

## Dates for your Diary: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Wed, 13 Mar	Parish Youth Choir, 6pm – 8pm, Fr McGrath Room
Thu, 14 Mar	Samoa Community Choir, 6pm – 8pm, Meeting Room 1 (classroom)
Thu, 14 Mar	Tongan Community Choir, 7pm – 9pm, Fr McGrath Room
Fri, 15 Mar	Stations of the Cross, 6pm – 7pm, Church
Fri, 15 Mar	Mass – Tongan Community, 7pm, Church
Sat, 16 Mar	Legion of Mary meeting, 9.45am – 11.30am, Whare Iti
Sat, 16 Mar	<b>** Church Cleaning 9.30am – 12.00pm: Lataki Youth Group **</b>
Sat, 16 Mar	Samoa Community Choir, 3pm – 5pm, Meeting Room 1 (classroom)
Sat, 16 Mar	Divine Mercy Prayer Group, 3pm – 5pm, Te Whau Iti
Sat, 16 Mar	Tongan Community Choir, 5pm – 7pm, Fr McGrath Room
Sun, 17 Mar	Samoa Sunday School, 8.30am – 10.30am, Fr McGrath Room
Sun, 17 Mar	Samoa Sunday School, 8.30am – 10.30am, Meeting Room 1 (classroom)
Sun, 17 Mar	Samoa Sunday School, 8.30am – 10.30am, Whare Iti
Sun, 17 Mar	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*

## ~ FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 ~

Readings: 2Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23 | Ps 137 | Ephesians 2: 4-10 | John 3: 14-21

## Gospel Reflection

*Time for Love | Te Wā mō te Tūtaki*



Jesus talks to Nicodemus

## God is love and acts in love towards His people...

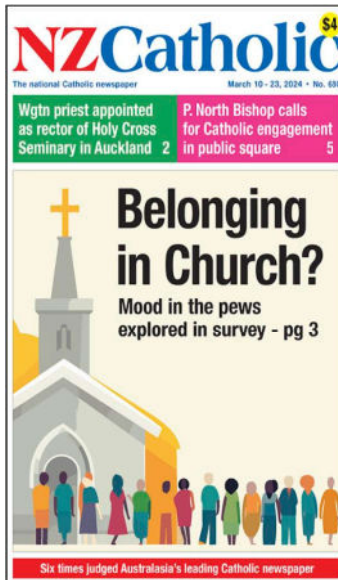
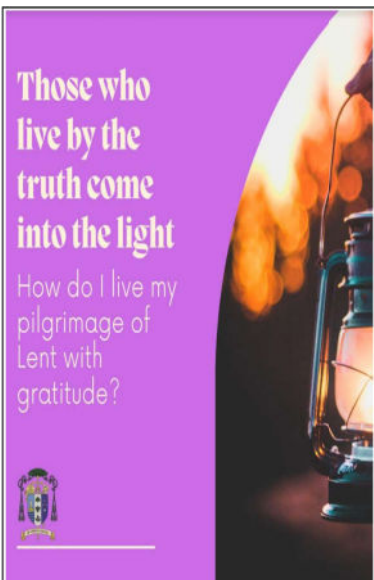
This Gospel reading begins with Jesus referring to the Old Testament (Numbers 21:4-9) where God provided a way of healing the Israelites from serpent bites by lifting up a bronze serpent on a pole. Whenever the Israelites who had been bitten by poisonous serpents looked at the bronze serpent then they would survive the serpent bites. Likewise, Jesus was to be lifted up on a cross and whoever looks to him will be saved. If you believe in Jesus, the world can be saved. If you believe in idols, you are already condemned to darkness.

The passage also reinforces God's love for all people by showing that God loved the whole world to the extent that he was willing to send his only Son as a sacrifice for the sins of all humanity. (John 3:16 and 1 John 4:7-16). Jesus is the sacrifice. Jesus was willing to go all the way to the cross – a sign of God's love rather than judgment.

People can choose whether to respond to God's love or not. God's will is that none perish (2 Peter 3:9) but He gives us free will to make our own choices. Light also has a symbolic meaning which can fit with the experience of new believers as they come to see things in a new light. For example, Nicodemus came by night but became enlightened (John 3:1-5).

At various stages in the life of God's people there are important moments of deep encounter with God. These *kairos* moments sit outside the normal chronological understanding of time. The Māori phrase "mā te wā" captures something of this. There is a right time in the universe for important decisions. Ecclesiastes also captures a sense of *kairos* (Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8). Ultimately there is an important time in which each of us must decide whether we are going to follow and believe in Jesus.

Excerpt from Caritas Lent Reflection Programme 2024 – Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand



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### 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 ~

## Lenten Rite II Celebrations in the Western Deanery

**HENDERSON:** Tuesday 19 March 2024 at 7.00pm  
**AVONDALE:** Wednesday 20 March 2024 at 7.00pm  
 (BLOCKHOUSE BAY will be combining with us)  
**GLEN EDEN:** Thursday 21 March 2024 at 7.00pm

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** are every Friday during Lent at 6.00pm, here at St. Mary's, Avondale. All are welcome to attend.

**Pledge Giving: Special Collection for the Holy Places – Good Friday 29 March 2024:** This collection goes towards the upkeep of the Holy Places in Christendom.

**Fr. Mario Dorado's 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary is on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024:** There will be Memorial Masses as follows: 7pm at Blockhouse Bay | 7.30pm at Henderson | **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March:** 6.30pm at Glen Eden.

**Liturgical Ministry Workshops:** The Liturgy Centre is offering Liturgical Ministry workshops across the Deaneries which will cover training (for new) and refreshers (for existing) **Ministers of the Word and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.** These workshops will consist of context, prayer, and practical formation in these areas. Participants will only need to attend **ONE** of these workshops. All will receive a certificate at completion, which will be posted to their parish and presented at Mass on a chosen date/time. Each session will be held on a specific Sunday at a parish within the designated Deanery, from 1pm – 3pm (with light lunch provided): **14<sup>th</sup> April:** East (St. Mark's Pakuranga) | **5<sup>th</sup> May:** South (St. Anne's Manurewa) | **19<sup>th</sup> May:** North Shore (St. Joseph's Takapuna). Register via the link: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/liturgy-prayer/formation/>. Once you have registered online, please let the Parish Office know via email: [office@avondalecatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@avondalecatholic.org.nz) so that your name can be added to the list of those attending the workshop. Once the certificates arrive, they will be checked against our list of names prior to the presentation of certificates at Mass.

**St. Mary's College:** A friendly reminder that enrolments close on Friday 15 March. Please visit [www.stmaryak.school.nz](http://www.stmaryak.school.nz) for enrolment information and online application form. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Enrolments Officer: [enrolments@stmaryak.school.nz](mailto:enrolments@stmaryak.school.nz)

**NZ CATHOLIC:** The latest issue is available to purchase from the Church foyer. Price \$4 each. Headline for this issue: New Zealand Catholic Church faces engagement and giving challenges, survey shows.

**Divine Mercy Feast Day at St Benedict's Parish, 1 St. Benedict's Street, Eden Terrace, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 5.30pm:** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Blessing of images, Benediction, Holy Mass, Veneration of St Faustina's relic. Bring your Divine Mercy images and artefacts to be blessed. **Free parking at Wilson Carpark and street parking is also free on Sunday.**



St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church  
 2134 Great North Road, Avondale, Auckland 0600

**Sunday 24th March 2024**  
**PASSION SUNDAY (Palm Sunday)**  
 Mass at: 8.30am / 10.30am / 6.00pm

**Monday 25th March 2024**  
 7.30pm: Chrism Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral

**Tuesday 26th & Wednesday 27th March 2024**  
 9.00am: Mass

**HOLY THURSDAY 28th March 2024**  
 No morning Mass  
 7.30pm: Mass of The Last Supper  
 (With foot washing and Veneration at the Altar of Repose until 10.00pm)

**GOOD FRIDAY 29th March 2024**  
 No morning Mass  
 3.00pm: The Passion Reading and Veneration of the Cross

**HOLY SATURDAY 30th March 2024**  
 No morning Mass  
 7.30pm: Easter Vigil - Mass of The Resurrection

**EASTER SUNDAY 31st March 2024**  
 9.00am Mass ONLY  
 (There is no Mass at 8.30am / 10.30am / 6.00pm)

## ~ Special Announcements ~

### BIRTHDAYS

**Congratulations to those who celebrated Birthdays recently, especially:**

Fineata Moala | Joseph Katoo | Mikaele Funaki-Tagaloa

### DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

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

Marra Funder | Audrey Hickey | Abraham Mathai  
 Fr Mario Dorado OFMCap | A J Xavier

**ST. MARY'S PARISH, AVONDALE**

## THE LENTEN SEMINAR FOR CHILDREN

**SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2024**  
 10.00am - 1.00pm  
 For children aged 9-15 years  
 Light Lunch provided

**Fr. McGrath Meeting Room**  
**St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
 2134 Great North Road, Avondale  
**FREE ENTRY - To register, please email:**  
[office@avondalecatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@avondalecatholic.org.nz)

**We invite your children to participate in this Lenten Seminar and be spiritually nourished (after 9.00am Mass).**

This Seminar (led by the Missionaries of Charity Sisters and helpers) is designed to prepare children to experience a meaningful Lent and to build a personal relationship with Jesus. Children will engage with Bible based activities which includes creativity, Gospel music and interaction with other children of their own age group. (Please note: All adults involved in this Seminar have been Police-vetted.)

## ~ FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024 ~

Readings: Jer 31: 31-34 | Ps 51 | Hebrews 5: 7-9 | John 12: 20-33

	Sunday, 8.30am Mass	Sunday, 10.30am Mass	Sunday, 6.00pm Mass
<b>Commentator</b>	MDM Youth Group	Parish Youth Mass	Leena Rebello
<b>Word</b>	MDM Youth Group	Parish Youth Mass	1 <sup>st</sup> : Mike Vinkenvleugel 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Lauretta Silver
<b>Holy Communion</b>	Tevita Funaki Autu Isaia Jacinta James Colleen Lewis * Paula Betham (* Change from roster)	Sr Lucy Agnes MC Fololina A'Costa Teresita Minerva Down Bastiana Joseph Mary Beatrice Ngurinzira	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)

16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**29 MAR 2024** | **9AM to 11AM**

GATHERING AT ALBERT PARK ROTUNDA & CONCLUDING AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

## 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**.