



St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

2134 Great North Road, 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 - 25th January 2026

Readings: Isaiah 8: 23-9: 3 | Ps. 27 | 1Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17 | Matthew 4: 12-23

~ Gospel Reflection ~

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”

MATHEW 4:12-23

What qualities does a good fisher need, and how are these qualities growing in my own faith life?



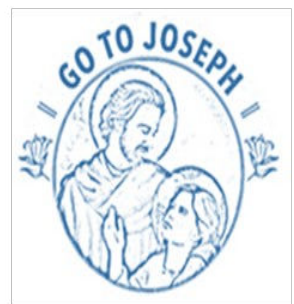
Today’s Gospel describes the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke (called the Synoptic Gospels), Jesus’ public ministry begins after His baptism by John the Baptist and after His retreat to the desert where He was tempted by the devil. When Jesus returns from the desert, He hears that John has been arrested.

The first part of today’s Gospel places Jesus’ ministry in the context of the writings of the prophet, Isaiah. Matthew wants to show that Jesus is the fulfilment of the prophecies given to the people of Israel, and he refers

to Isaiah to do so. Isaiah says that the Messiah will begin His ministry in Galilee, the land of the Gentiles. When Jesus begins to preach in Galilee, Matthew points to His ministry as a fulfilment of Isaiah’s prophecy, proof that Jesus is the Messiah.

When Jesus called His first disciples, the Gospel tells us that the fishermen (Peter and Andrew, James and John) dropped everything to follow Jesus immediately. Yet this Gospel tells us little about the prior experience that the fishermen had of Jesus. Did they know Him? Had they heard Him preach? What kind of person must Jesus have been to invoke such a response? We can imagine that Jesus was a powerful presence to elicit a response as immediate and complete as these first disciples gave.

The Gospel concludes with a description of the ministry that Jesus begins in Galilee. Jesus inaugurates the Kingdom of God with His work. He teaches in the synagogue and preaches the kingdom. His ability to cure people’s diseases and illness is a sign of the kingdom. In Jesus’ ministry, we already begin to see the Kingdom of God among us.



Prayer to St Joseph

O Saint Joseph, do assist us by your powerful intercession and obtain for us our parish Church.

And thus, having experienced your heavenly power here below may we praise God our Father in Heaven. Amen

~ News and Updates from our Parish and around the Diocese ~

Greetings for the
New Year 2026

Dear parishioners of St. Mary's Avondale,
Greetings and Blessings for the New Year!

Over the Christmas break, we were blessed to continue our weekday Masses with very strong attendance, and we have also maintained our regular visitations to the Sick and Elderly. During this time, the Chapel interior was fully repainted and is now ready for the installation of new Sacristy cabinets.

I would like to extend a sincere Thank You to the Mother of Divine Mercy (MDM) Youth for their generous work around the parish property and gardens. We also held a two-day working bee in early January, and as a result, St. Mary's is looking neat, tidy, and well-prepared for the year ahead.

The electricians have now completed their work, and the parish has been successfully disconnected from the school, meaning we are once again on a separate electricity supply.

Please keep our parish in your prayers – that we may remain united and focused on what we can achieve together for the future. Our main priority continues to be securing a suitable place to hold our Sunday Masses once again.

God bless you all. Fr Andrew

Welcome to Kids Korner – A Journey through the Bible! <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/CELEBRATING-The-Third-SUNDAY-in-OT.pdf>

JOSHUA Catholic Men's Fellowship – North Shore: Join us for an inspiring evening of brotherhood, faith, and encouragement. *"Bring a brother – strengthen a brother."* **Topic:** Testimony | **Presenter:** Bro Jerome Hardy | **Date:** Wednesday 28th January 2026 | **Venue:** St Thomas More Church, 336 Wairau Road, Glenfield, Auckland 0629 | **Time:** 7.00pm – Fellowship, 7.30pm: Praise & Worship | Bring a friend! All men welcome!

Praise in the Park: All are welcome to join many Auckland Catholic and Christian believers at our outdoor event, which will include music, Gospel proclamation, personal stories, and Eucharistic Adoration. This outdoor event will bring hope and joy to all who come by. Please come along with your families to help bring the light of Jesus to those who may not have hope. There will be prayer ministry and information stalls. Date: 15 February 2026 | Where: Selwyn Domain (along Mission Bay) | 4pm – 5pm: Praise & Worship, 5.30pm – 6.00pm: A time of Adoration, Catholic hymns & Reflection. For more information, visit: <https://praiseinthepark.nz/> or contact Engelbert on engelbert.dsouza@yahoo.com

Parish Pledge Giving via Online Banking: Due to our current situation and many of our parishioners having to attend Mass elsewhere or closer to home, some have asked about our Parish Pledge Giving. If you would like to continue with your regular contributions, we encourage you to change from using Pledge Envelopes to Online Banking instead. That way it doesn't matter where you attend Sunday Mass, your regular contributions will continue for our parish of St. Mary's Avondale, and we will still be able to issue a tax receipt to you at the end of the current financial year. If you would like to change to online banking, please contact the Parish Office.

Parish Priest:	Fr. Andrew Matthew Assistant Priest: Fr. Danko Bizjak
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School Principal:	Kathryn Hira
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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

Parish Office:

Phone: (09) 828 9309

Tue – Fri: 9.30am – 3.30pm

Monday: Closed

School Office:

Phone: (09) 828 5599