

The Pastor's Pen

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday, often known as "Good Shepherd Sunday", reminds us that Jesus came to serve and to teach us how to serve. Traditionally this fourth Sunday of Easter is set aside as a day of prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

In every age the family of the Church is in need of those willing to dedicate their entire lives to shepherding the flock, but in today's church we are also becoming more and more conscious of the fact that every disciple of Jesus, by virtue of baptism, is called to share in the ministry of shepherding, caring for and healing those in need.

We all have a vocation, a calling from God, and in many parts of the world it is important that we stress the importance of this, because where the number of ordained ministers is in decline, the Christian community will flourish only if all are using their gifts to ensure that we remain vibrant and united in the Lord. This Sunday is also Mother's Day. On behalf of Fr Rivan I would like to wish all the mothers and the women who are playing motherly roles in their duties a lifetime of love and happiness.

May God always shower you with the blessings of God's motherly love in your loving care to others especially your loved ones. Happy Mother's Day to you all!

Easter blessings,
Fr Anthony Tran CSsR

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Book an appointment with any of the priests after Mass or use phone numbers listed below.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Contact Fr Anthony Tran OR Fr Rivan Narang.
Private Baptism until the month of October.

MARRIAGES

Require **at least SIX months' notice**
Contact Fr Anthony Tran OR Fr Rivan Narang.
Booking St. Anthony OR St. Therese Church for Wedding ☎ 275 5401

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

RCIA/RCIC Contact Hila Tuli 02102233342
First Reconciliation, Confirmation & First Holy Communion Contact Talei Solomon Mua. 0223920189

Mangere Catholic Parishes Pastoral Team

Parish Priest: Anthony Tran, C.Ss.R. ☎ 0226543680
Assistant Priest : Nathanael Rivandi Narang, C.Ss.R. ☎ 02108154804
Presbytery ☎ 275 3559 Parishes' Office: Parishes' Secretary ☎ 275 5401



The Mangere Catholic

Diocese of Auckland

Bulletin of the Parishes of

St. Anthony **St. Thérèse**
20 Kirkbride Road 10 Wickman Way

Mangere Bridge Mangere East

www.mangerebridgecatholic.org.nz www.mangereeastcatholic.org.nz

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PO Box 59027 • Mangere Bridge • Auckland 2022 • office@mangerecatholic.org.nz

Presbytery • 20 Kirkbride Road • Mangere Bridge • ☎ 2753559

St Anthony Family Support Trust 0272533537 & 09 2750357

SCHOOLS IN THE PARISHES

St Mary MacKillop Primary Years 1-8 • McNaughton Avenue ☎ 257 1435 ☎ 257 1436

St Joseph's Catholic School Years 0-8 125 Church Street Onehunga ☎ 6368102

De La Salle College • Years 7-13 • Gray Avenue ☎ 276 4319 ☎ 276 7992

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THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY	9th May.	FRIDAY	13th May
	<u>4th Week of Easter.</u>		<u>4th Week of Easter.</u>
Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 42	Acts 13:26-33	Psalm 2
John 10:1-10		John 14:1-6	
St. Anthony	Mass 9am.	St. Anthony	Mass 9am.
TUESDAY	10th May.	SATURDAY	14th May
	<u>4th Week of Easter.</u>		<u>St. Matthias, Apostle. (f)</u>
Acts 11:19-26	Psalm 87	Acts 1:15-17,20-26	Psalm 113
John 10:22-30		John 15:9-17	
St. Therese	Mass 9am.	St. Therese	Mass 9am.
WEDNESDAY	11th May.		Sunday 15th May
	<u>4th Week of Easter.</u>		5th Week of Easter (Psalter W.1)
Acts 12:24-13:5	Psalm 67	Acts 14:21-27: Psalm 145: Apocalypse	
John 12:44-20		21:1-5: John 13:31-35	
St. Anthony	Mass 9am.		<u>Weekend Masses.</u>
THURSDAY	12th May.		<u>St Anthony : Saturday Vigil Mass 5pm.</u>
	<u>4th Week of Easter.</u>		<u>& Mass Sunday 9am.</u>
Acts 13:13-25	Psalm 89		<u>St Therese: 8am, 10am & 6pm. Fourth</u>
John 13:16-20			<u>Sunday Samoan Mass 12pm.</u>
St. Therese	Mass 9am.		

**CHURCH AND GROUNDS
CLEANING IN BOTH PARISHES.**

St. Anthony's.

Thank you to all volunteers for looking after the Church and grounds this weekend.

St. Therese

Thank you to the volunteers for looking after the grounds each week. Thank you to the Legion of Mary for looking after the church each week.

MONTH OF MOTHER MARY.

St Therese's parish Legion of Mary prayer group will be leading the rosary at the grotto every Friday at 6pm for the month of Mother Mary. All are welcome to join.

SACRAMENTS OF FIRST RECONCILIATION, CONFIRMATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM 2022.

Enrolment form available at the parish office during office hours Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 2:30pm. OR Contact Talei Solomon Mua

Prayer for Vocation

*Father,
We thank you for the blessings you have given us in Christ our Redeemer. Let your Spirit overshadow your people, making your gentle invitation heard in many hearts, bless the Church throughout the world with many vocations, so that those in greatest need will experience the good news of Redemption. May your love grow among us and your kingdom come, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, pray for us.

MASS OF THE NEOPHYTES.

As we live and pray the season of Mystagogy. I pray you are all well. We are all aware that the baptism of an adult is the responsibility of the bishop of a diocese but that our practice is that we do this locally in parishes during the great Easter Vigil. Therefore, each year after Easter the bishop celebrates the Mass of the Neophytes. This mass of welcome to new Catholics is a time for all those who were baptised or received into the Church to gather at the Cathedral for the

bishop to welcome them to the family and to recognise that we are a Church across parish boundaries. For 2022 we are naming this Mass *Mass of Welcome to New Catholics*. Feedback from previous years is that people didn't know what the term Neophyte meant and so didn't participate. The 2022 Mass of Welcome will be celebrated by Bishop Steve at the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph on Sunday 29 May at 4.30pm. All neophytes, their families and RCIA team members are invited to join this special occasion. RSVP numbers attending by Wednesday 18 May.

XAVIER SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND.

Do you know someone who is blind or visually impaired that would appreciate access to books on faith topics and inspiration? Perhaps you could put them in touch with the Xavier Society for the Blind that provides braille and audio books free. See their website <https://xaviersocietyfortheblind.org/> or email info@xaviersocietyfortheblind.org

MARIST COLLEGE OPEN DAY.

Marist college for girls years 7 to 13 open day tours Wednesday 11th may. Tour 1 at 9am and tour 2 at 11:30am. Applications for enrolments including interviews online can be found at <http://www.maristcollege.school.nz/WebSapce/4149/>.

JOB VACANCY.

Parish Secretary Vacancy - Glen Eden Parish. Our Lady of Lourdes Parish is looking for a new parish secretary. The role involves general administrative tasks, managing invoices and reporting processes. Applicants must be able to handle updating and maintenance of our website and be proficient in MYOB. This is a part-time role between 25-30 hours per week. Please submit your CV and covering letter outlining your interest in this role to Darinjohnston710@gmail.com.

Happy mothers day to all mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers.

8th May, 2022. Third Sunday of Easter. (Psalter W.4)

TODAY'S READINGS Acts: 13:14,43-52: Psalm 100: Apocalypse 7:9,14-17: John 10:27-30

Blessed to be part of the flock.

The image of God as shepherd of his people is strong in both the Old and the New Testament. Indeed, one of the earliest and most loved images of Jesus in the early Church was of him as the Good Shepherd who so loves his sheep that he lays down his life for them.

In the Roman catacombs, the ancient cemeteries outside the city of Rome where the early Christian martyrs were buried, we find very early images of the Good Shepherd. He is shown carrying a lamb on his shoulders. Holiness, goodness and grace radiate from his youthful figure. His sheep gaze trustingly at him and graze peacefully in his care. They know him, they recognise his voice, and they know that he will protect them from danger. He knows each of them by name and will never desert them.

The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd must have been a great source of consolation for Christians in the face of persecution. Indeed, a common prayer in the early Church for those who had died was that they should be taken to heaven "borne on the shoulders of the Good Shepherd".

Two thousand years later, Christians continue to find the image of the Good Shepherd deeply consoling and comforting, especially in times of trouble and distress. Psalm 23 is one of the most loved and prayed of all the psalms, often used at funerals. It speaks to us so powerfully of the unfailing tenderness and steadfast love with which God cares for us, individually and as a community. Psalm 100 proclaims his kindness and faithfulness and in it we rejoice that we are his people, the sheep of his flock.

But let us reflect for a moment about us as the sheep of his flock! Now, those of us who have grown up in the country and watched sheep dog trials, or waited on a country road while a flock of sheep is moved by a farmer and his sheep dogs from one side of the road to the other, know how stupid and wayward sheep can be and how much patience and skill it takes to manage them! Though we human beings are blessed with capacity for intelligence and insight, we too, like sheep, often behave in scatterbrained and foolish ways.

But no matter how foolish or scatterbrained or uncooperative we might be, our Good Shepherd shepherds us, looks out for us, comes to find us when we are lost, and carries us when we need to be carried. He loves us and cares for us with an everlasting love. How very blessed are we to be the sheep of his flock! May the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd remind us to keep our eyes on him, to listen to him, and to hold firm to our faith and our trust in him.

Anne Hunt
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