

<i>Dates for your Diary: Monday 12th – Sunday 18th Feb 2024</i>	
Wed, 14 Feb	Parish Youth Choir, 6pm – 8pm, Fr McGrath Room
Thu, 15 Feb	Samoan Community Choir, 6pm – 8pm, Meeting Room 1 (classroom)
Thu, 15 Feb	Tongan Community Choir, 7pm – 9pm, Fr McGrath Room
Fri, 16 Feb	Tongan Community Mass, 7pm, Church
Sat, 17 Feb	Legion of Mary meeting, 9.45am – 11.30am, Whare Iti
Sat, 17 Feb	** Church Cleaning 9.30am – 2.00pm: Q Colaco, B Joseph Mary, Hoglund Family, L Rebello, N Dsouza, A Mothibe **
Sat, 17 Feb	Samoan Community Choir, 3pm – 5pm, Meeting Room 1 (classroom)
Sat, 17 Feb	Divine Mercy Prayer Group, 3pm – 5pm, Te Whau Iti
Sat, 17 Feb	Tongan Community Choir, 5pm – 7pm, Fr McGrath Room
Sun, 18 Feb	Samoan Sunday School, 8.30am – 10.30am, Fr McGrath Room
Sun, 18 Feb	Samoan Sunday School, 8.30am – 10.30am, Meeting Room 1 (classroom)
Sun, 18 Feb	Samoan Sunday School, 8.30am – 10.30am, Whare Iti
Sun, 18 Feb	Parish Youth Group session, 12pm – 3pm, Fr McGrath Room

<u>MASS SCHEDULE 2023</u>
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

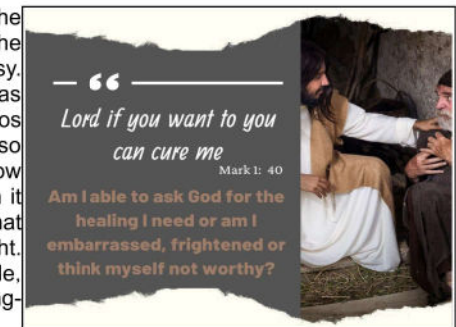
*To Grow in Awareness as One Parish Family / Kokiritia te Oranga
Kotahitanga o te Whanau Whakapono*

~ SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME ~ 11th February 2024 ~

Readings: Leviticus 13: 1-2, 45-46 | Ps 32 | 1Corinthians 10: 31-11:1 | Mark 1: 40-45

Gospel Reflection

In today's Gospel, we continue to hear Mark report the miraculous healing that Jesus performed in Galilee. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a disfiguring, infectious skin disease that has been surrounded by many social and religious taboos throughout history. In 1873, the cause of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, was identified. We now know that leprosy is caused by a bacterial infection. Although it is infectious, modern medical studies have shown that transmission is more difficult than previously thought. Since the 1940s, medical treatments have been available, and the patient no longer needs to be isolated once long-term treatment has begun.



In Jesus' time, however, religious and social taboos dictated the behaviour of those with leprosy and other skin diseases. The Law of Moses provided for the examination of skin diseases by the priests, and if leprosy was identified, the person was declared unclean. People with leprosy lived in isolation from the community. They were instructed to rip their clothes and to announce their presence with loud cries when moving in the community. If the sores of leprosy healed, the Law of Moses provided a purification rite that permitted the person to return to the community.

In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man and an important statement about Jesus' interpretation of the Law of Moses.

Although Jesus touched the leper, He did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as prescribed by the Law of Moses. The first instruction sounds nearly impossible to honour. Certainly, the man would want to share the good news of his healing, and his quick improvement would require an explanation. The second instruction honours the Law of Moses.

Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made Himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by His popularity. Despite His instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought Him out in search of His healing.

Auckland Catholic Singles
30s & 40s
Meet up
@
LANTERN FESTIVAL
MANUKAU SPORTS BOWL
24 FEBRUARY 6PM
Te Irirangi Drive,
Manukau City Centre,
Auckland
Email RSVP to get meeting location
akcatholicsinglesocialgroup@gmail.com

NZCatholic \$4
The national Catholic newspaper
February 11 - 24, 2024 • No. 618

Kiwi Catholic and Anglican bishops in Rome and UK 3
End of an era for Auckland Square Gift Store owner 17

Fun and Faith
Hundreds of teens at annual Catholic camp - pg 10

Six times judged Australasia's leading Catholic newspaper

Thank You
To Our Volunteers

Church Cleaning Roster
Sat 17 Feb 2024
Q Colaco, B Joseph Mary, Hoglund Family, L Rebello, N Dsouza, A Mothibe

Sat 24 Feb 2024
Samoan Sunday School

Flower Arrangement Roster

Please note that there are
NO FLOWERS DURING LENT.

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 St. Mary's Parish Education Grant was started over 20 years ago to provide financial assistance to those students in our local St. Mary's School and schools overseas, whose families are struggling to meet the costs of their children's educational needs. **We are constantly in need of new donors.** Are you able to assist with a monthly contribution of just \$10? Yes, just \$10 a month can help to make a huge life changing difference in a student's life. If you would like to be a part of this important work, you can set up an Automatic Payment to the Parish Bank Account 02-0108-0706996-000 through your bank. Please include the following details – **Reference:** Educ Grant | **Code:** (your phone number) | **Particulars:** (your surname and initials). This may also be set up through internet banking. Automatic Payment forms are also available in the Church foyer. All donations qualify for the usual tax deduction claim, and receipts are generated at the end of the Financial Year. If you would like to know more about this Special Outreach or would like more information, please feel free to contact any of the following: **Tony Rea:** tonirea@xtra.co.nz | **Sumit Luis:** sumit.luis@gmail.com | **Joe James:** joejamesnz@yahoo.com

Palms for Ash Wednesday ashes: We request those who had palms blessed last year on Palm Sunday to please bring them and place them in the basket kept in the Church foyer. They will be burnt to make ashes for the Ash Wednesday celebrations.

Shrove Tuesday - 13th February 2024: There will be the Burning of Palms at 10.15am in the School plaza area here at St. Mary's, Avondale. The Annual Schools Dedication Mass will be held at Christ the King, Owairaka at 7.00pm.

Ash Wednesday - 14th February 2024: Masses will be at 9.00am and 7.00pm. Please note that the School will be joining us for the 9.00am Mass.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are every Friday during Lent at 6.00pm, starting from 16th February 2024, here at St. Mary's, Avondale. All are welcome to attend.

Upcoming Liturgies:

- **Friday 16th Feb 2024:** Monthly Tongan Community Mass here at St. Mary's, at 7pm.
- **Monday 19th Feb 2024:** Liston College Inaugural Mass in College Hall, at 11.30am.
- **Tuesday 20th Feb 2024:** St. Mary's School, Avondale Inaugural Mass in Church at 9am.
- **Wednesday 21st Feb 2024:** Recording Mass for Shine at 9am Mass (for 2nd Sunday of Lent).
- **** Thursday 22nd Feb 2024:** St. Dominic's College Inaugural Mass in College Hall at 9.30am. **** Please note that a Liturgy of the Word with Communion replaces the 9am Mass here at St. Mary's on Thursday 22nd February.****



The Time is Now! Ko tenei tonu te Wā! The time is now to empower vulnerable families to thrive. Lenten Giving Envelopes for the Bishops' Lent Appeal 2024 are available from the Church foyer from today. This year, we are using a single giving envelope. By reducing costs, we ensure more of your donations go to those in need. You can give once or weekly, as is your preference. You may either return your donation envelopes during the parish offertory collection at Mass or send them to Caritas directly using the Freepost option with the envelope. NZ Post specifies that cash must not be sent through the post. Donations received by Caritas in these envelopes by 31 March 2024 will be sent receipts for the 2023/2024 tax year. Donations received by Caritas after April 1st will be sent receipts for the 2024/2025 tax year. **Thank you for your generous support.**

NZ CATHOLIC: The latest issue of the NZ Catholic is available from the Church foyer. Price \$4 each. Some headlines for this issue: Kiwi and Anglican bishops gather in Rome and UK. New director for Hearts Aflame. Christchurch Diocese seeks feedback on Cathedral location options.

~ Special Announcements ~

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to those who celebrated Birthdays recently:

Sina Hoglund - 21st Birthday

Lolongo Sisi - 21st Birthday

RECENT DEATHS

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

Cynthia Forrest

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

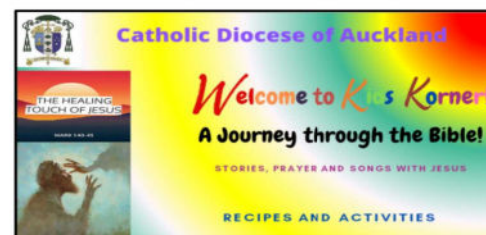
We pray for our dearly departed, whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially:

Cyril Pereira

Fr. M Furtado

Tevita Fuimaono

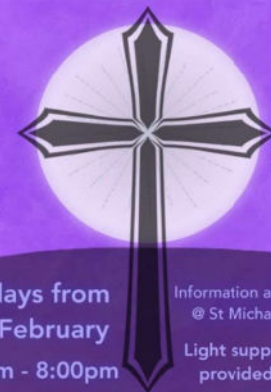
Bernhardt Thomsen



<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Celebrating-SIXTH-Week-in-OT.pdf>

LENT

St Michael's invites you to five weekly talks by Fr Merv Duffy
Come and explore the mysteries of the Eucharist during this sacred season



Tuesdays from
20th February
7:00pm - 8:00pm

Information and registration
@ St Michael's website.

Light supper
provided



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.

~ FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT: 18 February 2024 ~

Readings: Genesis 9: 8-15 | Ps 25 | 1Peter 3: 18-22 | Mark: 1: 12-15

	Sunday, 8.30am Mass	Sunday, 10.30am Mass	Sunday, 6.00pm Mass
Commentator	MDM Youth Group	Parish Youth Mass	Lauretta Silver
Word	MDM Youth Group	Parish Youth Mass	1 st : Don Perera 2 nd : Leena Rebello
Holy Communion	Tevita Funaki Agnes Gruijters Autu Isaia Jacinta James Colleen Lewis	Fololina A'Costa Teresita Minerva Down Bastiana Joseph Mary Beatrice Ngurinzira Sr. Lucy Agnes MC	Edmar Oliveira
Choir/Musicians	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