

EASTERN BAYS PASTORAL AREA



St Joseph's
Orakei

St Ignatius
St Heliers

Mother of Perpetual Help
Glendowie

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT ~ LAETARE SUNDAY ~ 15TH MARCH 2026

Today is Laetare Sunday ~ Joyful Sunday.

We have reached the mid-point of our Lenten journey. The entrance antiphon for today's Mass sets the tone:

"Laetare Jerusalem; Rejoice Jerusalem: and come together all you that love her; rejoice!!" Today is one of only two days in the liturgical year that rose coloured vestments are worn.

'I once was blind but now I see'

A well known line from today's opening hymn, *Amazing Grace*. Surveys of English-speaking Christians invariably show that this is one of our favourite hymns. *Amazing Grace* was written by John Newton in 1779. It reflects a turning point in his life that sees him reject and repent from his involvement in the slave trade to eventually becoming an Anglican priest.

He writes of the amazing grace of God that transformed a 'wretch like me'. This hymn highlights the dramatic tension between sin and liberation. The humble Christ comes to us, just as we are and frees us from our self-imposed burdens. And, when this happens, we are amazed by his grace. He is more interested in our present than in our past, in our future with him rather than the present moment.

Baptism has often been described as a moment of enlightenment. The eyes of our souls are opened that we may learn to see

ourselves, others and God's world with eyes of faith. But, with growing maturity, comes ambiguity. Our gaze can be distracted and, the more this happens, the eyes of our souls lose their focus and we lose our way: we stumble and we fall. Sin can – and does – blind us to the Lord's presence in our lives, to our own deepest needs and to the needs of others.

Lent can be for us a season of re-enlightenment. We can pray for the grace to see where we have lost our vision. We can ask the Lord to touch the eyes of our souls so that we can see as he would have us see. As Jesus touched the eyes of the man born blind and gave him the gift of sight, so he touched the eyes of his soul and gave him the gift of faith.

Notice this man's last words in today's Gospel reading: "*Lord, I believe*"...and what did this man do? *He worshipped him*. Along with the physical healing there was a deeper spiritual healing. It is no ordinary healing story but rather one that has a man, not only physically healed, but one who also experiences great spiritual transformation. We reflect on our own spiritual blindness and hear the invitation of Jesus "Will you let me be your light? And "Will you let me give you sight?"

Lenten Blessings ~ Bernard

Today's Readings

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

God chose David, the least of Jesse's sons, to be the king of Israel. While people will look at appearances, God looks at the heart.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

Paul tells the Ephesians that now that Christ has enlightened them, they must adopt lifestyle in keeping with their new state.

Gospel

John 9:1-41

Jesus, the light of the world, not only gives sight to the physically blind, but light to the spiritually blind.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

20 March - 9am Mass at

St Ignatius (followed by morning tea)

28 March – at 9.30am Mass at MPH

(Followed by cutting of palms, preparation of candles for Easter.... and hot cross buns)

If you require transport please email

office@easternbaycatholic.org.nz

PASTORAL AREA RECONCILIATION

Rite II Reconciliation in preparation for Easter is at Mother of Perpetual Help

Monday, 30 March at 6pm.

Prepare the way of the Lord

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Join us at Mother of Perpetual Help

On Fridays through Lent at 7.00pm

BISHOPS' LENTEN APPEAL

Freepost envelopes are available at Mass. Donations may be made to Caritas directly via direct debit or credit card at

<https://www.caritas.org.nz/ways-to-give>

Or through Caritas Bank account number

03-0518-0211216-000

Reference:

Lent and your Full Name

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION OPPORTUNITY DURING LENT

Come and experience this unique opportunity for contemplative meditation as we journey to Easter...just 30 minutes...

St Ignatius Church, Tuesdays at 7.00pm.

'Be still and know that I am God' (Ps 47)

EASTERN BAYS PASTORAL AREA EASTER MINISTRIES



This Easter, our three Eastern Bays Catholic parishes will come together at the Sacred Heart Chapel to celebrate the Triduum—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Saturday Vigil and Easter Sunday Mass.

To help coordinate volunteers across our communities, parishioners involved in ministry are invited to complete a brief availability questionnaire. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Please scan the QR code to respond.

ST JOSEPH'S DAY MASSES, ORAKEI

Join us to celebrate the Feast of St Joseph,

Thursday 19th March at St Joseph's,

Orakei at either:

9.30 am (with the school community)

or 6.30 pm (with supper to follow).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Calling youth or young adults to participate in the Stations of the Cross for Good Friday, 10 am, 3 April in the grounds of St Joseph's, Orakei. Please contact our seminarian Bob by emailing office@easternbaycatholic.org.nz

EASTER TRIDUUM

The Easter Ceremonies for the pastoral area will be celebrated at the Sacred Heart College Chapel: Holy Thursday 7 pm, Good Friday 3 pm, the Easter Vigil 7 pm, Easter Sunday 9.30 am

TAIZE MASS

During Lent, St Joseph's Mass at 5 pm on Sundays will use Taize Music.

THE UPPER ROOM

Wednesday 18 March at Good George in Mission Bay. A night of formation and fellowship for young adults. James Bergin will be presenting on the topic of 'Digital Integrity', where we will delve into how one can be authentically Catholic in an artificial digital world. R18 event. \$10 tickets Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/the-upper-room-march-2026>



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

- at MPH would be grateful to receive donations of non-perishable food and groceries for Te Waipuna who support local families in Glen Innes and Pt England. Items may be left in the grey baskets which are in the Church Foyer.

You may prefer to make a cash donation in collection boxes in the Church and Foyer.

Your support is much appreciated.

VINNIES SATURDAY VOLUNTEER GROUP

21st March, 9am-12pm. Onehunga Centre.

This Lent, consider giving alms through service. Join us in packing essential food boxes for families across Auckland. To get involved or for more information, email Lisa Filitonga at L.filitonga@gmail.com

ST IGNATIUS SCHOOL

Reading help needed

St Ignatius School are looking for volunteers to support their *Pause, Prompt, Praise* programme.

Parents, grandparents and parishioners . . .

do you have time to help our children?

Running twice a week, supporting some students with additional reading. It takes approximately an hour of your time.

For more information please contact

Mrs Debbie Watson at

dwatson@stignatius.school.nz

School Centennial Celebrations

Next year St Ignatius Catholic School is 100 years old. If you or someone you know would like to be part of our organising committee, please email principal@stignatius.school.nz

LARGE PALMS FOR PALM SUNDAY 🌴

We need about 12 large palm branches to decorate St Ignatius church for Palm Sunday Masses - does anybody have access to these? Bangalore Palms or similar, 1.5-2.5 metres are ideal - we would need to collect them or have them delivered by Saturday 29 March.

Contact josephine.ellis@gmail.com.

ST JOSEPH'S - CALLING ALL SINGERS AND MUSICIANS!

If you love to sing or play an instrument, we'd love to have you join our music ministry. St Joseph's Ōrākei is looking for enthusiastic music leaders to help bring our Sunday Masses to life. Whether you can help once or twice a month, your gifts would make a real difference in our community. To get involved, please email sjppc@gmail.com

WINE AND CHEESE

The monthly Wine and Cheese at St Ignatius is in recess as part of our Lenten penance. Our next event will be on the SECOND Saturday of the month, 11th April, after 5 pm Mass as the first Saturday is the celebration of the Easter Vigil at Sacred Heart College Chapel.

We look forward to seeing our regular attendees and welcoming new friends at the gathering in the Parish Hall.

All welcome.

SINGLE BEDS – we have a request for two single beds please. Anyone able to help, please contact Mary Gray on 021 230 5405 or email marygraykiwi@gmail.com

CURRENT PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mother of Perpetual Help

Mon & Wed 1.30pm – 5.30pm

Thursday 8.30am – 12.30pm

St Ignatius

Tues & Fri 8.30am – 11.30am

Preference Forms by appointment at St Ignatius Parish Fridays 8am to 10 am

Email: office@easternbayscatholic.org.nz

Phone: 09 575 5227

Anniversaries

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

Craig & Paul Lindsay, Robert Ewart, Herbert Gilroy, Tom Kiely, 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, Alfred Gatt, Sr Paula Mary Hills, Veronica Chitty, Caryl Inns, Gwen Buckler, Gerard Alwood, Nora Sharkey, Joyce Sorenson, Norma Campbell, Braden Sharkey, Rexton Lamb, Margaret Marshall, Dorothy Scully, Graham Foster, Margaret Lawson, Doreen McKenna, Matile Clay, Peter Lescher, John Mason, Marie Hollies, Ron Stanaway, Reginald Cope, Harry Burton, Maurice Hall, Jay Menzies

.... **Eternal rest grant to them.**



Eastern Bays Area Mass Schedule

Monday

9.00am Liturgy of the Word
with Holy Communion at St Ignatius

Tuesday

9.00am Mass at St Pius X Glen Innes

Wednesday

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

Thursday

9:00am Mass at Mother of Perpetual Help

Friday

9:00am Mass at St Ignatius

Saturday

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

8.45am Saturday at Mother of Perpetual Help

Saturday Vigil Mass - 5:00pm at St Ignatius

Sunday Mass

9:00am St Ignatius
9.30am and 5.00pm St Joseph's
10:30am Mother of Perpetual Help

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursdays following

9.00am Mass at MPH

Rosary 8.30am and Benediction at 6.30pm

Rosary Group – All Welcome

Mother of Perpetual Help Parish
Fridays at 3.00pm in the Parish Centre

Visit our website for

~New Parishioner Registration

**~Sacramental Programmes: including for
Adults (OCIA) and Children (RCIC)**

E: sacraments@easternbayscatholic.org.nz

Catholic Diocese of Auckland

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz

ST JOSEPH'S

16 Brenton Place, Orakei

ST IGNATIUS

12 Kotiri Street, St Heliers

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

510 Riddell Road, Glendowie

Email: office@easternbayscatholic.org.nz

Parish Priest: Monsignor Bernard Kiely

Website: www.easternbayscatholic.org.nz

Assistant Priest: Father Ryan Sy

Seminarian: Bob Fe'ao

PARISH SCHOOLS

St Joseph's Orakei

principal@sjorakei.school.nz

Ph: (09) 521 0866

St Ignatius School

office@stignatius.school.nz

Ph: (09) 575 7081