



# St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

Catholic Parish, 2134 Great North Road, Avondale, Auckland 0600

*Vision / Tirohanga*

*Growing in Faith Together*

*Oranga i roto i te Whakapono*

*Goal / Whaingā*

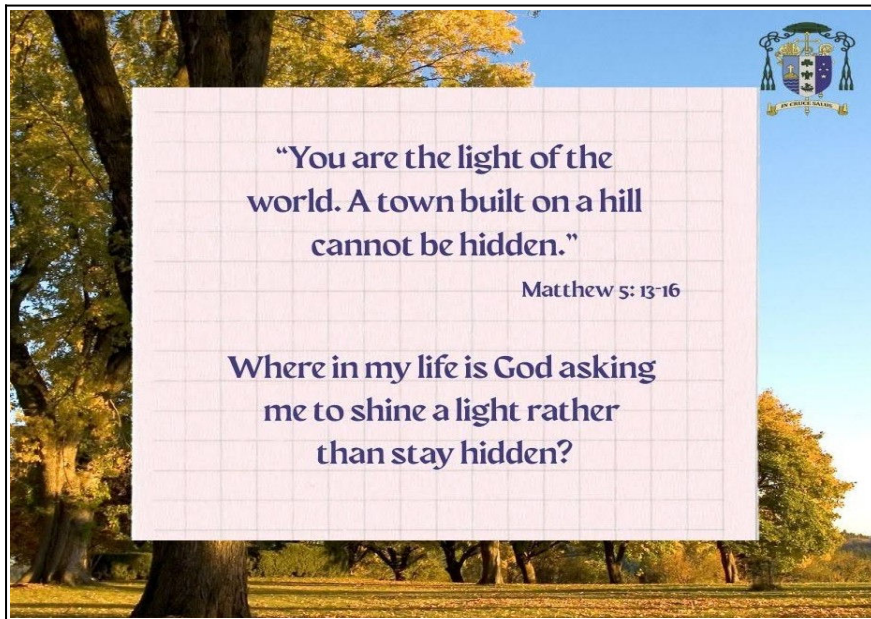
*To Grow in Awareness as One Parish Family*

*Kokiritia te Oranga Kotahitanga o te Whanau Whakapono*

## FIFTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME ~ 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026

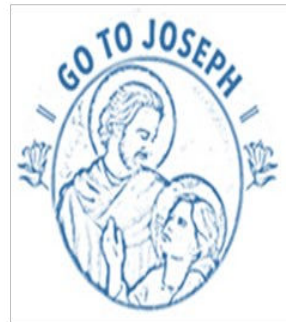
Readings: Isaiah 58: 7-10 | Ps. 112 | 1Corinthians 2: 1-5 | Matthew 5: 13-16

### ~ Gospel Reflection ~



Following upon the teaching of the **Beatitudes**, Jesus uses the now familiar metaphors of salt and light to describe the life of discipleship. We take salt and light for granted in our society, but these commodities were more precious in ancient cultures. Just as now, salt was used in Jesus' time for flavouring, as a preservative, and as a healing agent. Similarly, the widespread use of electricity in the modern world makes us less aware of the value and importance of light in our lives.

Still, our familiarity with this passage from Matthew's Gospel speaks well to the abiding power of the imagery that Jesus presented. Jesus' call to be salt for the earth and light for the world powerfully states our mission as Church and as Christians. Our commitment to social justice flows from the exhortation that Jesus gives us in today's Gospel. Some of the activities that this commitment leads us to are given more concrete expression as the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, console those who mourn, and so on, we show ourselves to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. When we do these things with the community of faith, the Church, we are indeed acting as "a city set on a mountain" that cannot be hidden!



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 ~

**There will be no 9.00am Mass in the Chapel next Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February** as Fr Andrew and Fr Danko will be attending the Priests Gathering at Matakana.

**Our Parish Outdoor Mass is on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00am in the School courtyard (weather permitting).** It would be lovely to see as many of our parishioners attend this Mass. Bring your chairs and gazebos. If you're able to help with set up/pack down of chairs for Mass, please inform the Parish Office. **Request from the School:** Please do not leave any rubbish/chewing gum on the School courtyard and surrounding areas after the outdoor Mass. Thank you.

**ASH Wednesday:** There will be distribution of ashes at the 9.00am Mass in the Chapel on ASH Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

**Celebrating Marriage & Family Life:** St Valentine's Vigil Mass – **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 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-FIFTH-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](mailto:engelbert.dsouza@yahoo.com)

**Reshaping in the Spirit of Synodality regional FORMATION sessions:** Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at Christ the King Owairaka – Parish Hall from 7.00pm – 9.00pm. Registration is essential and will close three days prior to the session. <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/reshaping-in-the-spirit-of-synodality>

**Lenten Talks by Bishop Peter Brown:** St Michael's Parish is hosting a series of four weekly talks by Bishop Peter Brown during the lead up to Lent, guiding us to reunite ourselves to Christ through His gift of Reconciliation. When: 4 x Tuesday evenings beginning from 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026. Time: 7.00pm – 8.30pm. Where: St Michael's Parish – Mary MacKillop Hall, 6 Beatrice Rd, Remuera.

**LENT 2026 with FOOD FOR FAITH:** Visit <https://www.foodforfaith.org.nz>

**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.

**PILGRIMAGE FROM FATIMA TO ROME:** 25 September to 17 October 2026 | Fatima – Salamanca – Burgos – Lourdes – Paris – Venice – Padua – Assisi – Rome | Chaplain: Monsignor David Tonks  
Details from Laura Yap [laura.yap@travelmanagers.co.nz](mailto:laura.yap@travelmanagers.co.nz) or 021 390 055

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Fr. Andrew Matthew   <b>Assistant Priest:</b> Fr. Danko Bizjak
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:ppriest@avondalecatholic.org.nz">ppriest@avondalecatholic.org.nz</a>
<b>Parish Secretary:</b>	Gwendoline Jessop Helg
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:office@avondalecatholic.org.nz">office@avondalecatholic.org.nz</a>
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.avondalecatholic.org.nz">www.avondalecatholic.org.nz</a>
<b>Facebook:</b>	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/stmarysavondale">www.facebook.com/stmarysavondale</a>
<b>School Principal:</b>	Kathryn Hira
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:principal@stmarysavondale.school.nz">principal@stmarysavondale.school.nz</a>

**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