

Dates for your Diary: Monday 8th – Sunday 14th April 2024

Wed, 10 Apr	Parish Youth Choir practice, 6pm – 8pm, Church
Thu, 11 Apr	Friendly Choir, 6pm – 8pm, Church
Thu, 11 Apr	Samoan Community, 6pm – 8pm, Meeting Room 1
Thu, 11 Apr	Tongan Community, 7pm – 9pm, Fr McGrath Room
Sat, 13 Apr	Legion of Mary meeting, 9.45am – 11.30am, Whare Iti
Sat, 13 Apr	** Church Cleaning, 9.30am – 12.00pm: Tongan Community **
Sat, 13 Apr	** Church Flowers, 9.30am – 12.00pm: JAE Trio **
Sat, 13 Apr	Samoan Community Choir, 3pm – 5pm, Meeting Room 1
Sat, 13 Apr	Divine Mercy Prayer Group, 3pm – 5pm, Te Whau Iti
Sat, 13 Apr	Tongan Community Choir, 5pm – 7pm, Fr McGrath Room
Sun, 14 Apr	Samoan Sunday School, 8.30am – 10.30am, Fr McGrath Room
Sun, 14 Apr	Samoan Sunday School, 8.30am – 10.30am, Meeting Room 1
Sun, 14 Apr	Samoan Sunday School, 8.30am – 10.30am, Whare Iti (M Tapusoa)
Sun, 14 Apr	Tongan Sunday School, 12pm – 2pm, Fr McGrath Room
Sun, 14 Apr	Mother Mary Prayer Meeting (Tongan Community), 4pm – 5pm, 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 / Whaingā

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Divine Mercy Sunday) ~ 7th April 2024

Readings: Acts 4: 32-35 | Ps 118 | 1John 5: 1-6 | John 20: 19-31

Gospel Reflection

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter in each of the lectionary cycles. This fact alone should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the resurrected Jesus that are described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to His disciples after His Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted.

Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that He appeared to His disciples not as a spirit, but in bodily form. We do not know, however, exactly what this form looked like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize Him until He spoke to her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking along the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until He broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in His resurrected form, Jesus was not bound by matter; He appeared to the disciples inside a home even though the door was locked. Yet the disciples could still touch the marks of His Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets His disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions His disciples to continue the work that He has begun; as Jesus was sent by God, so Jesus sends His disciples. He gives His disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to accomplish this task. Jesus' words to His disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share forgiveness and reconciliation with others.

Thomas, the doubting disciple in today's reading, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of witnesses to Jesus. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to His disciples. Our human nature seeks hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to His disciples after His death is indeed the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative in obtaining this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed, for we have not seen and yet believe.

**As the Father
sent me, so am I
sending you**

Am I ready?



THE STUDIO OF JOHN THE BAPTIST PRESENTS

DIVINE MYSTERIES

FOR OUR TIME

OPEN STUDIO & SACRED ART EXHIBITION

- Sacred Art for sale
- View a legacy of 20 year's work

10am – 4pm
8th–13th, 15th–20th April 2024

1 Fred Thomas Drive, Takapuna, Auckland.

NZCatholic \$4

The national Catholic newspaper April 7 - 20, 2024 - No. 432

Wellington's Sacred Heart Cathedral to open in June 3

From doubter to devotee: a conversion story 9

Saints' relics to visit NZ

Tour to deepen Eastern and Western Catholic Churches' bond - pg 2

Six times judged Australasia's leading Catholic newspaper

Thank You

To Our Volunteers Church Cleaning Roster

Sat 13 Apr 2024
Tongan Community

Sat 20 Apr 2024
MDM Youth Group

Flower Arrangement Roster

Sat 13 Apr 2024
JAE Trio

Sat 20 Apr 2024
Samoan Community

~ Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to join the volunteer rosters above. ~

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 ~



Happy Divine Mercy Feast Day! As we celebrate the Divine Mercy Feast Day today, the Divine Mercy Prayer Group kindly invite you all for a shared Morning Tea in the Church foyer, after the 8.30am Mass. We warmly welcome any new members who wish to join and be a part of our Divine Mercy Prayer Group. If interested, please feel free to contact Mara Fatunu'u (021) 1334178.

Divine Mercy Feast Day at St Benedict's Parish, 1 St. Benedict's Street, Eden Terrace, Sunday 7th 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 Parking and street parking is also free on Sunday.**

Pledge Giving Envelopes – SEMINARY COLLECTION: Vocations Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Easter) is a worldwide Day of Prayer for Vocations to the priesthood and religious life. This year Vocations Sunday is on the **28th April 2024**. The monies collected help towards the fees for the Auckland students studying for the priesthood.

St. Mary's School Newsletter: Check out the latest news from our wonderful School with this link: <https://www.stmarysavondale.school.nz/newsletters>

NZ CATHOLIC: The latest issue of the NZ Catholic is available today from the Church foyer. Price \$4.00 each. Some headlines for this issue: Relics of 11 Saints coming to NZ. Hamilton bishop urges blokes to know Jesus. Wellington cathedral to open in June. Divine Mercy advert controversy surprises advertiser.

Fulfilled: The Promise of the Christian Life looks deeply at the 'ache' of human longing and opens the eyes of our hearts to the hope of infinite bliss in Christ. Dates: Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th April, 8am – 6pm, Mission Bay, Auckland. All adults aged 20+ are welcome. For more information and to register, please visit: <https://www.theologyofthebody.nz>

Join Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College for its new webinar series, A Taste of Theology from April – December 2024 every first Tuesday of the month. These are one-hour sessions with topics on Philosophy, Canon Law, Spirituality, Scripture, Moral Theology, etc... Four sessions revisit the documents of Vatican II. Cost of \$60 one-off. For more information and to register, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/tasteoftheology

Towards October 2024: Local Churches are invited to contribute to the Synod on Synodality by deepening aspects of the Synthesis Report. These contributions are guided by the question: "HOW can we be a synodal Church in mission?" The diocese is offering sessions in the ten days post Easter for the Church of Auckland to participate in this phase of the consultation. For more details and to register (which is required) <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/towards-october-2024/>

~ Special Announcements ~

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to those who celebrated Birthdays recently, especially:

Calvin | Kaitlin Esera | Francis Katoa | Melvin Katoa
 Tuaoi Vai | Evian Wharewaka | Agnes Selio (95)
 Makalita Edwards (85) | Denis Jessop (50)

RECENT DEATHS

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

Helen Wikitera | Ian Davidson | Ron Spragg

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

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

Sharon McGeever | Natalia Lobo | Kalisi Fa'asolo Snr
 Lovely Rex | Bridie Caulfield



THANK YOU to everyone who purchased tickets for our Easter Raffle, which was drawn on Easter Sunday 31st March 2024. Congratulations to our two lucky winners – **Aureah Mothibe and Priya Nootai-Taniue.**

SAFEGUARDING



SAFE CHURCH – SAFE GUARDING

As Catholics we believe that every person is created in the likeness and image of God. Therefore, we continue to ensure that our parish is a place where everyone is treated with respect and dignity. We foster an environment which is welcoming, and in which all our parish whanau, including our tamariki, rangatahi, kuia and kaumatua, feel safe. If you have any complaints or concerns, our Safeguarding Co-ordinator is Tania Starr and you can contact her via email: safeguardingrep@avondalecatholic.org.nz. You may also contact the National Office for Professional Standards 0800 114 662. You may also contact the Police 111.

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ 14th April 2024

Readings: Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19 | Ps 5 | 1 John 2: 1-5 | Luke 24: 35-48

	Sunday, 8.30am	Sunday, 10.30am	Sunday, 6.00pm
Commentator	Maninoa Funaki	Rosalyn Fononga	Sifo Gisa
Word	1 st : Kapitania Funaki 2 nd : Malia Funaki	1 st : Selsoni Camaitoga 2 nd : Maleta Fononga	1 st : Ruth Xavier 2 nd : Demelza Colaco
Holy Communion	Richard Miranda Jarrod Peauvasa Maselina Suisala Otesa Ale Paula Betham	Bastiana Joseph Mary Beatrice Ngurinzira Sr. Amalia MC Sr. Josie MC Sr. Damielene MC	Mariquinha Colaco
Choir/Musicians	Congregation / Choir (Fatai Tu'ima)	Samoan Community Choir	Friendly Choir

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

BUILDING A THRIVING Parish

Meet with other parish and lay leaders to learn, share experiences and challenges. Be inspired and empowered with practical tools & steps to help your parish thrive.

Wednesday 24 April 2024
 7pm - 9pm
 Light Refreshments Provided

St Francis Retreat Centre
 50 Hillsborough Road, Hillsborough

Catholic Diocese of Auckland
 Te Taumata o te Hahi Katorika

DIVINE RENOVATION

PLEASE RSVP STEPHENF@CDA.ORG.NZ | KOHA COLLECTION ON THE NIGHT

Building a Thriving Parish is part 2 of the *Go Make Disciples* series of presentations on Parish Renewal. We will be sharing experiences, challenges, and practical tools and insights to help you as Lay Leaders to help your parish thrive. This will be held from 7pm – 9pm, Wednesday 24th April 2024 at St. Francis Retreat Centre, 50 Hillsborough Road, Hillsborough. Koha on the night. RSVP to stephenf@cda.org.nz