



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

THIRD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME ~ 26th January 2025

Readings: Nehemiah 8: 2-6, 8-10 | Ps. 19B | 1Corinthians 12: 12-30 | Luke 1: 1-4, 4: 14-21

Gospel Reflection

Today's Gospel reading combines two separate passages taken from the Gospel of Luke. First we hear the opening verses where Luke establishes the purpose of his Gospel. His style is typical of polished Greek and Roman literature. In this passage, we learn that Luke may have written to a specific person, Theophilus; but the word Theophilus may also be a general reference, functioning as the phrase "Dear Reader" might in contemporary writing. In Greek, the word Theophilus translates as "lover of God."

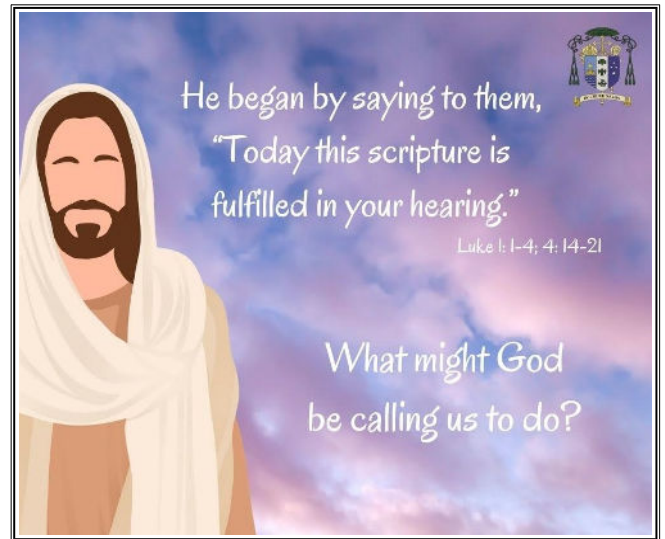
Today's Gospel reading then skips several chapters in which one would find the Infancy Narratives, Jesus' baptism by John, the temptations Jesus faced in the desert, and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. In chapter four of Luke's Gospel, we hear that Jesus is in His home-town of Nazareth, attending the synagogue on the Sabbath, which is said to be His custom. In this account, we find another important clue that Jesus lived as a faithful, observant Jew. We will continue to read from Luke's Gospel in sequence for the next two Sundays.

As Jesus stands in the synagogue, He reads from the scroll handed to Him; it contains the words of the prophet Isaiah. At this early moment in His ministry, Jesus announces His mission in continuity with Israel's prophetic tradition. This reading from Isaiah defines Jesus' ministry. We will find more evidence of this as we continue to read from Luke's Gospel throughout the year. Jesus' ministry will include bringing glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed, and proclaiming a year acceptable to the Lord.

Through this text from Isaiah, Jesus announces God's salvation. The "year acceptable to the Lord" is a reference to the Jewish tradition of Sabbath years and jubilee. The Sabbath year was observed every seventh year. It was a year of rest when land was left fallow and food stores were to be shared equally with all. A year of Jubilee was celebrated every fiftieth year, the conclusion of seven cycles of Sabbath years. It was a year of renewal in which debts were forgiven and slaves were freed.

This tradition of Jubilee is the framework for God's promise of salvation. And yet in Jesus, something new begins. Jesus not only announces God's salvation, He brings this salvation about in His person. Jesus is Yahweh's Anointed One, filled with the Spirit of God. The Kingdom of God is now at hand. It is made present in Jesus, in His life, death, and Resurrection. Jesus will send the Holy Spirit so that the Kingdom of God can be fulfilled.

The Holy Spirit is Jesus' gift to the Church. The Holy Spirit enables the Church to continue the mission of Jesus. When we do what Jesus did - bring glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, and freedom to the oppressed - we serve the Kingdom of God.



~ News and Updates from the Parish and Diocese ~

****ONE DAY RETREAT for ALL on Saturday 15th FEBRUARY** (Hosted collaboratively by the Auckland Joshua and Dove Fellowships).** All are invited to this One-day Retreat, directed by Fr. Carl Telford and titled "The Prayer Journey of St. Teresa of Avila". This will be from 8am to 4pm on Sat 15 Feb at St. Thomas More Church, 336 Wairau Rd, Glenfield, Auckland and will be a special time of formation, prayer, worship, fellowship. Morning Tea will be provided. Bring a packed lunch or buy from the local shops. Suggested Koha of \$20pp to cover costs. Everyone is welcome. Register using this QR code or text/call Greg on 021 437747.



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.

All men are invited to **Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship**. Join this great bunch of God-fearing guys monthly in both Glenfield (last Wed of the month) and Pakuranga (2nd Monday of the month) for fellowship, and to worship, pray and grow together. Upcoming meetings: **Wednesday 29 January:** 7.15pm for 7.30pm start at St. Thomas More Church Hall, 336 Wairau Rd, Glenfield. Contact: Jerome (027) 2334380 for more information. **Monday 10 February:** 7pm for 7.30pm start at St. Mark's Church, 334 Pakuranga Road, Pakuranga. Contact: Dakshi (022) 0397212 for more information.

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>

Ethnic Chaplaincy Officers and Leaders Formation Day | Sat 22 February 2025 | Pompallier Centre | 9.30am to 12.00pm:

Inviting all office bearers, leaders in ministry, pastoral associates, and all chaplains to your Formation Day as we provide you with updates on the Migrant Chaplaincies Norms on Community Establishments, Finance, Safeguarding. Registration is essential – Follow the link on the Diocesan website event page <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/event-1/ethnic-chaplaincies-leaders-formation-day/>. Email us at pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz if you have any questions. We can email you the specific link.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS 2025

These appointments will be made in two phases.
The Auckland City appointments will be made at the normal time.
Appointments in Te Tai Tokerau will be made after Easter
Effective 1st/2nd February 2025

Balmoral: Parish Priest - Fr Martin Wu

Blockhouse Bay: Parish Priest - Fr Ranjit Ekka OFMCap

Cathedral and Waiheke Island: Parish Priest - Fr Craig Dunford

Cathedral: Priest in Residence - Fr Francis Poon (after completion of studies)

Flatbush: Administrator - Bishop Peter Brown

Flatbush: Assistant Priest - Fr Jean Paul Abou Naoum

Glen Eden: Assistant Priest - Fr Praful Kerketta OFMCap

Henderson: Parish Priest - Fr Ephrem Tigga OFMCap

Hibiscus Coast: Parish Priest - Fr Chris Denham

Hibiscus Coast: Assistant Priest - Fr James Mulligan

Massey: Assistant Priest - Fr James Hoe SDB

Meadowbank: Parish Priest - Fr Raphael Lobo

Assisting with Māori Pastoral Care: Fr Peter McDermott SM
(Otahuhu Pastoral Care from Manurewa until Easter)

Pakuranga: Parish Priest - Fr Austin Fernandes

Pukekohe: Assistant Priest - Fr Doan Nguyen

St Heliers and Glendowie: Parish Priest - Msgr Bernard Kiely

Other Appointments

Pastoral Director Holy Cross Seminary: Fr John Dunn

Priests leaving the Diocese

Fr Trevor Tindall SM - Appointed Parish Priest of Wairoa

Fr Talipope Vaifale MF - Transferring to Australia

~ Special Announcements ~

BIRTHDAYS

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

Pa Peter, Cecelia Vākē, Romil Fernandez,
Fr. Grahame Connolly SM, Caoimhe Funaki,
Emil Fernandez, Daniel D'Souza

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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

Roy & Louisa Stott – 56 years
John & Tanya Schipper – 35 years

RECENT DEATHS

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

Amelia Gale

Funeral Mass in Panguru on Monday 27th January at 10am.

Nicola Butterworth Snell

Funeral Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph & St. Patrick on Tuesday 28th January at 1.30pm.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

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

Norman Clayton, Walter Gruijters, Kazimierz Kalinowski,
Cynthia Forrest

PRAYERS FOR OUR SCHOOL

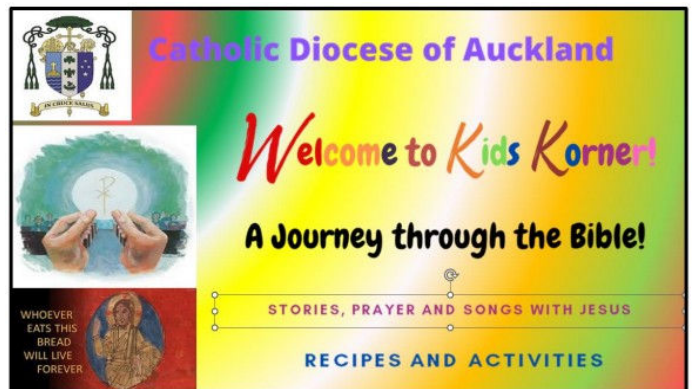
STAFF ONLY REFLECTION DAY

Our St. Mary's School Staff gather at St. Mary's Convent Motherhouse in Ponsonby this Tuesday for a morning Reflection with Sr. Mary Neven. We conclude with Mass with the sisters and return to school for an afternoon session. School reopens for students on Mon 3rd Feb 2025.



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.



<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Celebrating-Third-SUNDAY-in-OT.pdf>

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD – 3rd February 2025

Malachi 3: 1-4 | Ps. 24 | Hebrews 2: 14-18 | Luke 2: 22-40

	Sunday, 8.30am	Sunday, 10.30am	Sunday, 6.00pm
Commentator	Joe James	Kisina Halangahu	Demelza Colaco
Word	1 st : Fotu Hoglund 2 nd : Ivory-Joan Peauvasa	1 st : Apriljoy Avito 2 nd : David Faalau-Solia	1 st : Amy Silver 2 nd : Cynthia Paul
Holy Communion	Carla Carmody Jarrod Peauvasa Liston Colaco Maselina Suisala Otessa Ale	Sr. Damielene MC Faasavalu Leavai Fisi'italia Pouhila Fololina A'Costa Sr. Josie MC	Edmar Oliveira
Choir/Musicians	Congregation / Choir (Joe James)	Tongan Community Choir	Congregation / Choir (Jeffery Nathan)

Dates for your Diary: Monday 27th Jan to Sunday 2nd Feb 2025

Wed, 29 Jan	CHURCH: Parish Youth Choir, 6pm – 8pm
Wed, 29 Jan	MEETING ROOM 1: Tongan Community Choir, 7pm – 9pm
Thu, 30 Jan	CHURCH: Friendly Choir, 6pm – 7.30pm
Thu, 30 Jan	MEETING ROOM 1: Samoan Community Choir, 6pm – 8pm
Sat, 1 Feb	** Church Cleaning Roster: B Joseph Mary, Hoglund Family, L Rebello, 9.30am – 12pm **
Sat, 1 Feb	** Church Flowers Roster: Tongan Community, 9.30am – 12pm**
Sat, 1 Feb	WHARE ITI: Legion of Mary meeting, 9.45am – 11.30am
Sat, 1 Feb	MEETING ROOM 1: Samoan Community Choir, 3pm – 5pm
Sat, 1 Feb	MEETING ROOM 1: Tongan Community Choir, 5pm – 7pm
Sun, 1 Feb	MEETING ROOM 1: Tongan Community monthly meeting, 12pm – 2pm

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 1 Feb 2025

Bastiana Joseph Mary, Hoglund Family, Leena Rebello.

Sat 8 Feb 2025

Samoan Sunday School

Flower Arrangement Roster

Sat 1 Feb 2025

Tongan Community

Sat 8 Feb 2025

Friendly Flower Group

~ 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