

# Maria Assumpta Parish Bulletin

MARIA ASSUMPTA CATHOLIC CHURCH  
198 Beach Haven Road, Auckland 0626  
[www.beachhavencatholic.org.nz](http://www.beachhavencatholic.org.nz)

**SUNDAY MASS:** 8am, 10am - Red Level—max 52  
**RECONCILIATION:** Saturday 10am-12pm - CLOSED  
**WEEKDAY MASS:** 9am - Tuesday to Saturday - CLOSED

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION:**  
Contact Parish priest  
**BAPTISM PREPARATION:** Contact Parish priest

**Parish Priest:** Fr Aleki Piula  
**Email:** [alekipiula@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:alekipiula@yahoo.co.nz)  
**Presbytery Phone:** 483 7919

**Parish Secretary:** Marc Theron  
**Email:** [secretary@mariaassumpta.org.nz](mailto:secretary@mariaassumpta.org.nz)  
**Parish Office:** 09-483-5919

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Mon (working from home), Thurs, Friday 9am-1pm

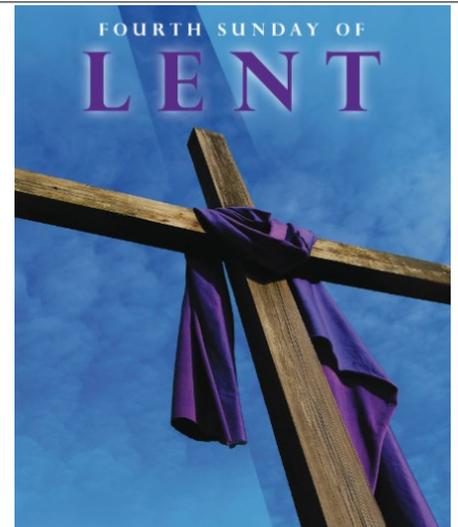
## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of LENT 27 March 2022

**First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12**  
**Psalm: 34**

**Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**  
**Gospel: Luke 15:1-3,11-32**

**Reflection by Fr Aleki Piula**

The Prodigal Son; Your brother here was dead and has come to life.



Traditionally this fourth Sunday of Lent is called Laetare Sunday, Rejoice Sunday, like anticipating Easter joy and all readings invite us to rejoice by reconciled with God through repentance and confession of our sins and celebrating our coming home to be with our loving and forgiving God. 'Father I have sinned against heaven and before you', so said the prodigal son whose story we hear today's Gospel. At the start of this Eucharist, we are invited to call to mind our sins, which means we are invited to make our own the words and the sentiments of the prodigal son. We see a clear theme runs through all three readings: God's mercy to sinners.

In the first reading from the book of Joshua, the people of God went to the promised land and kept the Passover. After the crossing of the Jordan, a repetition of the Exodus crossing of the Red Sea, the Israelites halt at the sanctuary of Gilgal. They there carry out the rite of Circumcision and celebrate the feast of the Passover. They have entered the Land; it lies before them. The promises of their God have been fulfilled. A new life in a new land begins for God's People. We see here the Israelites, free at last from the humiliation they suffered in Egypt, enter the land of promise and partake of its produce. A new era was about to begin. They mark their homecoming by celebrating anew the feast of Passover. This reminds us of the home coming of the prodigal son in the Gospel.

Psalm 34, taste and see the Lord is good, here this line is an appropriate response to the first reading's account of the first meal of the Israelites on the produce of the land of their destiny.

*Welcome - Malo e lelei - Bula Vinaka - Talofa lava - Mabuhay - Bienvenue  
Nei hou ma - Anneunghaseyo - Ayu Bowan - Willkommen - Welkom  
Haere mai! Nau mai! Whakatau mai!*

Meals are very significant in Luke's Gospel. Nowadays we can hardly appreciate the deep significance of table-fellowship in biblical times. When a person had to grow most of their own food, to share table with somebody was an expression of sharing life. Hence the absolute shock of seeing Jesus eating with people regarded as sinners. The parable of the Prodigal Son reaches its climax in the contrast between the father who takes the wayward son back to the table and the elder son who refuses to do so. Today's Psalm might be heard on the lips of the forgiven prodigal. The banquet for his return was rendered all the more tasteful by the father's goodness. And it invites us, 'Glorify the Lord with me, let us together extol His Name!'

In the second reading the second letter of saint Paul to the Corinthians, God reconciled us to himself through Christ, that means Christ brought about a reconciliation between us and God. The Church's task is to bring the benefits of this to all people. The Church continues the work of reconciliation. The work of the apostle is to bring to men the reconciliation Christ achieved. The word of the apostle, the ambassador of God, makes reconciliation with God a present reality.

In today's Gospel, we hear the parable of the prodigal son shows that God delights in showing mercy to repentance sinners. So the banquet for the return of the second son was rendered all the more tasteful by the father's goodness. This father figure gives a human face to the mercy of God. Picture the relief and joy on the Son's face, reflecting the radiance of the father at the head of the table. The prodigal recalls the doubts and anxieties he had experienced before he was embraced in the father's forgiveness. He makes his own the lines of the psalm: 'This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress'. The radiant face of the Father invites us to an honest confession this Lent. Taste and see that the Lord is good. The home coming of the prodigal son, his shame also is behind him, his years of wandering are over and he returns home to a warm welcome and a great feast. A new and bright future lies ahead of him.



**NZ Catholic**  
The National Catholic Magazine  
March 27 / April 3, 2022 • No. 102

Home change for college after inquiry 3  
The modern issue of diminished attentiveness 8

**New to Seminary**  
Three in first year - pg 5

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<https://bit.ly/3JQOfXe>

self-righteousness and self-justification by imitating the repentant

Jesus told the parable in response to the criticism of the Pharisees that he was too lenient towards sinners. They were meant to see themselves in the older son. For Luke the 'Pharisees' are righteous Christians, for whom God's mercy to sinner is unfair and scandalous. And the task of the Church is to bring the benefits won by Christ to all people. Today's Gospel invites us to avoid younger son. So let us admit the truth that we are assembly of sinful people, repentant, and now we are ready to receive God's forgiveness and experience Christ's presence in our own Holy Eucharist as our loving and forgiving God.



**Golden Jubilee**  
*Labour Weekend.*  
22-24 October, 2022.  
*The Maria Assumpta golden jubilee committee is keen to see any interesting photos of prominent parishioners, events and activities (B&W, or colour) for a parish history. Please contact Pat McCarthy, at [patuzie@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:patuzie@slingshot.co.nz) or on (09) 480-4463.*

God Bless, Fr Aleki

**Announcements :**

- **31 March**- Reconciliation at 7pm—if you want to join in the other parish reconciliation, Orewa on 29th March all at 7pm, East Coast Bays on 5th April, Northcote on 7 April, Takapuna on 8th April at 7pm and Devonport on 10th April at 7pm
- **Anointing Mass**, 2 April: 10am Mass
- **Stations of the Cross** - every Friday during Lent, at 7 pm
- Traffic Light will be reviewed by the Government on 4 April and we will have more news then so NOTHING CHANGES for the next 2 masses.
- **Wear a MASK** - as cases grow higher please wear your mask.
- Everyone over the age of 12 will need to have the 'My Vaccine Pass' .
- At Mass face masks will be required, there will be no singing, communion will be in the hand only.

**IF YOU SEE COVID-19 MISINFORMATION**

- 1 DON'T ENGAGE**  
If you reply, share, or quote misinformation, you help to spread it.
- 2 BLOCK THEM**  
If someone you don't know is sharing misinformation, block them.
- 3 MESSAGE PRIVATELY**  
If someone you know is sharing misinformation, message them privately and ask them not to.
- 4 REPORT**  
Report misinformation to platforms or group admins asking them to remove that content.
- 5 INSTEAD, SPREAD OFFICIAL ADVICE**  
Drown out fake news by sharing official scientific advice, as well as posts promoting good causes in tough times.



### Our New Parish Database

THANK YOU to the first 50 Families who have already registered, fantastic.

This will assist us in sending out accurate communication once we have a complete idea of our actual parish numbers and especially our young tamariki.

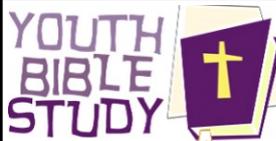
Registration link is below:  
<https://bit.ly/3GfSsBX>



**No Internet Access?** Please come into the office so we can assist you in completing this registration online.



This is a time when the Domestic Church is so important. Visit the Family Life Page on our website where we have put together a number of resources for all.  
<https://bit.ly/3oiaygj>



### Online Sessions—1pm:

Join us on Zoom every Sunday at 1pm

<https://bit.ly/35OZ7Gb>

Meeting ID: 889 2372 7693

Passcode: 701471



### Lent Appeal 2022

Lenten Giving Envelope Packs AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND are at Church door today. You can use the weekly donation envelopes or use a single donation envelope. You may either return your donation envelopes during the parish offertory collection or send them to Caritas directly. Thank you.

### Caritas Lenten Reflection Programme

**Week 4:** Caritas in the Communities: A Sign of Healing

E te Atua o te manaakitanga, God of hospitality, open our hearts to those to whom you are offering a fresh start.

E te Ariki. Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

Programme is online on our Website:

<https://bit.ly/36UoxCJ>



The Maria Assumpta conference of St Vincent de Paul thanks parishioners for your ongoing support. We are continuing to provide support contactlessly during red level and our foodbank always needs donations. Breakfast foods, tinned foods (especially spaghetti and vegetables), and spreads etc. for school lunches are in short supply at the moment. If you need support, or a food parcel, please contact either Chris (020 4139 5170) or Charles (022 0242 753).

Please consider coming to help out at our Vinnies Charity shops. We need lots of volunteers and helpers – even for an hour or two once a week would be wonderful. Our oldest volunteer is 87 and our youngest is 14! If you can, please join our friendly team at either Beach Haven or Glenfield. Volunteering can be so rewarding! Contact Janet on 022-356-3811 or [Janetlee.vinnies@gmail.com](mailto:Janetlee.vinnies@gmail.com)

Clothing and household items can be donated at the Ellice Road or Beach Haven shops during shop hours. If you wish to assist us more, or if you know of someone needing assistance, please contact either Chris (020 4139 5170), Charles (022 0242 753), or the Beach Haven shop (482 3017).



### Daily Reflections during Lent

Sign up for daily reflections for Lent at

[www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz)



### TITIPOUNAMU Study & Joy

Online Sessions: Women in the Scriptures & Mythology Part 1: Women of the Old Testament— Kieran Fenn fms. Wednesday, 20 April, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Koha/Donation.

Part 2: Women in the Sistine Chapel with Dr Christopher Longhurst. Friday, 29 April, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Koha/

Donation <https://bit.ly/3lBecc3>

Info - registration: [info@studyjoy.nz](mailto:info@studyjoy.nz)  
Muffin Talk Radio Programme recordings and video clips on religion, interfaith and community available at <https://bit.ly/3APE4gF>



### School Attendance Dues Financial Assistance.

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support with the payment of Attendance Dues for preference students attending both primary and secondary Catholic schools in the Auckland Diocese.

Families facing financial difficulties can contact their school office, their Parish Priest or the ACFL Operations Manager on 09-360-3069 at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland for further information.

Application forms for this assistance are available from school and parish offices, or can be downloaded from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Website:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools-2/>



Next Week Ministries	8:00am Mass	10:00am Mass
Door (scanning in)	Anne Anderson	Bill Kilgallon
Welcome/Notices	Charles Grinter	Johanna Cogle
Ministers Of The Word	Dame Pat Lythe Beate Matthies	Tapunu'u Lolesio Filipo Andrew Gongora
Ministers of Communion	n/a	n/a
Prayers Of The Faithful	Liz Anthony	Stephanie Martin
Computer	Chris Simpson	Christiana Setu
Musicians	n/a	n/a
Counters	Team C	Stephen Chmiel Sela Capel

## Next Week READINGS

03 April 2022

First Reading:  
Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm: 126

Second Reading:  
Philippians 3:8-14

Gospel:  
John 8:1-11

### SPECIAL MASSES

**Filipino Mass:** 1st Sunday of month - 4 pm - Cancelled for now

**Samoa Mass:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month - 11:45 am - Cancelled for now

**Tongan Mass:** 3rd Sunday of the month - 1 pm - Cancelled for now

**Multicultural Mass:** 4th Sunday of every other month.- 10 am - Cancelled for now

**Youth Mass:** 4th Sunday of every other month. - 10 am - Cancelled for now

**Maori Mass:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month - 10 am

**Note: Singing Practice: Saturdays after morning Mass.** We will advise when this will resume again.

### DEVOTIONS

**Adoration of the Blessed Eucharist:** Cancelled during Red Level.

### PARISH ACTIVITIES

**Youth Group:** To be advised

**NSSCC Fono:** 4th Sunday of the month, 11.30am – 3.00pm -To be advised

**Enua Ola Group - Zumba :** Every Tuesday, 6pm in hall. Cancelled for now

**Multicultural group meeting:** To be advised

**Finance Committee meeting:** 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm.

**Liturgy Committee meeting:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 pm.

**Parish Pastoral Council meeting:** 3rd Thursday of the month 7.00pm.

### NEWSLETTER:

Do you want the Newsletter via email ?

PLEASE register with the church online here:

<https://beachhavencatholic.org.nz/parishioner-registration/>



### CDA Connect

Are you wanting to know what is happening in the diocese? CDA Connect is a monthly newsletter concerning happenings in the diocese.



**HALL HIRE - Not available during Red Level Omicron**

All bookings can be made **ONLINE**

Should be made ONLINE at:

<https://beachhavencatholic.org.nz/venue-hall-hire-2/>

Hall Hire fee: \$150 Bond and \$30.00 per hour.



### CHURCH MAINTENANCE

Please inform the parish office of any damages that need repairing on parish premises.

If you can assist with maintenance please contact, **David Sharkey -**

Ph:021 294-0292 or email: david.sharkey003@gmail.com

### NOTICES FOR PARISH BULLETIN

These should be received by Thursday every week. Notices are approved by the Parish Priest and will be placed if there is room.

Email the wording to: [secretary@mariaassumpta.org.nz](mailto:secretary@mariaassumpta.org.nz)