



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ 3rd May 2026

Readings: Acts 6: 1-7 | Ps. 33 | 1Peter 2: 4-9 | John 14: 1-12

Gospel Reflection

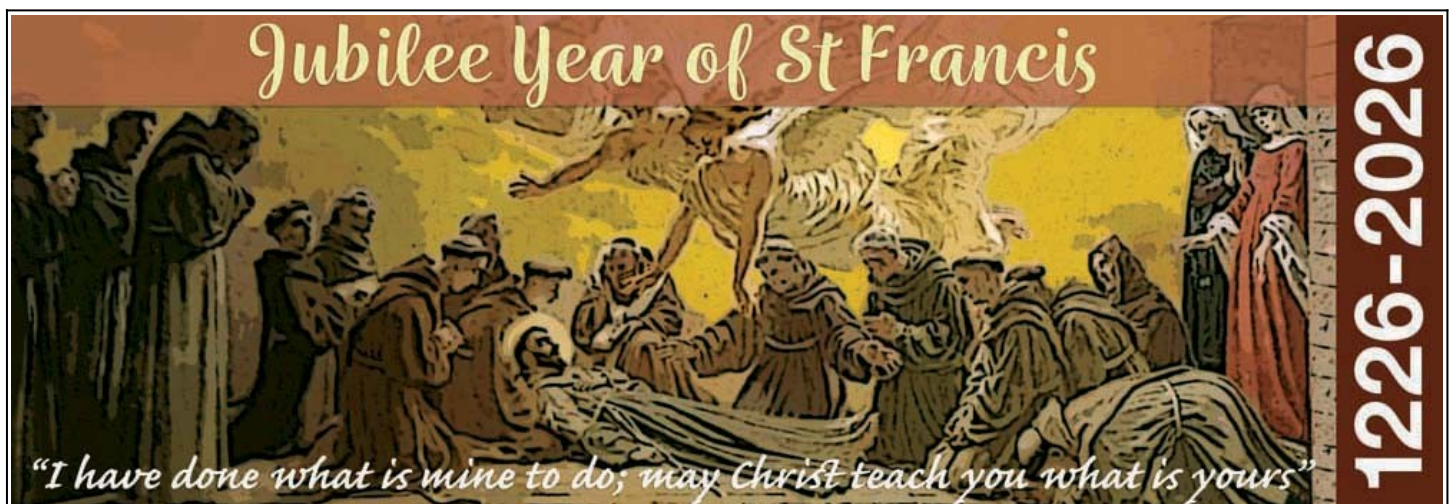
The readings for the last few Sundays have been about the Resurrection, but today's Gospel takes us back in time to an event in Jesus' life before His Passion. Jesus tells His disciples that He is going to prepare a place for them in His Father's house. He promises that where He is going, His disciples will be able to follow. Thomas, who will later doubt the disciples' reports that they have seen the Risen Lord, contradicts Jesus by saying that the disciples don't know where Jesus is going or how to get there. Jesus explains that He Himself is the way, the truth, and the life. In knowing and loving Jesus, the disciples now love God the Father.

Philip then makes a request that challenges Jesus' words. Philip wants Jesus to show the Father to the disciples. Recall that Jesus has just told His disciples, "If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him." As a good teacher, Jesus responds to Philip by repeating and elaborating on what He has just told the disciples: they have seen and known Jesus, so they have seen and known the Father. Then Jesus offers another reassurance about his departure: because of faith in God and in Jesus, the disciples will do the work that Jesus has done and more.

The connection between Jesus and his Father, between Jesus' work and the work of the Father, is made clear in today's Gospel. Jesus is in the Father, and God the Father is in Jesus. As God spoke His name to Moses, "I am," so too Jesus speaks His name to His disciples: "I am the way and the truth and the life."

The revelation of the Trinity is completed in the passage that follows today's reading, and it is the Gospel for next Sunday. Because Jesus goes away, the Father will send in Jesus' name the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will continue the work of the Father and of Jesus.

www.loyolapress.com – Sunday Connection: Gospel Reflection – Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year A) | 3 May 2026



~ News and Updates from the Parish and around the Diocese ~

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

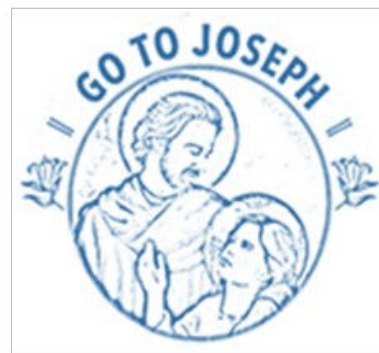
BISHOP MICHAEL GIELEN

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 Working Bee in Te Whau Hall – postponed: Due to other jobs in the hall that need to take place first before a big clean-up, the Working Bee is postponed to a later stage.

Parish Pledge Giving – Tax Receipts 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026: These are now available for collection from the Chapel when you attend Mass. If you would like to collect your tax receipt from the Parish Office or have it emailed to you, please email: office@avondalecatholic.org.nz.

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.

Theology of the Body: Book study/course using Dr Edward Sri's Men, Women and the Mystery of Love – based on St John Paul II's Love and Responsibility. This course is for young adults (18-35yrs) single, dating, engaged and married. Dates: Wed evenings starting 6th May; Hillsborough, Auckland. For more information visit www.theologyofthebody.nz

Welcome to KIDS KORNER: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/CELEBRATING-FIFTH-SUNDAY-of-EASTER.pdf>

Mass of The Neophytes: Bishop Steve invites all those who will be initiated into the Church at Easter, their families, and friends to return to the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph for the Mass of Welcome on **Sunday 24 May 2026 at 4.30pm**. This is an opportunity to give thanks for the gift of faith and share with Bishop Steve in the celebration of the Eucharist.

The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** falls on **17-24 May**. Gather your people, join us and the other Christian Church communities to the Ecumenical Day of Prayer for Christian Unity 7:00pm on Friday 29th May 2026 at St John Presbyterian Church, 422 Mt Albert Road, Mt Roskill. Owairaka and Three Kings parishioners encouraged to attend. Let us respond to Christ' prayer to the Father, "That may they all be one." It is our calling to be synodal, to 'reshape' our ways to be Catholic.

St Michael's Parish Remuera: Scripture Study: 'THE EXODUS' by Dr Dan Stollenwerk. In the lead up to Pentecost Sunday, Dan will dive deep into the common themes that link Pentecost and the Book of Exodus. Please join us at St Michael's: 4x Wednesday mornings **6th, 13th, 20th, 27th May**. 10:30am – 11:45am in the Parish Centre. Followed by midday Mass * No registration required.

~ 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

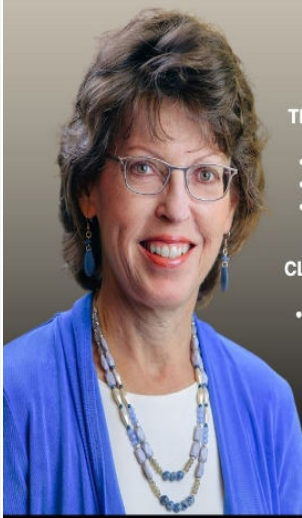

Registration \$20.00

REBUILD MY CHURCH

From Stones to Souls with Dr. Mary Healy

Christ's call to St Francis — "Go and rebuild my house"
— was a call to renew hearts, not just walls.

Before heading to the Australian CHARIS Conference, Dr Mary Healy comes to Hamilton to help us listen more attentively to God's voice and our role in building a living Church.



THREE EVENINGS | 9, 10, 11 June | 7pm

- The Power of God's Word
- The Holy Spirit Brings Life
- For Such a Time as This

CLERGY WORKSHOP | 10 June | 10.30am - 2.30pm

- Awakening the Gifts of the Faithful


LEADERS WORKSHOP | 11 June | 9am - 3pm

- Whole-Hearted Leadership
- Leading in the Anointing of the Holy Spirit
- Empowering Others

Dr Mary Healy 9, 10, 11 JUNE 2026

Professor of Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit

CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY HAMILTON

www.cdh.org.nz/events Scan to register: 

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

ENROLMENT OPENS APRIL 28

For Semester Two 2026

-  BACHELOR OF DIVINITY
-  GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

TE KUPENGA CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

ctc.ac.nz

~ News and Updates from around the Diocese ~



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'

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

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>



Safeguarding is making a safe space for all our people


Who is Safeguarding for?

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



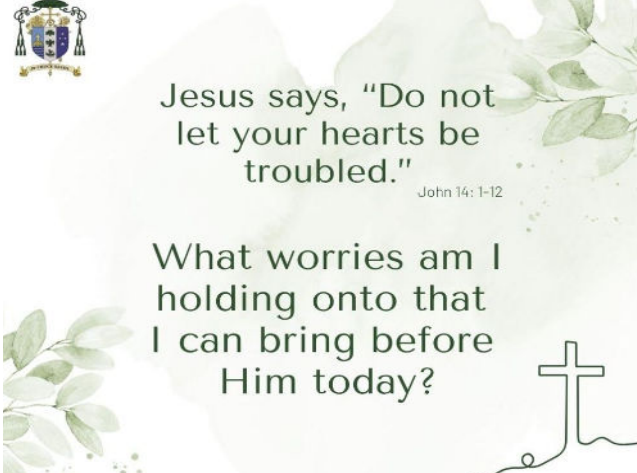
SAFE PARISH - SAFE GUARDING

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.



Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled."
John 14: 1-12

What worries am I holding onto that I can bring before Him today?



Christ – Who is Jesus?

Formation series by Fr. Kenson Koh

Want to know more about Jesus?
 Come along with your family and friends, to learn more! For Catholics only.

Date: 13 May to 24 June, every Wed except 27 May (public holiday)
 Time: 8pm
 Venue: C2-1



Registration closes on 12 May 2026

To register, scan or visit <https://tinyurl.com/ChristbyFrK2026>



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	

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