



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

RESURRECTION OF THE LORD'S PASSION ~ 5th April 2026

Readings: Acts 10: 34, 37-43 | Ps. 118 | Colossians 3: 1-4 | John 20: 1-9

Gospel Reflection

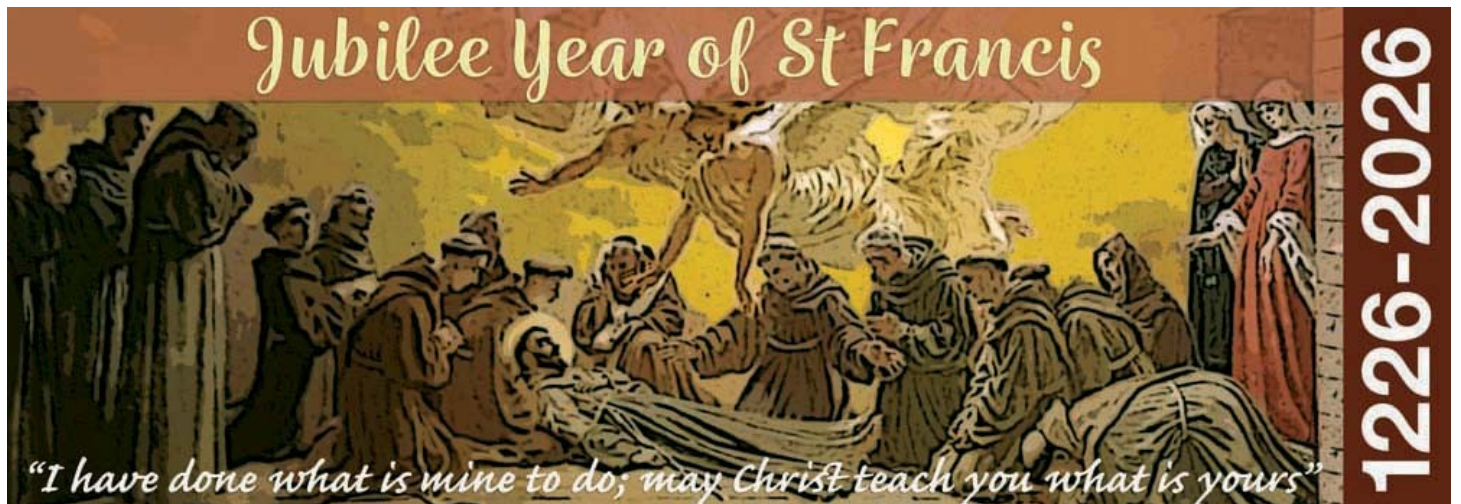
Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through His appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus – in His appearances and in His gift of the Holy Spirit.

www.loyolapress.com – Sunday Connection: Gospel Reflection – EASTER SUNDAY (Year A) | 5 April 2026



HE IS RISEN!

Wishing you a blessed
Easter Sunday as we
celebrate the hope and
grace of the Resurrection.



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

A word from Fr Andrew...

Dear St Mary's Parish,

As we celebrate the Easter Triduum, I extend to each and every one of you my and Fr Danko's warmest wishes for a blessed and joyful Easter.

Soon we will be saying, "Christ is risen, alleluia!"

May His Resurrection fill our hearts with renewed faith and peace.

Unfortunately, this Easter our parish community has not been able to gather as usual. Many people will feel this loss desperately. These have been very difficult days, to say the least.

Yet, even in the midst of these trials, the message of Easter speaks powerfully to us. The risen Christ reminds us that hope is never lost in God, and that Our Saviour is always at work bringing renewal and restoration to us all.

I want to sincerely thank you for your patience and your prayers during this time.

May the peace and joy of the risen Lord be with you and your families this Easter and always.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Andrew and Fr Danko.

Please note that there will be NO 6.00pm MASS for Avondale Parish at Christ the King Church, Owairaka on Easter Sunday 5th April 2026.

NZ Catholic: The latest edition of the monthly diocesan newsletter NZ Catholic is now available: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/NZ-Catholic-Issue-12.pdf>

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.**

~ News and Updates from around the Diocese ~

Prayer Retreat for Women: 'Prayer and the Interior Life' – **Friday 17th April, 6pm to Sunday 19th April 3pm 2026** – with time for Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, Personal Prayer and Spiritual Direction, at Hillsborough, Akld. Early Bird registration and details here: www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz

Rise up and Shine Festival: Taste the World, Celebrate the Culture! **30th May, 2026.** Starts at 10am with Thanks giving Mass. Followed by Social Entertainment until 3pm. Music, Zumba, Food stalls and Cultural Show. Join us at the Migrant Chaplaincy Rise Up & Shine Festival, where every bite tells a story and every dance spark joy.

Bishops Lenten Appeal: The New Zealand Bishops are encouraging the Catholic community to prayerfully consider how they can contribute to the annual Lenten Appeal. The appeal supports the work of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, which through its global network serves some of our world's most vulnerable and needy communities. The Bishops explain that acts of Christian charity can change the lives of those who benefit from that charity, but also can transform those who give with generosity — according to their own circumstances. Find out more at www.caritas.org.nz/lent

Divine Mercy Feast
Sunday 12th April 5:30pm
St Benedict's Church
 1 St Benedict's Street, Newton

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction.

✦ Blessing of Images,
 ✦ Holy Mass,
 Veneration of St Faustina's Relic.

Bring your Divine Mercy Images and Artefacts to be Blessed

Free parking is available at Wilson Carpark, including free street parking on Sundays

“My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter”
 — Diary of Saint Faustina

All Welcome

17 - 24 May 2026
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
There is
ONE BODY
and
ONE SPIRIT
Just as you were
 CALLED to
ONE HOPE - Ephs 4:4

JOIN US AT THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

Friday 29th May 2026 7:00PM
 At St John Presbyterian Church
 422 Mount Albert Road, Mount Roskill

Welcome to KIDS KORNER:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/CELEBRATING-SUNDAYof-the-RESSURRECTION.pdf>

DIOCESAN YOUTH MASS 2026

Last Sunday of each month
4-30pm February - November
St Patrick's Cathedral

\$4.50 parking available at Wilson Carpark, Hobson Street, via the Parkmate app.

For more info contact the Auckland Catholic Youth Ministry Team:

✉ youthmin@cda.org.nz
 📷 @acym2
 📱 @akcym

~ News and Updates from around the Diocese ~



JOSHUA 40
CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CELEBRATION WEEKEND

14 - 16 AUGUST 2026

KESWICK CHRISTIAN CAMP
5 COOPER AVE, HOLDENS BAY, ROTORUA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ROBERT FALZON
LEADER OF AUSTRALIA'S menALIVE
AUTHOR 'Importance of a present dad'

ALL MEN WELCOME
FRIDAY PM TO SUNDAY MIDDAY
MEALS & ACCOMMODATION INCLUDED

Contact: Mike Lobo 021 280 9285
Greg Sullivan 021 437 747

SPACES ARE LIMITED
BOOK IN EARLY TO AVOID
DISAPPOINTMENT
SCAN THE QR CODE:



<https://menforchrist.wufoo.com/forms/joshua-40th-anniversary-celebration-rotorua>




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. You may also contact the National Office for Professional Standards 0800 114 662. You may also contact the Police 111.



Bishop Steve's Easter message will be available on the Diocesan website from Easter Sunday, April 5




Scan the QR code to view his message
<https://www.youtube.com/@AucklandCatholic>



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND MIGRANT CHAPLAINCIES

Rise Up & Shine Festival

Saturday 30th May 2026 | 10:00am - 3:00 pm

At Malaola Community Centre, 16 Waokauri Place, Mangere

Starts: 10:00am - Thanksgiving Mass

Followed by: Social Entertainments till 3pm.
Music, Zumba, Food Stalls and Cultural Shows

KEEP OUR SPIRITS UP.
CELEBRATE OUR ONENESS IN CHRIST

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

Parish Office:

Phone: (09) 828 9309

Tue - Fri: 9.30am - 3.30pm

Monday: Closed

School Office:

Phone: (09) 828 5599

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