



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

FOURTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME - 1st February 2026

Readings: Zephaniah 2: 3; 3: 12-13 | Ps. 146 | 1Corinthians 1: 26-31 | Matthew 5: 1-12

~ Gospel Reflection ~

“Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God”
Matthew 5:1-12

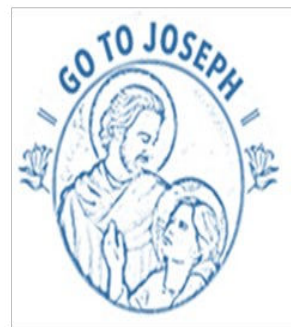
Where in my life am I being called
to greater humility or mercy ?

Today’s reading is the beginning of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, which is found in Matthew’s Gospel. The form of the Beatitudes found here is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, in the psalms, and in wisdom literature, for example. They are a way to teach about who will find favour with God.

We quickly note in this reading that the people whom Jesus calls “blessed” and “happy” are not people we think of as blessed or happy . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. This Gospel is one of reversals. Jesus’ blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness.

“Blessed” is sometimes translated as happy, fortunate, or favoured. In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favour is upon those who are poor, those who mourn, those who are persecuted. This news might have been welcome—and surprising—to the crowds who heard Jesus that day.

The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. By referring to the good things that the faithful will experience, Matthew reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God.



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 ~

Dear parishioners of St. Mary's Avondale,

As another school year begins, it is a good time to reflect on the foundations of our parish life.

A parish is defined in Canon Law, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church (c.c.c. 2179, 2226) as a stable, local community of the faithful, with the Eucharist as its heart, centre of life, and source of unity.

Avondale, as a Eucharistic Community, is more than a building or a geographic area. It is a living community that seeks to express its Catholic faith through shared worship, services to others, and a wide range of parish activities. Our Catholic school plays a vital role in the stability and vitality of our parish life. At the heart of our parish is our liturgical life. In the Sunday Eucharist, we are formed as the Body of Christ in this particular place. The Eucharist, as the Sacrament of Unity, draws us together, fostering bonds of charity, belonging, and mutual support. This unity is especially important as we continue to rebuild and strengthen our community assets. We are reminded that our unity in Catholic faith is not confined to the church walls but is lived out in daily life through our service to others, care for one another, and active participation in parish life.

God bless. Fr Andrew

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass on Friday 6th February 2026, 7.00pm, at St Mary's Parish, 20 Kitenui Ave, Mt Albert: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy (sung), Benediction, Mass, followed by Veneration of St Faustina's relic. All welcome.

Celebrating Marriage & Family Life: St Valentine's Vigil Mass – **Saturday 14th February, 5.30pm**, at the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph, 43 Wyndam Street, CBD. Hosted by Marriage Education Team, Catholic Diocese of Auckland for married, engaged, dating, widowed and all family members wanting to celebrate the gift of each other. Everyone is welcome. For more info, contact Gerry 02102247442

Welcome to Kids Korner – A Journey through the Bible! <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/CELEBRATING-The-Fourth-SUNDAY-in-OT.pdf>

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. 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 Sunday Mass elsewhere or closer to home during this time, we kindly encourage you to change from using Pledge Envelopes to Online Banking instead. 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
Email:	ppriest@avondalecatholic.org.nz
Parish Secretary:	Gwendoline Jessop Helg
Email:	office@avondalecatholic.org.nz
Website:	www.avondalecatholic.org.nz
Facebook:	www.facebook.com/stmarysavondale
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

Parish Office:

Phone: (09) 828 9309

Tue – Fri: 9.30am – 3.30pm

Monday: Closed

School Office:

Phone: (09) 828 5599