



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

SECOND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME ~ 19th January 2025

Readings: Isaiah 62: 1-5 | Ps. 96 | 1Corinthians 12: 4-11 | John 2: 1-11

Gospel Reflection

This Sunday we begin the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. For many Sundays in this lectionary cycle (Cycle C), our readings will be taken from the Gospel of Luke. Occasionally, however, we will read from John's Gospel. This is true of today's Gospel reading, which describes the beginning of Jesus' ministry and His first miracle.

To situate today's reading within the context of John's Gospel, we note that John's report of this event follows Jesus' call of His first disciples. John tells us that Jesus and His disciples were invited to this wedding at Cana, as was Jesus' mother, Mary. There is no parallel report of this miracle at Cana in the Synoptic Gospels.

In the Church's liturgical history, the wedding feast of Cana is closely associated with the Baptism of the Lord and the adoration of the infant Jesus by the Wise Men. In this context, the sign Jesus performs at the wedding feast is celebrated as an epiphany or a manifestation of Jesus' divinity.

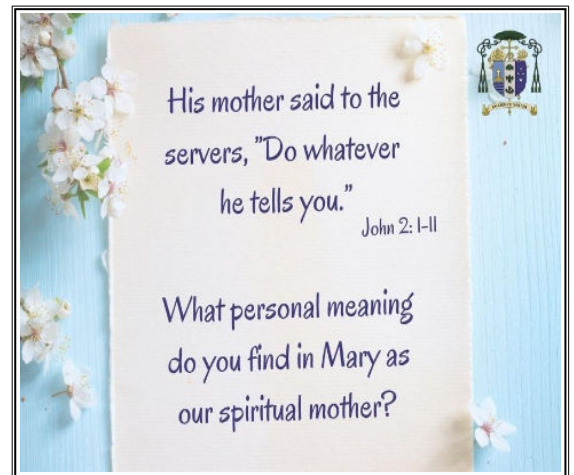
Yet awareness of Jesus' impending passion and death is ever present in John's Gospel. Even in this report of Jesus' first sign, the language used anticipates Jesus' passion. When Jesus says to His mother that His hour has not yet come, He protests against her wishes in language that John will use again when reporting Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples. When introducing the story of Jesus washing His disciples' feet, John writes that Jesus knew that His hour had come. In John's Gospel, Jesus is very much in command and aware of all that is to happen to Him.

Here, as elsewhere in John's Gospel, Mary is not mentioned by name, but is referred to instead as the mother of Jesus. Mary is influential in Jesus' first sign. She will also be present at His Crucifixion, a witness to the final manifestation of His divinity.

John's Gospel describes seven signs that indicate Jesus' identity to His disciples. John never speaks of these signs as miracles because their importance is not in the deed that Jesus performs but in what these deeds indicate about Jesus' identity. Here, as when John describes the other signs, the disciples are said to begin to believe, but no mention is made as to whether the other wedding guests are even aware of what has happened.

Marriage and wedding feasts are metaphors used in Scripture to describe God's salvation and the Kingdom of God. Here at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, John's Gospel seeks to establish that Jesus is going to re-interpret and fulfil Yahweh's promise to Israel. Jesus establishes the New Covenant. A hint about what this New Covenant will be like is made evident in the deed that Jesus performs. Asked to do something to address the awkward situation that the absence of wine at a wedding feast would create, Jesus' miracle produces vast quantities of wine – six jars holding thirty gallons each are filled to overflowing with choice wine.

This lavish response to a simple human need is a vision for us of the abundance of God's kingdom. It challenges us to respond generously when confronted with human need today. We respond as best we can, fully confident that God can transform our efforts, bringing the Kingdom of God to fulfilment among us.



~ News and Updates from the Parish and Diocese ~



HAVE A HAMMER... AND TIME FOR A GENERAL TIDY UP? Then join us for a “DENAILING” session on Saturday 25th January from 9.30am at the site of the old Fr. McGrath Meeting Room. Bring your hammer (or other tools) to help remove nails from the demolition timber so it can be recycled. During this time, we’ll also be doing a general tidy up around the surrounding areas.

Story of the Stations of the Cross: Across the diocese people will gather throughout Lent to walk and pray the Stations of the Cross. But why has this become such a popular devotion? How come there are 14 stations and not 6 or 23? You are invited to prayerfully consider these and other questions as we explore with Sr. Sian the meaning and history of the Stations of the Cross. To register, please email pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz to be sent the online link.

Theology of the Body Courses: Human Love in the Divine Plan: Adult and Young Adult Beginners Course: Sat 15th & Sun 16th February 2025, Mission Bay, Auckland. Young Adult Book Study on Dr. Edward Sri’s Men, Women and the Mystery of Love – Wednesday evenings starting 12th February 2025; Hillsborough, Auckland. To register, please visit: <https://www.theologyofthebody.nz>

Theology of the Body Courses 2025

Course 1: **Beginners TOB Course** 15&16 Feb

Course 2: **Young Adult Book Study** on St JPill’s Love and Responsibility - starts 12th Feb

Course 3: **Fulfilled TOB Advanced** - 17&18 May

Course 4: **Young Adult Book Study** - starts 3rd Sept

Register at
[theologyofthebody.nz](https://www.theologyofthebody.nz)

Suitable for ages 20 years+
All young adults/adults welcome

Prayer and the Interior Life
Residential Retreat for Women
3 days, 2 nights

“At the root of prayer is a relationship of love.”
St Teresa of Avila

Fri 28 Feb 6pm - Sun 2 Mar 3pm

Limited Spaces | Bookings essential
Earlybird \$300pp | Standard \$330pp
includes accommodation & meals.

For more information and to register
www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz

3 day Women’s Retreat: Friday 28th February 6pm to Sunday 2nd March 2025 3pm – with time for Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, Personal Prayer and Spiritual Direction. All women are welcome. There will be sessions on “What is prayer?”, “Why should I pray?”, “How do I pray?” and “Humility & Forgiveness”. Early bird registration and details here: <https://www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz>

Jubilee Sing Jubilee: Pope Francis has called us to celebrate a **YEAR OF JUBILEE in 2025**. There will be international events, Diocesan events that you can check out at <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/jubilee2025/jubilee-calendar/>. We are also called to be pilgrims of hope as local and domestic Church. Check out some ways this can be, through our first Jubilee Jottings: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/JubileeJottingsDec.pdf>. Also, if you have your own ideas about how Jubilee Year can be celebrated, please let us know via email to pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz

Time Out Days: For those who seek a day retreat in 2025 from 9.30am to 2.30pm (\$30 includes lunch) | Thursday 13th Feb | Tuesday 11th Mar | Wednesday 16th Apr. Venue: St. Francis Retreat Centre, 50 Hillsborough Road, Mt Roskill. For more information/dates, and to make a booking, go to: <https://www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz> or call 09 625 6651.

~ Special Announcements ~

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to those who celebrate Birthdays at this time, especially:

Karoline Fa'asolo, Gwendoline Jessop, Kayden Talwatta, Soanetai Tu'ima, Rachel Suesue

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations and Blessings to the following couples celebrating anniversaries, especially:

Alex & Ingrid Salesa – 20 years

Liston & Elaine Colaco – 22 years

Greg & Anna Schipper – 39 years

RECENT DEATHS

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

Grahame Parr

Funeral Prayers here at St. Mary's on Thursday 23rd January at 1.00pm.

Rosa Williams

Family Service here at St. Mary's on Thursday 23rd January at 7.00pm.

Requiem Mass here on Friday 24th January at 10.30am.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

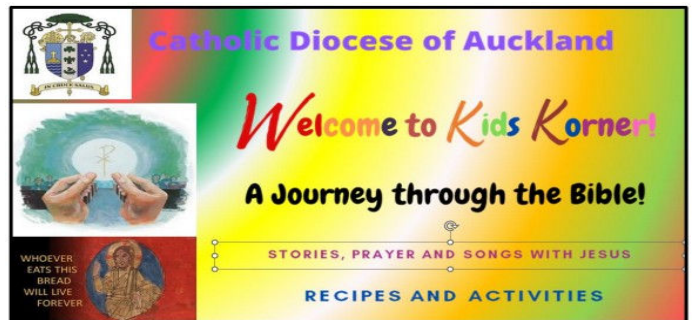
We pray for our dearly departed, whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially:

Jan Dean Patelesio, Ruth Soon, Anthony Joseph, Moira Walker, Paul Key, Alfie Lambe, David Hu, George Doyle, Tutogi Carter, Coral Clark, William Tepania, Teresa Segui, Anne Sayegh.



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.



Link to activities will be available next Sunday 26th January 25

MINISTRY ROSTERS FOR 2025

The rosters will start from February 2025. If you would like to be a Minister of the Word or Extraordinary Minister of Communion, please contact the Parish Office via email: office@avondalecatholic.org.nz.

Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope



Dates for your Diary: Monday 20th to Sunday 26th January 2025

Wed, 22 Jan	CHURCH: Parish Youth Choir, 6pm – 8pm
Thu, 23 Jan	CHURCH: Tongan Community Choir, 7pm – 9pm
Thu, 23 Jan	MEETING ROOM 1: Samoan Community Choir, 6pm – 8pm
Sat, 25 Jan	** Church Cleaning Roster: MDM Youth Group, 9.30am – 12pm **
Sat, 25 Jan	** Church Flowers Roster: May & family, Quins Colaco, 9.30am – 12pm**
Sat, 25 Jan	WHARE ITI: Legion of Mary meeting, 9.45am – 11.30am
Sat, 25 Jan	MEETING ROOM 1: Samoan Community Choir, 3pm – 5pm
Sat, 25 Jan	MEETING ROOM 1: Tongan Community Choir, 5pm – 7pm
Sun, 26 Jan	MEETING ROOM 1: Tongan Community (Group 4), 6pm – 8pm

MASS SCHEDULE 2024

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)

PRAY MASS
Sundays @ 2pm
SHINE TV
Free-to-air TV Channel 25
SKY TV Channel 201
Recommences 2 February 2025

Thank You
To Our Volunteers
Church Cleaning Roster

Sat 25 Jan 2025

MDM Youth Group

Sat 1 Feb 2025

Bastiana Joseph Mary, Hoglund Family, Leena Rebello.

Flower Arrangement Roster

Sat 25 Jan 2025

May & family, Quins Colaco

Sat 1 Feb 2025

Tongan Community

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

Parish Priest: Pa Peter Tipene
Email: ppriest@avondalecatholic.org.nz
Parish Secretary: Gwendoline Jessop
Email: office@avondalecatholic.org.nz
Website: www.avondalecatholic.org.nz
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmarysavondale
School Principal: Kathryn Hira
Email: principal@stmarysavondale.school.nz

Parish Office:

Phone: (09) 828 9309

Tue – Fri: 9.30am – 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