

**Dates for your Diary: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

<b>Tue, 14 Nov</b>	Samoan Sunday School meeting, 6.30pm – 8pm, Meeting Room 1 (classroom)
<b>Wed, 15 Nov</b>	Parish Youth Choir, 6pm – 8pm, Church
<b>Thu, 16 Nov</b>	Tongan Community Choir, 7pm – 9pm, Fr McGrath Room
<b>Thu, 16 Nov</b>	Samoan Community Choir, 6pm – 8pm, Meeting Room 1 (classroom)
<b>Fri, 17 Nov</b>	Tongan Community Mass, 7pm, Church
<b>Sat, 18 Nov</b>	Legion of Mary meeting, 9.45am – 11.30am, Whare Iti
<b>Sat, 18 Nov</b>	<b>** Church Cleaning 9.30am – 12.00pm:</b> Friends of the Parish **
<b>Sat, 18 Nov</b>	<b>** Church Flowers 9.30am – 12.00pm:</b> Samoan Community **
<b>Sat, 18 Nov</b>	Sacramental Programme – RECONCILIATION, 3pm – 4pm, Church
<b>Sat, 18 Nov</b>	Samoan Community Choir, 3pm – 5pm, Meeting Room 1 (classroom)
<b>Sat, 18 Nov</b>	Divine Mercy Prayer Group, 3pm – 5pm, Te Whau Iti
<b>Sat, 18 Nov</b>	Tongan Community Choir, 5pm – 7pm, Fr McGrath Room
<b>Sun, 19 Nov</b>	Parish Youth Group session, 12pm – 3pm, 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*

**~ THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME ~ 12<sup>th</sup> NOV 23 ~**

**Readings: Wisdom 6: 12-16 | Ps 63 | 1Thessalonians 4: 13-18 | Matthew 25: 1-13**

**Gospel Reflection**

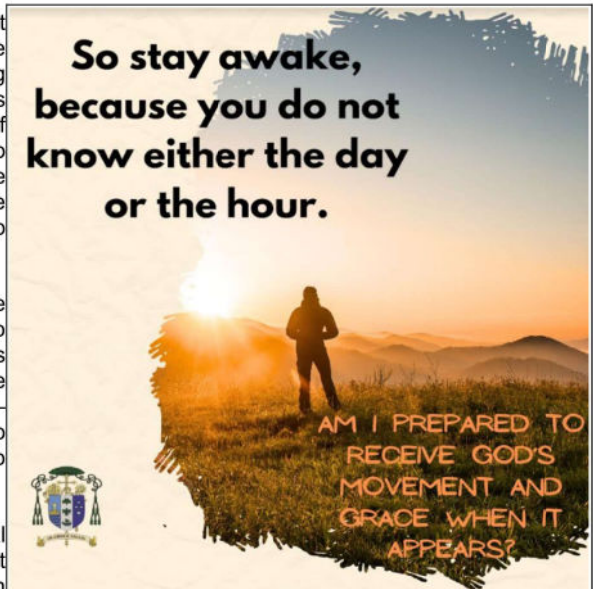
In this week's Gospel, Jesus talks about what it means to be prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. This week's reading follows a series of warnings and predictions by Jesus about the coming of the Son of Man. Jesus wants His disciples to understand that the exact day and time cannot be predicted. He teaches the disciples that they must remain vigilant so that they will not be caught unprepared.

When thinking about the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, it is important to consider the first-century wedding traditions of Palestine. Scholars tell us that it was the custom of the day for young maidens – friends and family members of the bride – to meet the bridegroom when he came to bring his bride to her new home.

As with many of Jesus' parables, several levels of interpretation are possible. In last week's Gospel, we heard Jesus warn against following the example of the Pharisees and scribes. If read in the context of early Christianity's struggle to define itself against Pharisaic Judaism, this parable is a continuing critique of Judaism. It suggests that the Jewish leaders were like the foolish virgins, unprepared to meet Jesus, the bridegroom of Israel.

In the chapter preceding this parable, however, Jesus warns about the destruction of Jerusalem, the tribulation of the end times, and the coming of the Son of Man. When read in this context, today's parable is a warning to the Christian community to remain vigilant and prepared to receive Jesus, the Son of Man who will return at the end of time. This interpretation is supported by the reference to the delay of the bridegroom. The Christian community for whom Matthew wrote this Gospel was coming to terms with the realisation that the promise of Jesus' return would not be fulfilled within their lifetimes. The question remains for us to ask ourselves, 'Are we ready to receive Jesus? Will we be prepared to receive Him?'

Excerpt from [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com) – Sunday Connection – Thirty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)



**NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE NEW ZEALAND**

**SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER 2023**

- Wellington City
- Gather at Civic Square from 1pm.
- Marching to Parliament at 2pm.

[www.marchforlife.nz](http://www.marchforlife.nz)

**NZCatholic**  
The national Catholic newspaper November 5-18, 2023 • No. 673

Young people told about navigating today's cultural crisis 10 | Social housing challenges under the new government 20

**New bishop for Hamilton Diocese**

Bishop-elect Richard Laurenson - pg 3

Six times judged Australasia's leading Catholic newspaper

**Thank You**

**To Our Volunteers**

**Church Cleaning Roster**

**Sat 18 Nov 2023**  
Friends of the Parish

**Sat 25 Nov 2023**  
Tongan Community

**Flower Arrangement Roster**

**Sat 18 Nov 2023**  
Samoan Community

**Sat 25 Nov 2023**  
Telesia & May

**Parish Priest:** Pa Peter Tipene  
**Email:** [ppriest@avondalecatholic.org.nz](mailto:ppriest@avondalecatholic.org.nz)  
**Parish Secretary:** Gwendoline Jessop  
**Email:** [office@avondalecatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@avondalecatholic.org.nz)  
**Website:** [www.avondalecatholic.org.nz](http://www.avondalecatholic.org.nz)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/stmarysavondale](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysavondale)  
**School Principal:** Kathryn Hira  
**Email:** [principal@stmarysavondale.school.nz](mailto: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:** 02-0108-0706996-000  
**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 ~

**Basket of Remembrance for November:** A Basket will remain in front of the Altar for the month of November, into which names of deceased loved ones you wish to have remembered can be placed in the basket at any time. All those named in the basket will be especially remembered at all our Parish Masses. *"Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace."*



**World Day of the Poor 2023:** Join us in making a difference: Sunday 19 November 2023 marks the 7<sup>th</sup> annual World Day of the Poor, a day to consider how we all can stand in solidarity with those in need. Poverty is a pressing global issue, and this day calls us to action. Pope Francis has instructed us this year, "Do not turn your face away from those who are poor" (Tob 4: 7). **Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand's Commitment:** Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand works tirelessly to empower communities. They partner with organisations around the world to build thriving lives by addressing the root causes of poverty and injustice. Their mission aligns with Pope Francis' call to make a positive change in the world. **Get Involved!** Consider what you can do to recognise the World Day of the Poor 2023. Together, we can create a more just and compassionate world.

Find out more about World Day of the Poor and the work of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand! **Caritas website:** <https://www.caritas.org.nz> | **Caritas Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/caritasaotearoa> **Caritas Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/@caritasaotearoa>



Celebrate a fantastic year of youth ministry at our end-of-year **Celebration Mass – 2 December, 4.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral**. This special event marks the end of our year-long journey with the young leaders of the Diocese of Auckland. We are excited to celebrate the many ways they have served in 2023. At this Mass, we are excited to present the Tu Kahikatea Awards. These awards recognise young people who have made an outstanding contribution in the Diocese. Bishop Steve Lowe will celebrate the Mass, present the Awards, and give a special blessing to all our youth and young adult ministry leaders. Young leaders, make sure you don't miss it! All are welcome at this celebration! Bring your whānau, your friends, and your wider faith community as we mark the conclusion of an amazing year of ministry.

**Advent Retreat:** Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023, 8am – 2pm, St Michael's Parish, 6 Beatrice Road, Remuera. Discover the mysteries of Advent with the insightful guidance of Dr. Robert Loretz. Join us as we interpret the deeper mysteries of the incarnation using the 'Four Senses of Sacred Scripture'. Light lunch provided. Entry by Koha. For more information, visit <https://www.remueracatholic.org.nz/advent-retreat>

**Life Teen Aotearoa Summer Camp is for you**, and it is for your teens. Throughout the week we aim to support parishes to walk alongside their young people and get to know them on a deeper level. Every year we deliver more mess, more fun, and more amazing opportunities to connect with Jesus in a personal way. We do this through thought provoking keynote sessions, small group discussion times and lots of opportunities to just have fun with your teens. Registrations are closing! So if you are ready to help lead your teens closer to Christ and have then #bestsummerever, then go to <https://www.lifeteen.nz> to register your group or to apply as a Summer Missionary. Contact [samuelb@cda.org.nz](mailto:samuelb@cda.org.nz) for queries.

**Catholic Hospitality** in New Zealand and Australia, payment per night is \$50 for one guest and \$30 for each additional guest, eg: a couple would pay \$80 per night for bed and continental breakfast. This is a wonderful way for Catholics to meet and enjoy the company of other Catholics. To purchase a book of details of hosts, contact Marie Anderson, 03 3595541 or email [marie.ian@xtra.co.nz](mailto:marie.ian@xtra.co.nz)

## ~ Special Announcements ~

### BIRTHDAYS

**Congratulations to those with Birthdays at this time:**

Srimathie DeZoysa

John Sherwood

Luisa Stott

### RECENT DEATHS

**We pray for the loved ones of those who have died recently, especially:**

**Leena Silvera** – Elaine Colaco's mother who died suddenly in Goa, India.

### DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

**We pray for our dearly departed, whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially:**

Norbert Coutinho






# Gospel for kidz

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Thirty-Second-SUNDAY-of-OT-2.pdf>

**Thirty Second SUNDAY of OT**  
**Exploring our Faith with Children**  
**Diwali Festival 12<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Celebrating our November Saints**

You are invited to ACN's...

WITNESSES OF FAITH 2023 EVENING

The Pontifical Foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is honoured to be bringing to Auckland in November 2023 three very special guests from the Middle East and Nigeria as part of our 'Witnesses of Faith Tour' across Australia and New Zealand.

The first guest is the Melkite Catholic Patriarch, **His Beatitude Joseph Absi**; Second, **Sister Majella Dogonya**, a Dominican Sister from Nigeria; third, **Mr Xavier Stephen Blais**, ACN's head of projects for Syria, Lebanon and Egypt.

Each of them comes to share their own stories of Christian suffering and persecution and we know of course that the situations in both the Middle East and Nigeria are very difficult ones.

Entry to the evening is free but we will be seeking donations for specific projects of Aid to the Church in Need in the Middle East and Nigeria.

The event has been welcomed into the Diocese of Auckland by Bishop Stephen Lowe, who will be in attendance. The evening will involve prayer, reflection and testimony, and will conclude with a simple supper.

*All are welcome!*

Thursday 30 November 7.00-9.00pm  
Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph,  
Auckland, New Zealand

SPECIAL NOTE: This visit of the Patriarch is the first major trip His Beatitude will make at the start of a one-year commemoration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the restoration of the full Communion with the Church of Rome, in 1924.

Aid to the Church in Need  
ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

For more information and to register, please visit [www.aidtochurch.org/witnesses](http://www.aidtochurch.org/witnesses) or email [info@aidtochurch.org](mailto:info@aidtochurch.org) or phone 0800 242 322.

## 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](mailto:marriageandfamily@cda.org.nz) or call **Gerry on 021 02247442**.

## ~ THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: 19<sup>th</sup> NOV 2023 ~

*Prov 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31 | Ps 128 | 1Thessalonians 5: 1-6 | Matthew 25: 14-30*

	Sunday, 8.30am	Sunday, 10.30am	Sunday, 6.00pm
<b>Commentator</b>	MDM Youth Group	Parish Youth Mass	Cynthia Paul <i>* Change in roster</i>
<b>Word</b>	MDM Youth Group	Parish Youth Mass	1 <sup>st</sup> : Raisa Mathias 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sifo Gisa
<b>Holy Communion</b>	Maselina Suisala Otessa Ale Paula Betham	Fololina A'Costa Teresita Minerva Down Bastiana Joseph Mary	Edmar Oliveira
<b>Choir/Musicians</b>	MDM Youth Choir	Parish Youth 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](mailto:office@avondalecatholic.org.nz)