



## *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*

## *Third Sunday of Easter ~ 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026*

*Readings: Acts 2: 14, 22-28 | Ps. 16 | 1Peter 1: 17-21 | Luke 24: 13-35*

### *Gospel Reflection*

On most Sundays during the Easter season in Cycle A, our Gospel is taken from the Gospel of John. This week's Gospel, however, is taken from the Gospel of Luke. As in last week's Gospel, today's Gospel shows us how the first community of disciples came to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. In these stories we gain insight into how the community of the Church came to be formed.

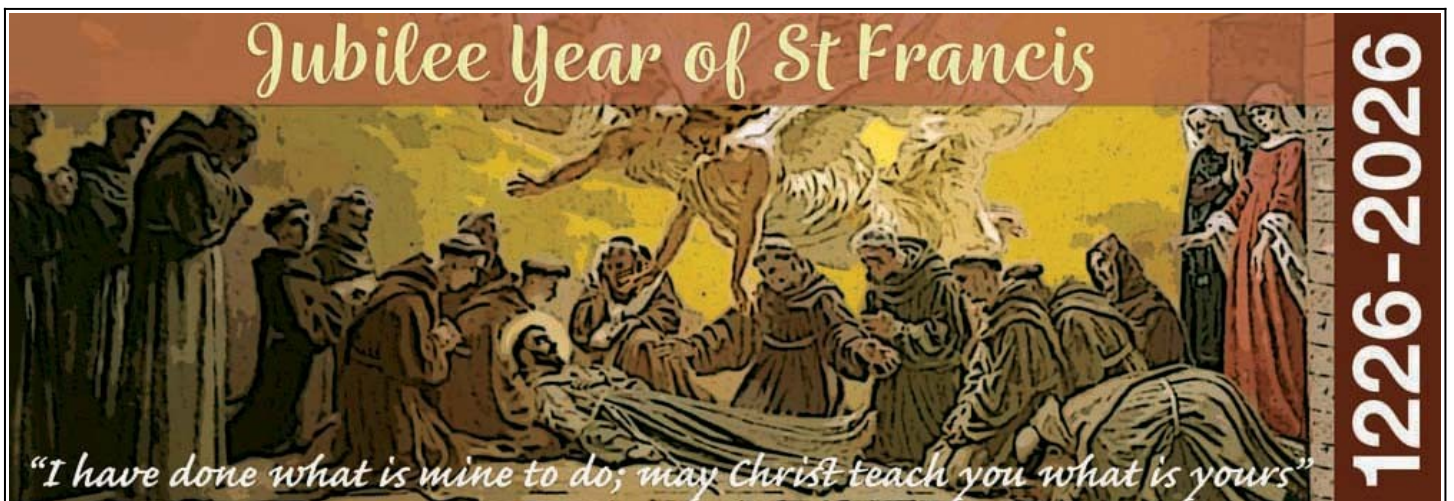
When we read today's Gospel, we may be surprised to learn that these friends of Jesus could walk and converse with Him at some length yet not recognize Him. Again we discover that the risen Jesus is not always easily recognised. Cleopas and the other disciple walk with a person whom they believe to be a stranger; only later do they discover that the stranger is Jesus. We learn that the first community met and recognised Jesus in the breaking of the bread, just as we meet Jesus in the Eucharist.

We can imagine the feelings of the two disciples in today's reading. They are leaving their community in Jerusalem. Their friend Jesus has been crucified. Their hope is gone. They are trying to make sense of what has occurred, so that they can put the experience behind them.

Jesus Himself approaches the two men, but they take Him for a stranger. Jesus asks them what they are discussing. He invites them to share their experience and interpretation of the events surrounding His crucifixion and death. When the two disciples have done so, Jesus offers His own interpretation of His crucifixion and resurrection, citing Jewish Scripture. In that encounter we find the model for our Liturgy of the Word – what we do each time we gather as a community for the Eucharist. We reflect upon our life experiences and interpret them in light of Scripture. We gather together to break open the Word of God.

In the next part of the story, we find a model for our Liturgy of the Eucharist. The disciples invite the stranger (Jesus) to stay with them. During the meal in which they share in the breaking of the bread, the disciples' eyes are opened; they recognise the stranger as Jesus. In the Eucharist too we share in the breaking of the bread and discover Jesus in our midst. Just as the disciples returned to Jerusalem to recount their experience to the other disciples, we too are sent from our Eucharistic gathering. Our experience of Jesus in the Eucharist compels us to share the story with others.

[www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com) – Sunday Connection: Gospel Reflection – Third Sunday of Easter (Year A) | 19 April 2026





**St Joseph's Takapuna**  
Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 7pm

**Good Shepherd, Balmoral**  
Saturday 2nd May, 10-12

**St Mark's, Pakuranga**  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 10-12

**St John Baptist, Mairangi Bay**  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 7pm

## Wings.Ngā Parirau Catholic Faith Formation Programme

All Welcome "Come and See"

To register contact  
**Dianna Fouhy** [diannaf@cda.org.nz](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)



Visit QR code for  
programme details



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



**FORMER POMPALLIER SCOUT GROUP, AVONDALE:** A Catholic scout leader is wanting help to obtain a scarf and name badge of this former scout group in our parish. This is part of a project to record the history of Catholic-sponsored scout groups in NZ. Sewn on the scarf would have been the badge used by Catholic scout groups – see image alongside. If you can help, please contact Edmund le Grelle, Ph 021 2619369 or [edmund@legrelle.co.nz](mailto:edmund@legrelle.co.nz).

**Parish Pledge Giving – Tax Receipts 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026:** If you would like to collect your Tax Receipt from the Parish Office or have it 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.

**Welcome to KIDS KORNER:**

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

## Holy Spirit Our Helper

7 Week Seminar

Starts on 21<sup>st</sup> April  
Tuesdays at 7:30pm - 9:15pm  
with cuppa at 7:15pm  
Sacred Heart Hall, 24 Vermont Street,  
Ponsonby, Auckland

*"And I will ask the Father, and He will give  
you another Advocate, to be with you forever"*  
– John 14:16

Come encounter the Father's love, grow closer to Jesus,  
and be filled with the Holy Spirit

Organised by ACCPGN for Auckland City Parishes, but  
ALL ARE WELCOME


Please register at  
<https://forms.gle/pDameRsdUYnhrbb7A>

~ News and Updates from around the Diocese ~

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN**

**Chevalier Cyril John**

CHARIS INTERNATIONAL INTERCESSION COMMISSION



**CHARIS  
NEW ZEALAND  
Aotearoa**

Cyril will be in NZ  
for two days.


Teaching and Training on  
**Prophetic  
Intercession**

**Date** 11th and 12th May 2026

**Times** Monday 11th: 6 pm to 9 pm  
Tuesday 12th: 10 am to 9:30 pm

**Venue** Christ the King Church  
Mt Roskill  
Auckland

Amazing opportunity for all.



For enquiries contact Vanessa Nathan  
021 143 3703 or email  
maranatha.jvz@gmail.com

**Registration \$20.00**



**Mass of the Neophytes**

Pentecost Sunday  
24<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
4:30pm at the Cathedral of St Patrick  
and St Joseph

All who were baptised at Easter 2026 or received into full communion in the last 12 months are invited to attend with their godparents and other supporters. Our mass is a time for us all to celebrate our new initiated drawing them on on their discipleship.






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



**St Michael's**  
Parish Remuera



**The Exodus**

with  
**Dr Dan Stollenwerk**

Wednesdays 10.30am to 11.45am

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>  
2026

FOLLOWED BY MIDDAY MASS

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH CRYPT  
6 BEATRICE RD, REMUERA



# 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

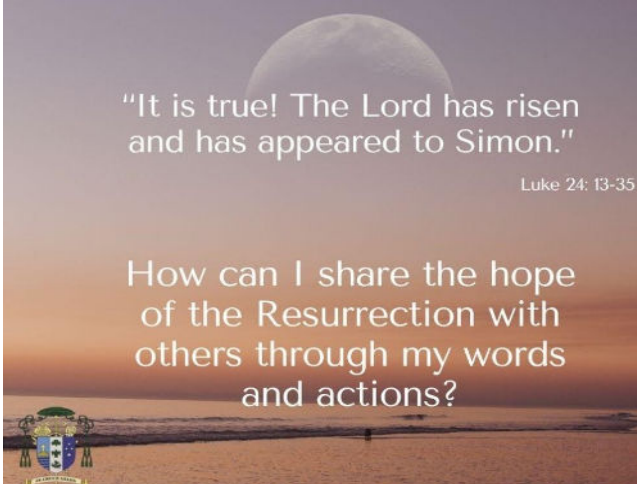


**Who is Safeguarding for?**

- ✓ 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](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.



"It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."  
Luke 24: 13-35

How can I share the hope of the Resurrection with others through my words and actions?



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



**Parish Priest:** Fr. Andrew Matthew | **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Danko Bizjak  
**Email:** [ppriest@avondalecatholic.org.nz](mailto:ppriest@avondalecatholic.org.nz)  
**Parish Secretary:** Gwendoline Jessop Helg  
**Email:** [office@avondalecatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@avondalecatholic.org.nz)  
**Website:** [www.avondalecatholic.org.nz](http://www.avondalecatholic.org.nz)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/stmarysavondale](http://www.facebook.com/stmarysavondale)  
**School Principal:** Kathryn Hira  
**Email:** [principal@stmarysavondale.school.nz](mailto: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