



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

Fourth Sunday of Easter ~ 26th April 2026

Readings: Acts 2: 14, 36-41 | Ps. 23 | 1Peter 2: 20-25 | John 10: 1-10

Gospel Reflection

This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle the reading is from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus' teaching about Himself as the Good Shepherd.

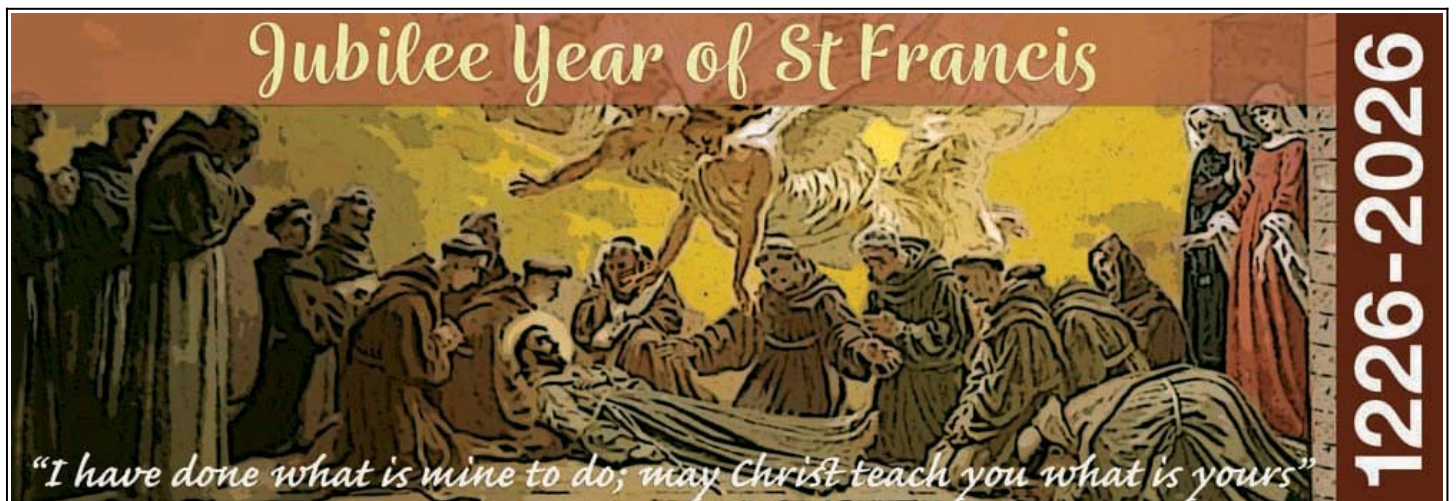
Today's reading falls between the stories of Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year's season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs His allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of His time, the Pharisees.

Throughout John's Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus' ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be "robbers and thieves" because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling His listeners that those who follow Him and His way will find abundant life. He identifies Himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to Him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus' disciples) should follow.

The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd.

Today's Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus' words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognise that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus' allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to Him and by being a good shepherd.

www.loyolapress.com – Sunday Connection: Gospel Reflection – Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year A) | 26 April 2026



TE KUPENGA
CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE

WEBINAR SERIES

COURAGE: A CALL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BOLD AND CONFIDENT IN THEIR FAITH

TUESDAY 5 MAY 2026
5:00-6:00 PM VIA ONLINE

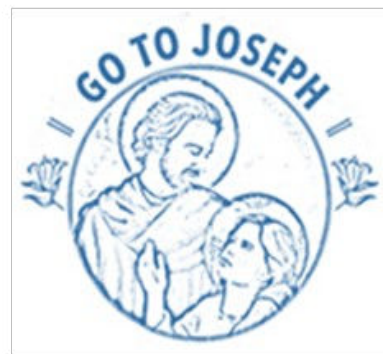
SPEAKER

BISHOP MICHAEL GIELEN
Catholic Diocese of Christchurch



WYD 2027 Theme:
"Take courage! I have overcome the world."

www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinars-2026



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

Parish Update – Te Whau Hall Renovations: Firstly, a big THANK YOU to all parishioners for your patience as we have worked through the insurance issues with the diocese and the options for a temporary church onsite. A settlement of \$170,000 has been agreed to enable the parish to maintain our operations while we await a decision regarding a permanent rebuild. This is separate to the insurance settlement for the building and contents.

We have decided to make some renovations to the hall so we can hold Sunday Masses there – this work has already commenced. We will update you with a timeframe when the various contractors are confirmed. The capacity of the hall is approximately 200. An initial proposal involving major structural renovations proved not viable for reasons of both cost and significant time delays.

As part of preparing the hall for its use as a church we are holding a **Working Bee in the Hall on Saturday 2nd May from 10.00am to 12.00pm**. The purpose of the working bee is to clean the interior of the hall. So, come with your scrubbing brush or mop and bucket for a fun two hours of working together. We will celebrate afterwards with a BBQ.



Vocations Sunday: Today we celebrate Vocations Sunday. Bishop Steve Lowe invites us to support our seminarians at Holy Cross Seminary as they discern their call to the priesthood. If you are able, please consider donating at www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/donate, and continue to keep them in your prayers.

Parish Pledge Giving – Tax Receipts 1st April 2025 to 31st 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.

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass on Friday 1st May, 7.00pm at 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.

Welcome to KIDS KORNER: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/CELEBRATING-FOURTH-SUNDAYof-EASTER.pdf>

~ News and Updates from around the Diocese ~

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Chevalier Cyril John

CHARIS INTERNATIONAL INTERCESSION COMMISSION



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



JOSHUA

Catholic Men's Fellowship – North Shore

Men of faith are warmly invited to come together for an evening of fellowship, prayer, and spiritual growth.

Topic:
The Universal Call to Holiness

Presenter: Dr John Evangelista (Director, Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College)

Date: Wednesday, 29 April 2026
St Thomas More Church,
Glenfield, Auckland 0629


- **7:00pm** – Fellowship followed by
- **7:30pm** – Praise & Worship

Join us for an inspiring evening of brotherhood, faith, and encouragement.

All men are warmly invited.

Enquiries: Tet-Woo – 021 038 0196
Dominic – 021 100 3694

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The comprehensive record of the people and organisations in the Church in Aotearoa New Zealand

 **Te Huinga o ngā Pihopa
Katorika o Aotearoa**
New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference

"We want to say to the world, with humility and joy: Look to Christ! Come closer to him! Welcome his word that enlightens and consoles!"
Pope Leo, From the Homily at the start of his Pontificate

ENROLMENT OPENS APRIL 28

For Semester Two 2026

-  BACHELOR OF DIVINITY
-  GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

 **ctc.ac.nz**



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.



"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved"
 John 10:1-10

What fears might be keeping me from stepping more fully into the life Jesus is offering?



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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