



## *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*

### **SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

*Readings: Genesis 12: 1-4 | Ps. 33 | 2Timothy 1: 8-10 | Matthew 17: 1-9*

### *Gospel Reflection*



For the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert to His Transfiguration. Each year on the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday of Lent each year, we hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The story of Jesus' Transfiguration is told in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In each of those Gospels, the Transfiguration follows Jesus' first prediction of His death and His teaching about the costs of discipleship. Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory, His Resurrection.

On a mountain in today's reading, a voice affirms that Jesus is God's Son in words reminiscent of the voice at Jesus' baptism. In addition, the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the mountain connects this story with God's relationship to the people of Israel. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word.

The Transfiguration occurs in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples: Peter, James, and John. In Matthew's Gospel, those disciples are among the first whom Jesus calls. The three men are identified as an "inner circle" among Jesus' disciples when Jesus asks them to accompany Him to the Garden of Gethsemane just before His arrest.

## ~ News and Updates from the Parish ~

**Columban Calendars 2026:** There are still calendars available from the Parish Office (during office hours), if you are interested. Cost is \$12/per calendar.

**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 31<sup>st</sup> March will be sent a receipt for the 2025/26 tax year. Any donations received in the Caritas office after 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:caritas@caritas.org.nz) or call 0800 22 10 22.

**March For Life – Auckland March 7th 2026:** You can march for life together with thousands of others, and speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. March for life and show New Zealand that every life is precious. Enjoy a positive, family-friendly day with live music, inspiring speakers, and a community spirit. All are welcome. Gather at Te Komititanga Square 1pm More information at [marchforlife.nz](http://marchforlife.nz)

**A workshop for Church Organists:** A free practical workshop helping beginner organists develop stronger hymn-playing skills. Presenter: Michael Cox. Saturday, 14 March 2025, 1pm – 4pm. St. Patrick’s Catholic Church Pukekohe 119-129 Seddon St Pukekohe. Registration Essential. Email: [office@pukekohecatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@pukekohecatholic.org.nz)

**Mission Hub:** Ephesians 4: The Five Gifts for Building the Church. Every member of the Church has a role to play in building up the Body of Christ. This March, join us at Mission Hub as we reflect on Ephesians 4 and the five gifts Christ gives His people: Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd, and Teacher. Together, we’ll explore how to recognise these gifts in ourselves, how they strengthen the Church, and how we can respond with courage and faith. Monday 9 March, 7:00–8:30pm (NZ time), Online via Zoom. Prayer, inspiring content, discussion Everyone is invited to register here: <https://bit.ly/march9webinar>

**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/life-teen-aotearoa-leadership-convention>

**Parish Pledge Giving via Online Banking:** Due to our current situation and many of our parishioners having to attend Mass elsewhere, 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.



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 around the Diocese ~

**Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm | 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.

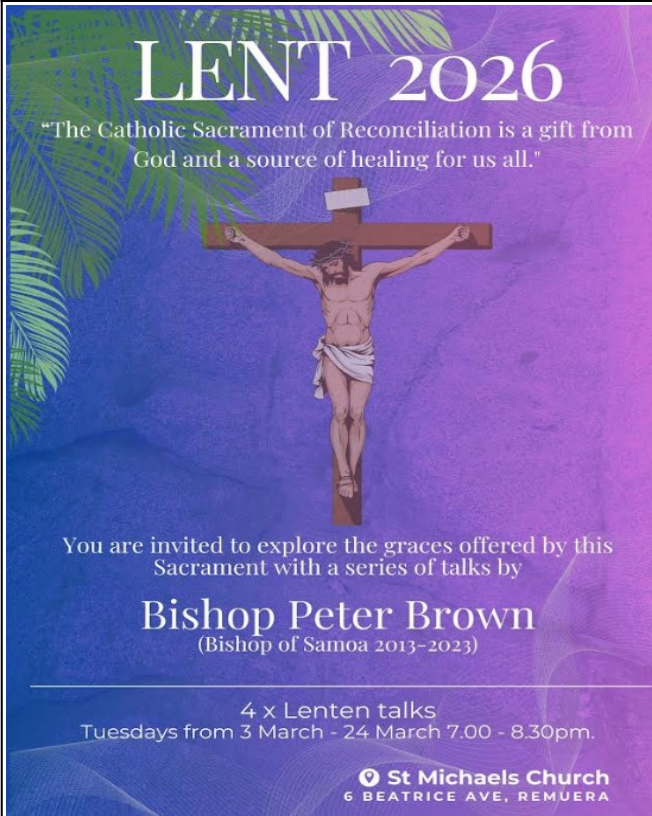
**CATHNEWS NEW ZEALAND:** CathNews New Zealand shares the big news from the Catholic Church and stories of relevance to Catholics every Tuesday and Friday. Sign up for the free digital newsletter and read the latest stories at [cathnewsnz.com](http://cathnewsnz.com)

### **Auckland Prison (Paremoremo) – Catholic Prison Chaplaincy:**

We are seeking to employ a suitably qualified person to work as members of Tira Tūhāhā Prison Chaplaincy Aotearoa Chaplaincy Team, which delivers Ecumenical Chaplaincy services to men in prison at the Auckland Prison (Paremoremo). This is a part-time position of 24 hours per week - days to be determined but with the expectation of some Sundays per month for Sunday Services. To view the full advert and the position description please go to our website [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz) under Diocesan Services and Staff Vacancies. Applications close on 6 March 2026.

**2026 Theology of the Body Courses and Prayer Retreats:** Registration OPEN for 2026

Course 2: NEW Beginners TOB course – Called to Holiness - LIVE – 4-talk series. Sat 28 March (ONE DAY only). All adults 20 years + are welcome. To register please visit: [theologyofthebody.nz](http://theologyofthebody.nz)



**LENT 2026**

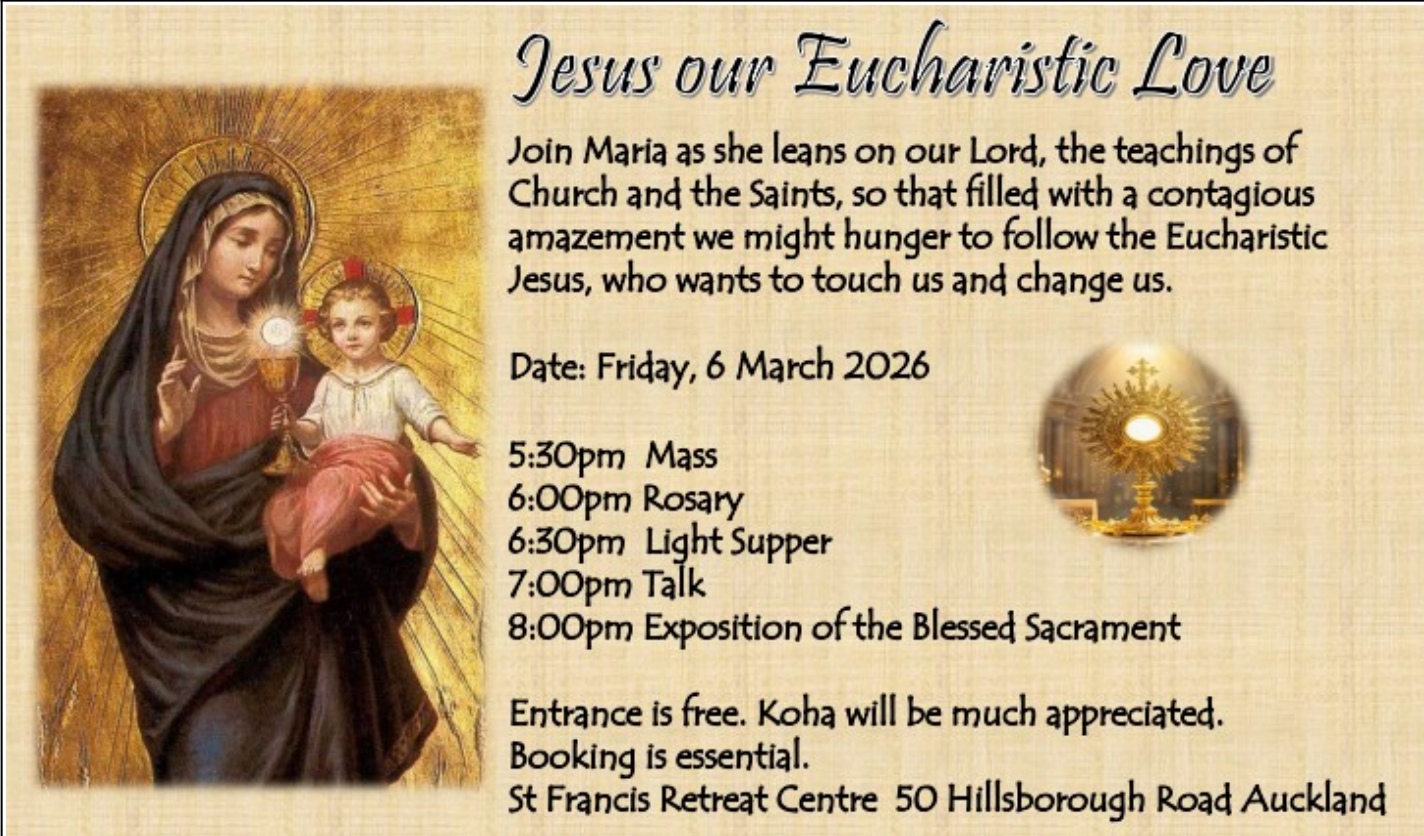
"The Catholic Sacrament of Reconciliation is a gift from God and a source of healing for us all."

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



*Jesus our Eucharistic Love*

Join Maria as she leans on our Lord, the teachings of Church and the Saints, so that filled with a contagious amazement we might hunger to follow the Eucharistic Jesus, who wants to touch us and change us.

Date: Friday, 6 March 2026

5:30pm Mass  
6:00pm Rosary  
6:30pm Light Supper  
7:00pm Talk  
8:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Entrance is free. Koha will be much appreciated.  
Booking is essential.  
St Francis Retreat Centre 50 Hillsborough Road Auckland

**WYD 2027 Webinars:** In preparation for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul Korea, Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College invites young people and everyone to grow in their faith, hope and missionary discipleship, with this year's webinar series, "Take Courage! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). More information at [www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinars-2026](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinars-2026)

~ News and Updates from around the Diocese ~

## LENT WEBINAR SERIES 2026

*Whakarongo ki te reo, whakahokia te karanga*  
**Hear the voice, answer the call**

Journey through Lent with New Zealand's Catholic Bishops and others of the faith as they guide us in prayer and reflection on each Sunday's Gospel.

**Wednesdays 7:30pm to 8:30pm**  
**From Ashes to Hope**

<b>25 Feb</b>	<i>The Temptation   Led by the Spirit</i>
<b>4 Mar</b>	<i>The Transfiguration   "Listen to Him"</i>
<b>11 Mar</b>	<i>The Woman at the Well   "I am He"</i>
<b>18 Mar</b>	<i>The Man Born Blind   "Now I see"</i>
<b>25 Mar</b>	<i>The Raising of Lazarus   "Lazarus, come out!"</i>
<b>1 Apr</b>	<i>The Passion   "I will strike the shepherd"</i>



Scan the QR code to register or use one of the contacts below

caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars  
0800 2210 22  
caritas@caritas.org.nz  
Replays available

  
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Safeguarding is making a safe space for all our people



**Who is Safeguarding for?**

- ✓ Volunteers
- ✓ Tamariki
- ✓ Clergy
- ✓ Elderly
- ✓ EVERYONE!

## SAFE PARISH – 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](mailto:safeguardingrep@avondalecatholic.org.nz). You may also contact the National Office for Professional Standards 0800 114 662. You may also contact the Police 111.



### Wings. Nga Parirau

Catholic Faith Formation

## On Zoom this Lent

Thursdays 7pm - 7.40pm

**Begin now**  
Modules 1 and 2  
over these 40 days  
of Lent

1. Made by God
2. Faith Journey

Know your faith.  
&  
Deepen your  
relationship  
with Jesus



Visit QR code for  
programme details



Contact: [dianna@cdca.org.nz](mailto:dianna@cdca.org.nz)  
Catholic Diocese Auckland

## Engaged & Planning a Wedding?

### Catholic Diocese of Auckland Approved Marriage Preparation Course

**Book your Marriage Preparation Course EARLY**  
(1 year for NZ and 18 months for overseas Weddings)

**Register & Book here:**  
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/our-courses/>

**For more information, contact Gerry:**  
**Email:** [gerrys@cda.org.nz](mailto:gerrys@cda.org.nz) | **Mobile:** 021 02247442

<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="https://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