about service. Jesus, the Son of God, leads us from darkness to light. He never gives up on failing disciples. The Cross is essential but is not the end.

In these two sessions, we are preparing ourselves for the new Church Year in which we will be journeying through Gospel of Mark. This is the shortest and oldest of the four gospels.

Kieran Fenn fms is a Bible scholar and has spent more than 40 years in Adult Education, teaching Scripture in New Zealand and abroad.

The Gospel of Mark with Kieran Fenn fms
Mondays, 13 & 20 November 2023, 7-8.30pm (ZOOM)
Fee: Koha. Donations are appreciated.
For more information and registration: www.studyjoy.nz

NZCatholic
The national Catholic newspaper
October 8 - 21, 2023 • No. 671

NZ bishops update consistent ethic of life document 4
Bishops' 2023 general election statement 10-11

Bishop Adams ordained
Third Bishop of Palmerston North - pgs 2,3

Six times judged Australasia's leading Catholic newspaper

Thank You
To Our Volunteers

Church Cleaning Roster

Sat 21 Oct 2023
Legion of Mary

Sat 28 Oct 2023
Lataki Youth Group

Flower Arrangement Roster

Sat 21 Oct 2023
Telesia & May

Sat 28 Oct 2023
Divine Mercy Group

Parish Priest:	Pa Peter Tipene	Parish Office:
Email:	ppriest@avondalecatholic.org.nz	Phone: (09) 828 9309
Parish Secretary:	Gwendoline Jessop	Tue – Fri: 9.15am – 3.30pm
Email:	office@avondalecatholic.org.nz	Monday: Closed
Website:	www.avondalecatholic.org.nz	School Office:
Facebook:	www.facebook.com/stmarysavondale	Phone: (09) 828 5599
School Principal:	Kathryn Hira	
Email:	principal@stmarysavondale.school.nz	
Pledge Giving Account Number: 02-0108-0706996-000		
Mass Offering Account Number: 02-0108-0706996-001		
SMACC Building Fund Account Number: 02-0108-0706996-004		

~ News and Updates from the Parish and Diocese ~



The Upper Room Young Adults Evening – Thursday 19th October 2023: Young adults, join us for an evening of fellowship and formation on Thursday 19th October, 7.00pm, at Good George Mission Bay. Our guest speaker for this event is **Brendan Malone**, who will be speaking on 'The Courage to be Counter-Cultural'. Tickets are \$10 each and you can find all the details at www.facebook.com/AKCYM

For fifty-five years the Methodist and Catholic Churches have been in ecumenical dialogue. **The New Zealand Catholic Methodist Dialogue Committee invite you to join a Liturgy of Repentance and Reconciliation.** Preacher: Bishop Steve Lowe. Wednesday: 25 October at 7.30pm, Methodist Church, 427 Lake Road, Takapuna.

Exploring Sacred Spaces started on 30 September. You can still participate in October. For more information, please see website at <https://www.aucklandinterfaithcouncil.org.nz/events/exploring-sacred-spaces-2023/> or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/aucklandinterfaithcouncil>. These are open events with no registration necessary but as the respective hosts are planning to offer a cuppa with their event, it would be great if you could let us know if you are planning to join us.

9 November – The **Pompallier Diocesan Centre**, 30 New St, St Mary's Bay is a service hub for the Diocese... and a mystery to many. On the **9th November from 4pm – 7.30pm** you are invited to an **Open Home** at the Centre. It will be an opportunity to engage with staff, explore some of the archival treasure, enjoy a snack, purchase liturgical resources and more.

SCHOLARSHIPS: The Auckland Diocese is now accepting applications for scholarship for 2024 – **The Ruth Miller Scholarship** is available towards a Bachelor Degree or Graduate Diploma in Theology. The **Jubilee Bursary** is offered for theological and religious education studies. These programmes are offered at Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College. Enrolment for 2024 is ongoing. For more information, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/scholarships. To enrol, go to <https://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/apply>

Bishop Stephen Lowe, the Catholic Bishop of Auckland is calling for applications for study at Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College.

RUTH MILLER SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available for people who want to study towards a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 2024.

For more information and application form, email: scholarships@cda.org.nz

APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2023

Jubilee Bursary
For Theological and Religious Education

APPLICATIONS INVITED
for Semester 1, 2024

Applications close **Thursday, 23 November 2023**

Applicants must be Catholic and making a contribution to the mission of the Catholic Church in the Auckland Diocese

The Bursary is a contribution towards Tertiary Study for Theology and RE courses at Degree or Post Grad Level

For information and an application pack please contact:
Michelle Jarvis
michellej@cda.org.nz
Auckland Catholic Diocese

Awareness Living: The Power of Thought to Nourish Life. Saturday 28 October 9.30am – 1pm facilitated by Katrina Brill rsj. Registrations by 24th October 2023.

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 2024 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Australia. Applications close October 31st, 2023. Send us an enquiry – www.cagliero.org.au or lhichaaba@salesians.org.au

Hāto Petera Hui-a-Whānau: Saturday 11 November from 3.00pm to 5.00pm at Te Kamaka Marae. For those who wish to stay there will be Miha Maori at 6.00pm.

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~ Special Announcements ~

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to those with Birthdays at this time:

Suzani Emiliyanus

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following couples who celebrate their special milestone this week:

Gloria & Tony Travaglia



Come to the feast.

Am I so caught up with the challenges of life that I fail to respond to God's invitation?

~ TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: 22 OCTOBER 2023 ~

Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6 | Ps 96 | 1Thessalonians 1: 1-5 | Matthew 22: 15-21

(Mission Sunday Collection)

	Sunday, 8.30am	Sunday, 10.30am	Sunday, 6.00pm
Commentator	Keith Simento	Tania Starr	Celine George
Word	1 st : Ivory-Joan Peauvasa 2 nd : Joseph Katoa	1 st : Laina Muliaga 2 nd : Vika Lemeki	1 st : Ruth Xavier 2 nd : Shehani Thamel
Holy Communion	Colleen Lewis Richard Miranda Jarrod Peauvasa	Ausage Lata Fa'asavalu Leavai Lagi Lilo	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

Catholic Diocese of Auckland
Te Taumata o te Hahi Katorika

GAUDETE
ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Music from Parishes, Schools & Ethnic Chaplaincies across the Diocese.

3pm - 6pm Saturday, 25th November 2023
Sir Woolf Fisher Arena
(770 Great South Road, Manukau 2104)

For All Ages | Donation / Entry by Koha | Free Parking Available

Caring Foundation Christmas Appeal

THE CARING FOUNDATION
Caring for Families, Caring for Communities

Have any questions?
Contact: (09) 360 3061 | liturgycentre@cda.org.nz
or visit our webpage: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/gaudete

Approved Diocesan Marriage Preparation Course

Are you getting married?

Please book your Diocesan Marriage Preparation course here:
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/our-courses/>

Please book 1 year (if getting married in NZ) or 18 months (if getting married overseas) in advance of your wedding date. The 3-part course takes about 30 hours to complete. This is usually spread over 3 months. For more information email: marriageandfamily@cda.org.nz or call Gerry on 021 02247442.