

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

12 SEPTEMBER 2021

Discipleship and the Cross

Jesus said to Peter, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me'. What Jesus is talking about is the sacrifice involved in being his disciple.

Sacrifice has a harsh ring to it. It suggests hardship, discipline, renunciation and pain. Yet there is no achievement without sacrifice. And sacrifice can bring out the very best in people. If there is one thing that proves the truth of this it is surely the marathon.

Practically every city in the world now stages a marathon, with thousands of people of all ages taking part. The marathon is an amazing phenomenon. It remains one of the ultimate tests of human endurance. Besides the actual race itself, we have to consider the months of hard training that precede it. The marathon shows that people are capable of great sacrifices, provided they are motivated. Motivation is everything. It is the fuel in their tank. It is the wind beneath their wings. Most of those who take part in the marathon have no hope of winning it. The only reward is the satisfaction of completing it. But along with that comes severe muscle soreness, blisters, acute dehydration and physical exhaustion. If you watch the runners you will see that all without exception are suffering, yet you won't find even one complaining. The fact that many of them are running for charity transcends the pain. And here is the most amazing thing of all. They are all volunteers. They do it because they want to. This gives them great strength because it enables them to bring all their energies to it.

The marathon shows the importance of commitment. To come back to discipleship. We need to be committed followers of Christ, and not mere hangers-on. It has been claimed that religion asks too little of people. Often it appeals to people's weaknesses rather than to their strengths.

There is a religion of devotion and a religion of commitment. A religion of devotion is a religion of comfort and is often centred on self rather than on others. A religion of commitment is a religion of challenge, of risk and of unselfishness. In the gospel, Jesus asks for a commitment from his followers. For the committed Christians, suffering is not likelihood, it is a certainty.

Yet this does not mean that suffering is something Christians should seek. Jesus did not seek suffering. Gethsemane makes that clear. But suffering will inevitably be a part of Christian life just as it was of Jesus' life. There are sacrifices but there are also great rewards, just as there are for marathon runners.

The way of Jesus is the way of love. And the way of love is the cross. But there is nothing terrible about suffering a little if it teaches us to love. If we suffer in the cause of love, the wounds we bear will be honourable wounds. They will mark us out as true disciples of Jesus.

Jesus supports all those who follow him down the narrow road of suffering and shares his Easter victory with them.

New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies

Flor McCarthy SDB

DIOCESAN NOTICES

Resources in times of Lockdown The diocese has a number of resources available on its website to support people during this time <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/home-2020-new-design/the-church-and-covid-level-4/> This also has a program of events that are available in the diocese during this time. For those at level 2 <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/home-2020-new-design/the-church-and-covid-level-2/> will be a useful resource.

A reminder that the diocese continues to provide broadcast **Sunday Mass**. It is uploaded at 5.30pm Saturday night (as per a Vigil Mass time) to the Youtube channel Auckland Catholic <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb7o1XYfQet-mOW1mJSzfow> . It is also broadcast on Shine TV Sundays at 2.00pm Free-to-air TV Channel 25, Sky TV Channel 201.

Friday 10/09, 7pm. Movie Night – My Sister's Keeper. The Auckland Catholic Tertiary Chaplaincy will be watching My Sister's Keeper, followed by some discussion about the film. <https://www.facebook.com/TheChaplains>

Saturday 11/09, 7pm. Light of Hope // Online concert with Fr. Chris Skinner. Join us for an evening of spirit-filled worship, led by the fantastic Fr. Chris Skinner. Video available on Bishop Pat's Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/bishoppatrick>

Monday 13/09, 6:15pm. CYAC Vocations Series: A Journey to the Priesthood. The Catholic Young Adults Community continues their Vocations Series this week! Tune in to hear newly-ordained priest, Fr. Isaac Fransen, share about his personal journey towards priesthood. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1298302237259435>

Tuesday 14/09, 7pm. Exploring the Book of Revelation with Robert Loretz. Looking for an evening of faith formation? This Tuesday, Robert Loretz and the Auckland Catholic Tertiary Chaplaincy team will be exploring one of the most fascinating books of the Bible, the book of Revelation. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1011473819426730/>

PARISH NOTICES:

LOLO Foodbank will be open for you to collect food on Saturdays during Lockdown from 10:30am - 12:30pm. Please park in front of the building and stay in your car.

Have your name and address and the number of people in your household on a piece of paper to give to the person at the foodbank. They will collect it and bring food to you. All are welcome.

Direct credit donations for House & Parish, from 2 to 10 Sept \$890.00. Thank you for your generosity.

DIOCESAN NOTICES CONTINUED

Wednesday 15/09, 7pm. Livin' in Lockdown #4 // Mental Health. Join the ACYM team for a laid-back, radio talk-show style event for youth & young adults on Facebook Live. This week, we're tackling the very important topic of mental health. <https://www.facebook.com/AKCYM>.

Saturday 18/09, 8pm. An Evening with Internationally Acclaimed Speaker and Musician, Fr Rob Galea! Join us for a night of formation, music and Q&A with internationally acclaimed speaker and musician, Fr. Rob Galea! Fr. Rob will be joining us on Zoom to share practical ways that we can overcome fear and pursue our God-given potential. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82124381475>.

Daily Reflections from Bishops Pat and Michael Reflections from the Bishops on Facebook [Bishop Pat](#) and [Bishop Michael](#).

On-line Rosary (contact anita@stpatricks.org.nz to join) at 9am daily with the Cathedral of St Patrick's and St Joseph.

Lectio Divina reflecting on the daily Gospel readings (contact anita@stpatricks.org.nz to join) at 10.00am and 8.00pm from the team at the Cathedral Parish.

Breaking Open the Gospel of the Day Members of the Diocesan Community proclaim the Gospel of the Day and reflect on its meaning in our lives and this situation [YouTube](#).

The Season of Creation is celebrated worldwide in the month of September ending with the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on 4th October. This year the global Christian family will participate in initiatives of **prayer, sustainability, and advocacy to care for our common home**. This year's Season of Creation symbol is **Abraham's tent**. It expresses the ecumenical call of radical hospitality, safeguarding a place for all creatures, human and non-human in the household (oikos) of God. Further information, prayers and other liturgy resources can be found at [Justice & Peace - Catholic Diocese of Auckland \(aucklandcatholic.org.nz\)](#) at the Environment & Sustainability tab.

OTHER NOTICES

Notices from *Titipounamu Study & Joy*

Online Sessions (Evening):

The Gospel of Luke – The Gospel of the New Church Year with Kieran Fenn fms.

Mondays, 13 September -11 October, 7-8.30pm. Free. ZOOM.

Series of 5 parts. All sessions are connected but also stand alone.

\$25/session or \$90/series of 5 sessions.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/the-gospel-of-luke-23/>

For more information and registration: info@studyjoy.nz

Muffin Talk Radio Programme recordings and video clips on religion, interfaith and community available at <https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/muffin-talk/>

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Vacancy – Chief Financial Officer for the Catholic Diocese of Auckland. If you are looking for a rewarding career opportunity, please go to our website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz. – Diocesan Services and Staff Vacancies.

Registrations are open for **Ngaā Tapuwae - Sacred Footsteps**. From 6th January to 9th January Auckland Diocese will offer the opportunity for your parish to come, to share and to learn more of our Catholic heritage. Travel with us as we explore and experience and live sacred places Bishop Pompallier and the early missionaries lived. www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz / Ngā Tapuwae - Contact Deacon Stephen Fraser stephenf@cda.org.nz

Please pray for our sick parishioners:

Violet Furtado, Patsy Nun Toon, Yvonne Sommers, Gail Ware, Mary Holmes, Kanesi Masae, Ethan Peter Lelo, Rosalen Ahearn, Saulius David Balsys, Kalameli Tauta, Joan Unkovich, Melesete Va'asili, Lloyd Ball, Pauline Caffell, Louisa Baptist, Christine Roberts Whitcombe, Robert Shearman, Siufaga Maileoi Lillii, Lee Dunn, Alex Soniega, Barbara Lynch, Fata Peter & Lenora Fuiava, Priscilla Fernandes, Debra Farry, Nellie Lemusu-Kea, Aaron Ablan and Joy Rapcsak.

READINGS THIS WEEK

Mon: 13 Sept: 1 Tim 2:1-8, Luke 7:1-10

Tue: 14 Sept: Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:13-17

Wed: 15 Sept: Heb 5:7-9, John 19:25-27

Thu: 16 Sept: 1 Tim 4:12-16, Luke 7:36-50

Fri: 17 Sept: 1 Tim 16:2-12, Luke 8:1-3

Sat: 18 Sept: 1 Tim 6:13-16, Luke 8:4-15

Sun: 19 Sept, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

James 3:16-4:3

Mark 9:30-37

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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