



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/Whainga

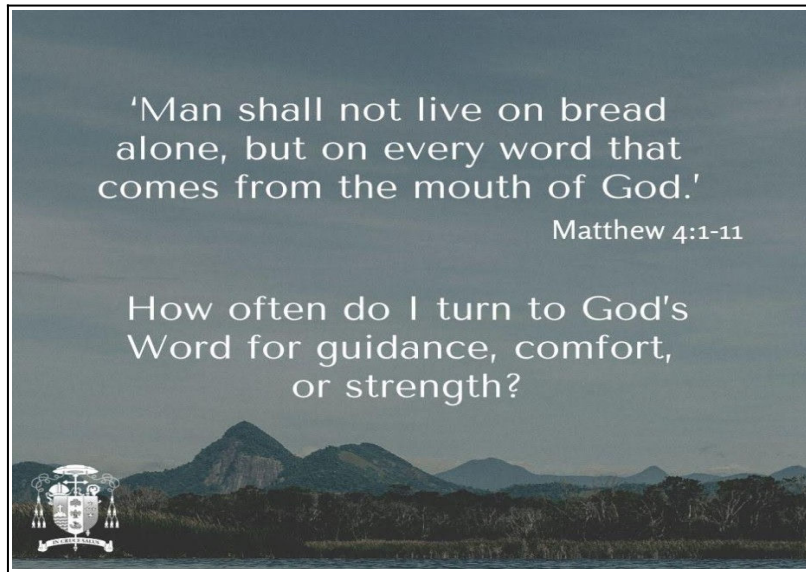
To Grow in Awareness as One Parish Family

Kokiritia te Oranga Kotahitanga o te Whanau Whakapono

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 22nd February 2026

Readings: Genesis 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7 | Ps. 51 | Romans 5: 12-19 | Matthew 4: 1-11

~ Gospel Reflection ~



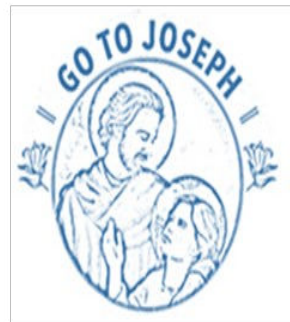
In each of the three Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), after Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus is reported to have gone to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. In each case, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

Matthew and Luke give more detail than Mark does, but each one tells how the devil tempts Jesus in the desert. In Matthew, as in Luke, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use His power to appease His hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture.

The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted.

Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that He will not put God to the test. Grounding Himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness.

As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is 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

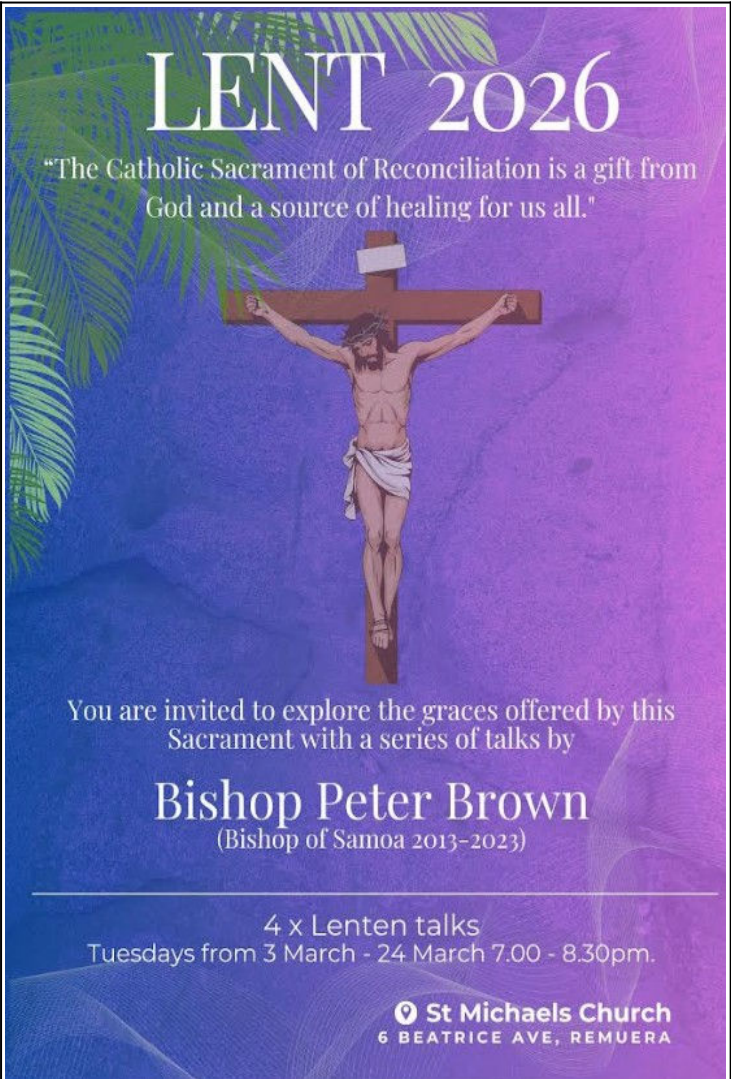
~ News and Updates from our Parish and around the Diocese ~

Bishops Lenten Appeal: “The beginning of Lent marks the start of the Bishops’ Lenten Appeal. Donations can be made to Caritas directly via direct debit or credit card through the Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand website <https://www.caritas.org.nz/ways-to-give>. The bank account for Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is 03-0518-0211216-000. Please use “Lent” as the Code and your first and last name as Particulars. Freepost envelopes are available in the Chapel throughout Lent. Please take an envelope, if you prefer to give in that way. Donations received by Caritas by 31st March will be sent a receipt for the 2025/26 tax year. Any donations received in the Caritas office after 1st April will be sent a receipt for the 2026/27 tax year. Your generous support enables Caritas to help poor and marginalised communities around the world. Thank you. For more information, email: caritas@caritas.org.nz or call 0800 22 10 22.

Reshaping in the Spirit of Synodality regional FORMATION sessions: Thursday 26th 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>

Life Teen Aotearoa Leadership Convention | 13-15 March 2026 at Sacred Heart College, Auckland: THE BEST place to be trained, renewed and inspired for Catholic Youth Ministry. Whether you are new to ministry, or looking for the best practices to continue your ministry, this event is designed for you. Expect incredible keynotes from the Catholic speakers, practical breakout sessions, and in addition to practical, comprehensive training, you will experience community and personal spiritual renewal. Whether you are a priest, in parish leadership, youth minister, DRS, teacher, youth leader, college chaplain, or an interested parent, we are ready to serve and train you this year at Life Teen Aotearoa’s 2026 Leadership Convention. Register NOW! Earlybird prices available until 9th March: <https://www.eventbookings.com/b/event/lif-e-teen-aotearoa-leadership-convention>

CATHNEWS NEW ZEALAND: CathNews New Zealand shares the big news from the Catholic Church and stories of relevance to Catholics every Tuesday and Friday. Sign up for the free digital newsletter and read the latest stories at cathnewsnz.com



LENT 2026

“The Catholic Sacrament of Reconciliation is a gift from God and a source of healing for us all.”

You are invited to explore the graces offered by this Sacrament with a series of talks by

Bishop Peter Brown
(Bishop of Samoa 2013-2023)

4 x Lenten talks
Tuesdays from 3 March - 24 March 7.00 - 8.30pm.

St Michaels Church
6 BEATRICE AVE, REMUERA

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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