



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

Second Sunday of Easter (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY) ~ 12th April 2026

Readings: Acts 2: 42-47 | Ps. 118 | 1Peter 1: 3-9 | John 20: 19-31

Gospel Reflection

The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions after they discovered that His tomb was empty. Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that He appeared to His disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The bodily form was not one that the disciples recognised though. In John's Gospel, Mary of Magdala does not recognise that the figure standing before her is Jesus until He speaks to her. In Luke's Gospel the disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus do not recognise Him until He breaks bread with them. The resurrected Jesus had a physical presence, but the disciples couldn't recognise Jesus unless He allowed them to. His resurrected body, nonetheless, showed the marks of His crucifixion.

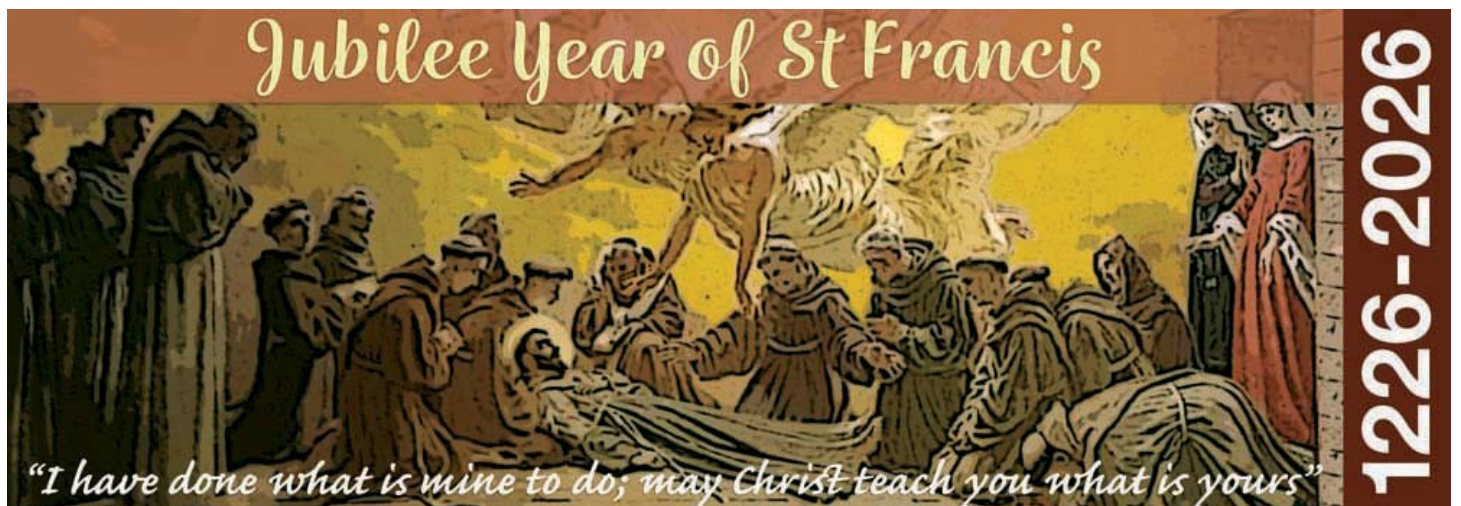
From readings such as today's Gospel, we also see that in His resurrected body, Jesus seems to be free of physical constraints. He appears to the disciples despite the fact that the doors were locked.

Jesus greets His disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus commissions His disciples to continue the work that He has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." During the meeting, Jesus also shows the integral connection between forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. In fact, all Christians after the first witnesses have been called to believe without seeing. Thomas's doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus' appearance was incredible to the disciples who had seen Him crucified and buried. Thomas's human nature compelled Him to want hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after His death was indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really risen.

Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first disciples. Through Baptism we receive the same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the first disciples. We are among those who are "blessed" because we believe without having seen.

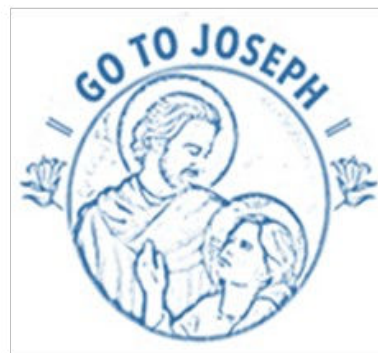
www.loyolapress.com – Sunday Connection: Gospel Reflection – Second Sunday of Easter (Year A) | 12 April 2026



"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John 20: 19-31

What helps me trust God in moments when He feels unseen?



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

During his Easter message, Pope Leo invites everyone this weekend to join him in praying for peace in the world. In response, here is a short prayer for peace that you are welcome to recite, asking for Our Lady's intercession for peace, praying with Pope Leo and invoking peace in our own lives...

Jesus, Lord of our history, faithful companion and living presence, You who never tire of coming to meet us, here we are, in need of Your peace. We live in times of fear and division. Sometimes we act as if we were alone, Building walls that separate us from one another, forgetting that we are brothers and sisters. Send us Your Spirit, Lord, to rekindle within us, the desire to understand one another, to listen, to live together with respect and compassion. Give us the courage to seek paths of dialogue, to respond to conflict with gestures of fraternity, to open our hearts to others without fear of differences. Make us builders of bridges, able to overcome borders and ideologies, able to see others through the eyes of the heart, recognising in every person an inviolable dignity. Help us create spaces where hope can flourish, where diversity is not a threat, but a richness that makes us more human. Amen.

Happy Feast Day to our Divine Mercy Prayer Group!

Parish Pledge Giving – Tax Receipts 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026: These will be available for collection from the Parish Office from Thursday next week during Parish Office hours. If you would like your Tax Receipt emailed to you, please contact the Parish Office via email.

Parish Pledge Giving via Online Banking & new sets of Pledge Envelopes (17 May 2026 to 9 May 2027): We now have the new sets of Pledge Giving Envelopes. Please note that there is a limited number of new sets of envelopes for this year, as many of our parishioners have swapped to online banking. If you would like to continue using envelopes, or if you would like to swap over to online banking, please contact the Parish Office via email (office@avondalecatholic.org.nz).

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@acta.org.nz

📧 @acym2

📍 @akcym

~ 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.

Vacancy – Head of Pastoral Services – Catholic Diocese of Auckland: The Catholic Diocese of Auckland is seeking a committed, faith-filled leader to support the Bishop's pastoral mission and provide strategic leadership across diocesan pastoral ministries. The role works closely with parishes and communities to strengthen evangelisation, formation, and pastoral life. Applicants must demonstrate a strong Catholic faith, senior pastoral leadership experience, and strategic capability. Full details and application information available via the Diocesan website: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz. Applications close 30 April 2026.



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-SECOND-SUNDAYof-EASTER-1.pdf>



THE GRADUATE CHOIR NEW ZEALAND
FRANCISCVS
THE GRADUATE CHOIR NEW ZEALAND
Terence Maskell
Elizabeth Mandeno soprano Phillip Smith organ

A Recital to Commemorate the Papacy of Pope Francis

21 April 2026 7:30pm
St Michael's Church, Remuera

Featuring Rutter's *Requiem* and music by Howells, Poulenc, Harris, Durufle and Artley

TICKETS \$30-40
Go to iticket.co.nz
0508 iTICKET

graduatechoirnz.org

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

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

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





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.



MISSION HUB
NEW ZEALAND

Helping disciples build a culture of prayer, leadership, and mission



Bishop John Adams

THE HOLY SPIRIT AT THE HEART OF MISSION

MONDAY 13 APRIL | 7.00PM - 8.30PM

Email to register: missionhubnz@gmail.com

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND MIGRANT CHAPLAINCIES

Rise Up & Shine Festival

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

At Malaeola 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

<p>Parish Priest: Fr. Andrew Matthew Assistant Priest: Fr. Danko Bizjak</p> <p>Email: ppriest@avondalecatholic.org.nz</p> <p>Parish Secretary: Gwendoline Jessop Helg</p> <p>Email: office@avondalecatholic.org.nz</p> <p>Website: www.avondalecatholic.org.nz</p> <p>Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmarysavondale</p> <p>School Principal: Kathryn Hira</p> <p>Email: principal@stmarysavondale.school.nz</p>	<p>Parish Office:</p> <p>Phone: (09) 828 9309</p> <p>Tue – Fri: 9.30am – 3.30pm</p> <p>Monday: Closed</p> <p>School Office:</p> <p>Phone: (09) 828 5599</p>	<p>Pledge Giving Account Number: 02-0108-0706996-000</p> <p>Mass Offering Account Number: 02-0108-0706996-001</p> <p>SMACC Building Fund Account Number: 02-0108-0706996-004</p>
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