

## PRAYER INTENTIONS BOX

We invite you to take advantage of the drop box in the foyer for your Prayer Intentions.

These will be prayed for on that day or the day following by one of our Prayer Groups.

Paper is provided. You can place your written intentions in the labelled drop box in the church foyer at any time.

We encourage you to make the most of this opportunity.

The Religious Education Committee

## PROLIFE FACTS

Auckland Voice for Life hosted their Training Day on March 2nd. One hundred people heard from legal, medical and ethics practitioners including Alex Penk (Ethos), and Brendan Malone (Lifenet), lawyers Ian Bassett and Owen Posthuma; medical doctor Martin Ng, Mike Porteous (Hub of Hope) and Marina Young from the Buttons Project. **For more pro-life info, visit [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz).**

# PARISH of ST MICHAEL

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 2024

10th March 2024

**Parish of St Michael, Remuera**  
6 Beatrice Road, Remuera, 1050  
Phone: 09 520 1226  
[office@remueracatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@remueracatholic.org.nz)  
[www.remueracatholic.org.nz](http://www.remueracatholic.org.nz)

**Parish Priest:** Father Tony Dunn  
[frtonydunn@gmail.com](mailto:frtonydunn@gmail.com) (021 954 292)

**Parish Office**  
Fiona Twomey / Fran Carne

**Baptism Preparation:**  
Pauline loelu

**RCIA:**  
Peter Hay-MacKenzie

**Sacramental Programme:**  
Pauline loelu

**Music Co-ordinator:**  
James loelu

**Safeguarding Co-ordinator:**  
Fiona Twomey

**REMUEA Parish**  
**Eucharist:**  
Sunday 8am, 10am, 5pm

**Weekday Mass:**  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri 7am & 12noon  
Sat 8am

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:**  
After Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri  
7am Mass and 4th Friday from 7-8pm

**Anointing of the Sick:**  
11.30am First Friday of the Month

**Reconciliation / Confession:**  
Saturday 8:30am, Sunday 4.30pm  
or by appointment

**PARNELL Parish**  
Saturday 9am, 5pm (Vigil)  
Sunday 7am, 9.30am

**READINGS THIS SUNDAY**  
1. *Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23*  
2. *Ephesians 2:4-10*

### Pastor's Column : 4rd Sunday of Lent

I like the story told by Peter Kreeft, a lecturer in Philosophy at Boston College. He was talking about the Catholic belief about the Eucharist. A young Moslem was in the class and came up to him afterwards and said, "I don't think you believe what you say about the Catholic Eucharist!" Ever an enquiring mind, Kreeft asked, "And why do you say that?" "Because," he said, "If I believed what you say you believe, I would prostrate myself before it and never get up again!"

To prostrate oneself before the Body and Blood of Christ, is to prostrate oneself before Jesus dying on the Cross, anticipated, and one with His Eucharistic last supper.

Jesus on the cross was prefigured in the bronze serpent that Moses erected for the healing of those bitten by the fiery serpents.

This story is found in the book of Numbers, 21. The Hebrews, liberated from slavery in Egypt, wandered in the desert and grew tired of the heavenly manna. God punished their growing infidelity with the scourge and bite of the fiery serpents.

The original Hebrew word for the "fiery serpents" is the same word we get for the English word, "seraphim." The Seraphim are the "burning ones", angelic beings closest to God, the Ones forever prostrated as it were before God's presence crying, "Holy, Holy, Holy.....!". For the Hebrews it wasn't angels, but the fallen angels, the demonic that God allowed to torment them.

The paradox of Moses icon, is both looking back to the Genesis tree and looking forward to the tree of the cross. Jesus enters fully into the ultimate instrument of Satan's power, death, by his death on the cross, in order to triumph over it, through his Resurrection.

So Moses healing symbol stands between two significant trees. There is the tree in the Genesis story from which Adam and Eve ate in disobedience and so lost the happiness God intended for them. Entwined around that tree, at least in the imaginations of artists, was a serpent. Then there is the tree of the cross. Adam and Eve chose not to eat of the fruit of the tree of life, but from the forbidden tree.

The new tree is the tree of the cross. The fruit hanging from that tree is Jesus. We eat of the fruit of that tree in Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of the Lord under the form of bread and wine and the life lost by our first parents, eating the fruit of the Eden tree, is restored super-abundantly.

The gift of Jesus' Body and Blood high-lights and underscores the beautiful words of today's Gospel. "God loved the world, so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life."

We do not define and give special meaning to the bread and wine; the Body and Blood of Christ defines and gives meaning to us.

When we eat the Body of the Lord and drink his Blood, the elements are not absorbed into us, we are absorbed into Him.

The "Incarnation," God sharing our humanity fully and completely, defies the capabilities of our intellect to conceptualize and our imaginations to picture.

To feel remotely into the reality of this expression of love we can ask ourselves, who is it that loves me the most? - and then realise that God loves me, at least as much, as the person who loves me the most. "Truth" wrote St Thomas, "wherever it is found and whomsoever speaks it, is of the Holy Spirit." It is a "rum-thing" that a young Moslem can articulate profoundly, a truth lost on so many Catholics of our time!"

Fr Tony Dunn

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** Come and spend time reflecting and visiting the Stations of the Cross at St Michael's. 6pm on Fridays during Lent. Everyone is welcome. Come and spend some time with us on Friday evenings with Jesus.

**IT'S YOUR FUNERAL!** The parish can help you plan your funeral liturgy. A friendly, experienced and confidential service is promised. Those interested should contact the parish office for a copy of the parish's planning checklist.

**CELEBRATING OUR PARISHIONERS** Let us celebrate the achievement and significant events of our parishioners. Please email the parish office [office@remueracatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@remueracatholic.org.nz)

**TRANSPORT TO MASS** Do you or someone you know need a lift to Mass on a Sunday? Please notify the parish office with name, contact number and address for pickup and return.

**Fourth Sunday of Lent 2024** [Kids Korner](#) [Parent Ponderings](#)



**14 February to 24 March** Help save lives this Lent by prayer, fasting, and public witness to the sanctity of all human life from the first moment of existence at conception. Find out how to get involved here: [www.fli.org.nz/40daysforlife](http://www.fli.org.nz/40daysforlife) Or contact Simon – 021 400 729 or [simon@fli.org.nz](mailto:simon@fli.org.nz)

**NZ CATHOLIC** for sale. \$4 in the papers box please. Some headlines for this issue: New Zealand Catholic Church faces engagement and giving challenges, survey shows; Wgtn priest appointed seminary rector; PN Bishop argues for Catholic thought in the public square today. As a promotion for this issue, the entire current edition is supplied [here](#)

**SUMMIT YOUNG LEADERS' WEEKEND** Young leaders, are you ready for an incredible weekend of FORMATION, FELLOWSHIP and being spiritually FILLED? We can't wait to see you at the SUMMIT. 22-24 March at Sonshine Ranch Clevedon. Go to our Facebook page @AKCYM or email [felicity@cda.org.nz](mailto:felicity@cda.org.nz) for details.

**EPSOM PARISH YOUTH GROUP** After a very long **INTERMISSION** we will be returning to **The Lido on Monday 8 April at 7.30pm**. Our first movie will be **CABRINI- Arriving in New York City in 1889, Italian immigrant Francesca Cabrini is greeted by disease, crime and impoverished children. She soon sets off on a daring mission to convince the mayor to secure housing and health care for society's most vulnerable. With broken English and poor health, Cabrini uses her entrepreneurial mind to build an empire of hope unlike anything the world has ever seen. Tickets \$20.** Proceeds from this event will go to Epsom Parish's Youth Group ministry. For details/to secure your tickets, please contact Margaret Wong. Mob:0211174505 E: [m.wong@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:m.wong@slingshot.co.nz)

**UPCOMING RETREATS & EVENTS at ST FRANCIS RETREAT CENTRE:** [www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz](http://www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz) Ph: 09 625 6651  
**Time Out Days** – For those who seek a day retreat - 9:30am – 2:30pm (\$30 includes lunch) | Thu 21 Mar | Tue 16 Apr | Wed 15 May  
**Homecoming** - A Lenten retreat reflecting on Rembrandt's painting and Henri Nouwen's book "The Return of the Prodigal Son" | Fri 22 Mar 7pm - Sun 24 Mar 4:30pm | Standard \$330

**DIVINE MERCY FEAST at ST BENEDICT'S PARISH** Sunday 7 April at 5:30pm. 1 St Benedict's Street, Eden Terrace. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Blessing of Images, Benediction, Holy Mass, Veneration of St Faustina's relic. Bring your Divine Mercy images & artefacts to be blessed. Free Parking at Wilson carpark & street parking is also free on Sunday.



We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

**Bill Watt**

Please pray for those who are in need of our prayers, especially:

**Peter Kelly, Elizabeth Kidd, Carrie Canapi, Marsha Tan, Annie Chang, Margaret Robins, Marc Espinoza, Father Aloysius Deeney, Isabel Morais, Phil Bawden, Francis Morais, Eugenie Laracy, Jan Flaszynski, Carl Flaszynski, Jan Benedict Ilo, Elisa Sipin, Rosalina Salivio, Teresa Gao, Mary O'Sullivan, Russell Watt, Hendrika Woods and Joshua Woods, Merle Fenwick, Monty Leach, Father Justin Taylor, Stephen Berecz, Sean Lee, Dr Tony Hardy, Beverley Thomas, Peter Connolly, Graeme Matthews, Ernie Cavanagh**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent  
10th March 2024**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent  
17th March 2024**

**Ministers of Holy Communion**

Sun 8am	Andrew Patel(P), Catherine Holden(G)	Canice Lobo(P), Deepak Patel(G)
Sun 10am	Robert Salivio(P), Jonathan Spencer, Stephenie Wong, Anthony Segedin(G)	Terisa Cordtz(P), Rob Fonseca-Ensor, Issa Il-Cabiliing, Carline Santhara(G)
Sun 5pm	John Curtin(P) Nerissa Reyes, Robert Sheehan(G)	John Curtin(P), Rhodora Faigao, Brenda Brightwell(G)

**Proclaimers of the Word**

	<b>1.Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23</b>	<b>2. Ephesians 2:4-10</b>	<b>1.Jeremiah 31:31-34</b>	<b>2. Hebrews 5:7-9</b>
Sun 8am	Brian Gubb, Kelsey Turner (PoF)		Eileen Robinson-Piper, Clare Wade (PoF)	
Sun 10am	School Mass		Emma Houghton, Lucy Clements (PoF)	
Sun 5pm	Arthur Lewis, Dennis Dunford (PoF)		Simon Guinness, Dax Britto (PoF)	

**Collectors**

Sun 8am	Tom Piggan & Yvonne McMillan	Tom Piggan & Yvonne McMillan
Sun 10am	David Gray	Paul Chen

**Laptop Operators**

Sun 8am	Kerry McKewen	Rosie Hazel
Sun 10am	School Mass	Francis Wong
Sun 5pm	Raine Faigao	Abigail Faigao

**Altar Servers**

Sun 8am	Hans Jayamanne, Cyrus & Cheryl Jesudas	Cyrus & Cheryl Jesudas, Andrew Strevens
Sun 10am	Lafaele & Isaia Elika, Tom Valerio	Samuel Wong, Rebecca Houghton, Maria Petrus
Sun 5pm	Kyla & Abigail Faigao, Vincenzo Santhara	Kyla & James Faigao, Ellery Balderas

**Children's Liturgy**

Sun 10am	School Mass	To be confirmed
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**Musicians / Cantors**

Sun 8am	Christina, Theresa Ulmer	Matthew Harris, Magna
Sun 10am	School Mass	Steve Hughes, Meileen Huang, Tim Gasson
Sun 5pm	Nathaniel Hood, Rebecca Faigao	Nathaniel Hood, Dax Britto

<p>Until further notice, we are introducing the Sign of the Cross and Response to the Prayer of the Faithful in Te Reo Maori, see the words to the right.</p>	<p><b>Sign of the Cross (Te Reo)</b></p> <p>Ki te Ingoa, o te Matua, o te Tamaite, o te Wairua Tapu. Amene</p>	<p><b>Response to the Prayer of the Faithful in Te Reo</b></p> <p>O Lord, Listen to us <b>E te Ariki, Whakarongo mai ra ki a matou</b></p>
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**St Michael's Mission**

*We the Eucharistic community of St Michael's parish, by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, are called to witness to the living Jesus*

Remuera parishioners are welcome to attend Mass at Parnell  
*Saturday 9am, 5pm (Vigil) | Sunday 7am, 9.30am*

**In the season of Lent, there are to be no flowers placed in the church. Thank you**

**SUNDAY 10 MARCH at 10AM** Welcome to St Michael's School and Parish. A wonderful gathering to welcome families into a bright new year. We shall start with the blessing of the School mass led by the pupils of St Michael's Catholic School, followed with a simple morning tea hosted by the St Michael's Catholic School PTA at the St Mary MacKillop Hall. Everyone is welcome. Let us all get together in worship and celebrate a unified Parish and School community. We look forward to seeing you there.

**ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME** A reminder that the Parish Sacramental Programme Information evening will be held Tuesday, 12 March at 7pm in the School Hall – if you have enrolled, we strongly encourage attendance as the programme is significantly different to previous years.

**EASTER SUNDAY SAUSAGE SIZZLE AND EASTER EGG HUNT** following 10am celebration mass. Please have your children decorate a hard-boiled egg with their name on it, please place them in the basket on the table in our church foyer before Easter Sunday Mass. These will form part of the family fun we are planning.



**EASTER TREATS FOR MONTE CECILIA**

Easter is coming and we need to ensure all the children of the Monte Cecilia Community will receive some yummy Easter treats. We are collecting chocolate / marshmallow Eggs / confectionary for the MCT from this week. Please bring them along to the Church and place them in the basket for collection or if easier in the School or Parish Office. Easter books and toys are also very welcome. The contributions will be cleared regularly. Should you have any queries re Easter donations, please contact Louise Porter 021 748 834.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** We are urgently seeking more parent helpers for Children's Liturgy at the 10am mass. We currently do not have sufficient volunteers for a session to be held every week for your children. Please consider volunteering for this important ministry that enables our children the opportunity to grow in faith together. Thank you in advance. Please contact Venus Itoh: [venus\\_amelei@yahoo.com](mailto:venus_amelei@yahoo.com) Mob: 027 545 3363

**ST MICHAEL'S FOODBANK** Thank you for your generous donations to the Monte Cecilia Housing Trust. Did you know they support two and a half thousand individuals of which 1700 are children? The need is great, and we want these families to have as much support as we can give them. Please place all non-perishable foodstuffs, personal and laundry items in the donation basket in the church porch at the front entrance of the church. They will be greatly appreciated. Thank you. Any special donations or inquiries contact Louise 021 748 834.



**HOME VISITS** Do you know of a parishioner who would welcome a visit by one of our ministers? Perhaps a family member or close friend who is currently unable to get to Mass for health, age or disability reasons? Someone who would love to resume the regular reception of Holy Communion? If so, please give their contact details to Fr. Tony or to Fiona in the parish office.

**ST MICHAEL'S ROSARY GROUP** meets weekly on **Tuesday from 12.30-1pm** (after 12noon Mass) in front of the statue of Our Lady to pray the Rosary and the Divine Mercy chaplet. All welcome. Contact Vimla Costelloe 027 579 9499 or Anne Cotton 021 644 692.

**ST MICHAEL'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP – All welcome Wednesdays at 7pm** St Michael's Church Crypt. Sr Alice Hardiman smsm 021 1435 475 or Annabella Hosking 022 622 6685.

**LEGION of MARY** meets weekly on Sundays from 9-10am in the Parish House. All welcome to attend. Contact Carole Kenealy on 524 8422 or 021 152 1724 or [carole.kenealy@gmail.com](mailto:carole.kenealy@gmail.com)

**THE LEGION of MARY** has a **Pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima** for circulation to Parish homes. If you wish to welcome Our Lady into your home, contact Carole Kenealy on 524 8422 or 021 152 1724 or Anne Cotton on 520 5335 or 021 644 692.

**Explaining parts of the Mass, an excerpt from YOUCAT (Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church)**

**What happens in the Church when she celebrates the Eucharist?**

Every time the Church celebrates the → **EUCCHARIST**, she stands before the source for which she herself constantly springs anew. By "eating" the Body of Christ, the Church becomes the Body of Christ, which is just another name for the Church. In the sacrifice of Christ, who gives himself to us, body and soul, there is room for our whole life. We can unite everything—our work and our sufferings, our joys—with Christ's sacrifice. If we offer ourselves in this way, we are transformed: We become pleasing to God and like good, nourishing bread for our fellowmen. Again and again we grumble about the → **CHURCH**, as though she were just an association of more or less good people. In reality the Church is what happens daily in a mysterious way at the altar. God gives himself to each one of us individually, and he wants to transform us through → **COMMUNION** with him. Once we are transformed, we are supposed to transform the world. Everything else that the Church is besides that is secondary.

**EUCCHARIST** - Eucharist was at first the name for the prayer of thanksgiving that preceded the transformation of the bread and wine into Christ's Body and Blood in the liturgy of the early Church. Later the term was applied to the whole celebration of the Mass.

**CHURCH** - consists of those called together from all nations (from Greek ex kaleo, ekklesia) who through Baptism belong to the Body of Christ.

**COMMUNION** - By Communion, we mean receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in the transformed (consecrated) gifts of bread and wine. This occurs as a rule during Holy Mass, but also on certain occasions outside of Mass (for instance, when Holy Communion is brought to the sick). Communion only under the species of bread is also a full communion with Christ.