



EASTERN BAYS PASTORAL AREA

Mother of Perpetual Help Parish, Glendowie
and St Ignatius Parish, St Heliers

Third Week of Lent

Sunday 23rd March 2025

Pastor's Note

In today's first reading from Exodus, Moses encounters God in the burning bush and hears these words: "Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." God reveals Himself as the great "I AM," the One who hears the cries of His people and comes to save them.

This moment reminds us that holiness is not confined to temples or distant places—it is found where God is present, and God is always near. The ground beneath Moses' feet was not inherently sacred; it became holy because God was there.

Today, we might consider that we too stand on holy ground.... Not just the sacred buildings we gather in, but also in the sacred ground of the lives we live, the relationships we form, and the world we inhabit. They are all places where God is present and where God reveals Himself.

Our faith calls us to see the dignity of each person... those we stand alongside in church but also in our neighbours and especially in those who struggle in our world. We must be moved by the plight of the refugee, the migrant worker, the innocent victims of war. Locally we are mindful of people in our communities who struggle for the basic necessities of life, including those who are isolated, or grieving, or who we might take for granted.

In all people we recognize the sacredness of human life.... we stand on the 'holy ground'

of each other's lives, mindful of Catholic social teaching that calls us to work for the 'common good of all'.

When we stand in moments of suffering or injustice, we are called—like Moses—to respond with courage, compassion and love.

When we care for creation, we respect the earth as a GIFT from God.... not something to be exploited but a gift entrusted to us, mindful of the legacy we leave for future generations. Like Moses we might intentionally take off our shoes sometime and feel the ground beneath us and consider that we do indeed stand on holy ground of this earth, 'our common home'!

Lent is a time to remove the "sandals" of indifference, pride, and distraction so that we may stand humbly before God and truly see the holiness around us. A time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving... renewing, refocusing, recommitting to a better relationship with God, others and our worldand our better selves.

Where is God calling us to recognize His presence today? May we open our hearts, listen to His voice, and walk forward as people transformed by the sacred ground of His love with an increased awareness of his presence in all aspects of our lives and our world.

May God bless our endeavours as we enter this third week of Lent.

AMDG

Bernard

PS. You might want to look Catholic Social Teaching and Laudate Sii for further reflection

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Exodus 3:1-8,13-15. We are shown God's concern for his oppressed people.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6,10-12. What happened to the Israelites in the Desert is a warning for us Christians.

Gospel Luke 13: 1-9. Jesus stresses the necessity of repentance and tells the people that time is running out.

The Annunciation of the Lord

This Tuesday we celebrate the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (it is nine months till Christmas!) A beautiful prayer that helps us focus on the place of Mary in salvation history is the **Angelus**.

V/. The Angel of the Lord declared
unto Mary,

R/. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of
your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners

now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

V/. Behold the handmaid of the Lord,

R/. Be it done unto me according
to your Word.
Hail Mary...

V/. And the Word was made flesh,

R/. And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary...

V/. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

R/. That we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you,
O Lord, your grace into our hearts: that we,
to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an
Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be
brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Through the same Christ our Lord Amen.

Easter Ceremonies

The Easter Ceremonies for the Eastern Bays
Pastoral Area will all take place at

Sacred Heart College Chapel

Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.00pm

Good Friday

The Passion of the Lord and Veneration of the
Cross 3.00pm

Holy Saturday

The great Easter Vigil and First Mass of the
Resurrection 7.00pm

Easter Sunday

Mass at 9.30am

Lent ~ Pastoral Area Rite II

Reconciliation

Monday of Holy Week, 14 April 7.00pm

at Mother of Perpetual Help Church.

This is a communal celebration of Penance with
individual confession.

There will be four priests present.

Lent ~ Pastoral Area Anointing of the Sick

Saturday 5 April ~ 9.30am Mass at

Mother of Perpetual Help Church

followed by morning tea.

Please bring a plate if you are able. Please
consider bringing those in our community who
might need transport.



The St Vincent de Paul Society

The St Vincent de Paul Food
Basket is at the entrance to
the church. It's a good way to
observe the almsgiving dimension to Lent.

Non-perishable food items are welcome.

Thank you for your generous contributions.

Notices

During Lent

There is Stations of the Cross at Mother of Perpetual Help Parish every Friday evening at 7.00pm. Please come join us



Good Friday – 18th April

Stations of the Cross through our City Centre. Starting 9am at Albert Park. Finishing 11am at the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph.

There will also be Stations of the Cross prayed at Mother of Perpetual Help at 10am on Good Friday.

Jubilee Sing Jubilee

Join Tony Alonso, a Grammy nominated composer of sacred music & a scholar whose work responds to the diverse realities of contemporary culture.

The following events are taking place to celebrate the Jubilee of Song:

Conversation with Tony with drinks & nibbles

Fri 30 May 6.30, Pompallier Diocesan Centre
\$20. Register at:

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/retreatworkshop-with-tony-alonso-copy/

Retreat Workshop with Tony,

Sat 31 May 1.30–4 p.m., Baradene College Auditorium, Victoria Avenue, Remuera. Koha.

Register at:

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/retreatworkshop-with-tony-alonso/

Concert with Tony Alonso - Sat 31 May 6.30pm

Baradene College Auditorium \$10.

Register at:

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/aconcert-with-tony-alonso/

See Noticeboard...for Mary McKillop

Retreat Centre Activities

Chris Skinner Concert – 6 April at 2.00pm
Creation and Incarnation Session – based on book “An Astonishing Secret” by Father Daniel O’Leary
Session One – Love Changes Everything - 12 April – 10.00am to 1.00pm

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

offer a beautiful opportunity for healing to anyone who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion. The next Retreat will be held at Mary McKillop Centre, April 11-13, 2025. For more information Contact Wendy Hill on 027 2549222 or email

wendy@rachelsvineyard.org.nz

MT CARMEL PRIMARY

School Tour

Tuesday 20th May at 9.00am

Mt Carmel is an integrated Catholic School

Year 0-6. No School Zone

Please email enrolments@mtcarmel.school.nz to register your interest.

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship

"AS IRON SHARPENS IRON..." Proverbs 27:17

All men are invited to **Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship**. Join this awesome bunch of guys who meet in both Glenfield (last Wed of the month) and Pakuranga (2nd Monday of the month) for sound spiritual nutrition and great fellowship over a cuppa & something to eat.

Upcoming evening meetings:

Wednesday 26 March

Guest Speaker is Dr Ethan Breinhorst who is back to encourage and challenge us with a talk titled *Men's Health Matters*. 7.15pm for 7.30pm start at St Thomas More Church, 336 Wairau Rd, Glenfield. Contact Jerome (027) 2334380 for more information.

Monday 14 April : Guest speaker is

Dr Ethan Breinhorst and his talk will be

Men's Health Matters.

Meeting starts 7pm for 7.30pm start at St Marks Church, 334 Pakuranga Rd, Pakuranga. Contact Dakshi (022) 0397212 for more information.

Weekly Rosters

Please see the Parish Noticeboard for the current Rosters for all Ministries.

Thank you.

Loving Home Needed for an Adorable Cat!

One of our parishioners has to leave her home, and her much loved 5 year-old cat, Zoe, and take up residence in an Assisted Living Apartment in Grace Joel.

Are you looking for a furry companion who will bring joy, and a little bit of playful mischief into your life? Zoe is a long-haired tabby cat with the softest fur. She loves to be brushed, is of course house trained, likes climbing trees, enjoys treats and is quite partial to sharing a bed.

If you're ready to welcome Zoe into your home (and eventually your heart), please contact Ann-Maree at 021 026 4920



Anniversaries

We remember those who have died recently and whose anniversaries occur during the month of March

Sister Paula Mary Hills, Desmond Davenport, Alfred Gatt, William Towers, Peter Elliott, Margaret Nicholson, Mary Bell, Rosa Worth, Herbert Gilroy, Eileen Windleburn, Fr John Groves CSsR, Joan Kelly, Brendan Lockhart, Marion Ward, John Ward, Maria Pfeiffer, Nanette Brown, Douglas Condon, Helen Vicars, Andrew Burke, Mary Vela, Anthony Bentinck-Stokes, Sitiyeni Tupou, Maureen Featherstone, Tony Henrys, Gabrielle Ellerm, Carmencita Sambajon, Tim Dixon, Reginald Spencer, Bert Wilson, Kevin O'Keefe, Bernadette McCartney, Gretta Harris, Patricia McGrath, Mattie Allsopp, John Rothery, Constance Naden, Franciska Read, Margaret McGavin, Anthony Yates, Eileen McIndoe, Valeria Kazinets, Roy Wyatt, Helena Black, Anthony Ravelich, Thomas O'Sullivan, Terence Way, Christopher Francis, Ilene Simpkins, Kerry Morley, Craig Lindsay. *Eternal rest grant to them.*

Mass Schedule

To be reviewed at Lent

Monday & Tuesday – TBC

Wednesday

9:00am at St Ignatius (School Mass. All welcome!)

Thursday

9:00am at Mother of Perpetual Help

Friday

9:00am at St Ignatius

Saturday

9:30am at Mother of Perpetual Help (Rosary at 8.50am)

Sacrament of Reconciliation – 8.45am Saturday at MPH

Vigil Mass - 5:15pm at St Ignatius

Sunday Mass

9:00am St Ignatius

10:30am at Mother of Perpetual Help

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursdays following 9.00am Mass at MPH

Rosary 8.30am and Benediction at 6.45pm

Rosary Group

Mother of Perpetual Help Parish
Fridays at 3.30pm in the Parish Centre

Visit our website

Please see our website for current news and information

New Parishioner Registration
Sacramental Programme; including for Adults (RCIA) and Children (RCIC)

Pastoral Care and Assistance please phone MPH 575 9296 or St Ignatius 575 5227
Safeguarding

Email: office@easternbayscatholic.org.nz

Website: www.easternbayscatholic.org.nz

Parish Priest: Monsignor Bernard Kiely

ST IGNATIUS PARISH

12 Kotiri Street, St Heliers

Ph: 575-5227

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

510 Riddell Rd, Glendowie

Ph: 575-9296