

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



Fifth Sunday of Easter

7th May 2023

Jesus, the Way

All of us had some experience of getting lost and having to ask for directions. We have approached a stranger and asked, 'How do I get to such and such a place?' There are three common responses. The person says: 'Sorry. I can't help you. I'm a stranger around here.' Needless to say, that's no help to us. Or the person proceeds to give us a set of complicated directions that leaves us totally confused. That's not much help either. Or we might be lucky enough to meet a kind person who says, 'I know where it is. But it's a bit complicated. I'll tell you what. Just follow me and I'll take you there.' Here the person is not just content just to give us directions and leave us to it. Here is a person who is willing to be our guide. It's a tonic to meet someone like that. The way to God is the most important way of all. It is a way that has baffled many. At the Last Supper the apostle, Thomas, asked Jesus. 'Show us the Father.' The most important thing in the life of Jesus was his relationship with the Father. So Jesus knew the way to the Father. But he might have given Thomas a set of complicated directions. He didn't. He did something better. He said, 'I am the way.' And he invites us to follow him. If we follow him we will have a star that will not betray us, and a compass that will not lie to us. He will lead us to the Father's house. The joy of the one who knows he has set the compass of his life on the right path is a recurrent theme in the Bible. What does following Jesus involve? It involves following his way. In the Bible the word 'way' is often used in a metaphorical sense. Often it designates a way of life and conduct. The early Christians called themselves followers of the Way. By 'way' they meant a Christian way of life. At the Last Supper Jesus told the apostles that he was 'going away'. They rightly understood 'going away' to mean that he was going to die. On hearing this they were overcome with sadness. But Jesus didn't speak of death as life ending. He spoke of death and going to the Father. God is the destination of our earthly journey. To die is to go to God and to go to God is to go home. Meanwhile in the Church we have a spiritual home, built on foundation stone of Christ (Second Reading). Here we have brothers and sisters who accompany us on our journey to that other home, our heavenly one. Sadly, there are those who have left the Church or the Christian faith, and who have travelled far, searching for what they left behind.

FLOR McCARTHY SDB

PARISH NEWS

Legion of Mary

Want to join an apostolate that glorifies God through holiness by prayer and active cooperation in Mary's and the Church's work.

Senior Legion of Mary - every Friday at 7.00pm in the classroom

Junior Legion of Mary - every Friday at 5.30pm in the classroom. Anyone under 18 may join.

RCIA Program

Will be starting on Monday 8th May at 6pm in the classroom. These sessions are open for anyone of any age that is in need of understanding the faith or would like to receive the Sacraments including Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion, or any other issues that you are struggling with. All are welcome. Contact Deacon Robert for more info.

Titanic The Musical

Every year or so, we have the privilege to assist St Peter's College & Marist College in providing them with the use of our hall. This year they are performing on stage at the Playhouse Theatre *Titanic the Musical* from 11-20th May 2023. Poster is on the notice board.

Tickets: www.trybooking.co.nz/NCR

DIOCESE NEWS

Upcoming Retreats & Events at St Francis Retreat Centre

Time out Days - for those who seek a day retreat ~ 17 May / 8 June / 4 July from 9.30am to 2.30pm (\$30 includes lunch).

24Hr Quietude - for those who see a short retreat ~ July 7th/8th & Sep 8th/9th starts from 7pm to end the following day at 7pm (\$120pp incl accommodation + food).

Franciscan Spirituality Series - learn about how Jesus' teaching was acted on and acted out by St Francis and how we can do the same. Next session ~ Sunday 7 May from 2 pm-4pm (Free). 'The Upside Down Franciscan' by Robert Hardie OFS.

Book of Ruth Retreat - Study and reflection on the Book of Ruth by Dr Alice Sinnott RSM Fri 21 Jul 7pm to Sat 22 Jul 7pm. Overnight \$150pp/Sat only \$95pp.

For more info/dates and to book visit www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz

Bishop Steve's Cyclone and Flood Appeals

\$621,000 has been raised. A huge thank you from Bishop Steve for the generous support to our brothers and sisters impacted by the floods and cyclones in Auckland, Northland, the Coromandel, Hawkes Bay and Gisborne/Tai Rāwhiti.

The Sisters of the Sacred Heart Baradene Convent in Remuera seeking a Nurse Manager. Hours and week days are flexible, supporting 8 retired women and leading a small team of 24/7 caring staff. Please apply on Seek or email clare@clarewade.co.nz in confidence.

MASS TIMES:

Mon: 9am
Tues/Wed/Thurs 6.30pm
Wed: Novena 6pm
Fri: 9am
Sat: 5pm Vigil
Sunday 9am, 10.30am, 5pm

**Reconciliation by appointment,
contact the Parish Office**

Join the Caritas Team!

An exciting opportunity to work within a Catholic organization where the roles will see you support our work advocating for justice, peace and the needs of the most vulnerable and connect with the world.

Email us on

Caritas@caritas.org.nz or see the link for more info www.caritas.org.nz/work-with-us

WAY2GO Children's Ministry Conferences

Registrations are now open. This year the conference will explore how we can help children and families experience God's Good News transforming their lives and that of their communities, bringing hope for the future.

Visit www.sunz.org.nz or email us at info@sunz.org.nz for more details on the workshops and registrations. Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

If you wish to place a notice in our parish newsletter, email the Parish office by Wednesday.

Please Pray for our Sick Parishioners:

Violet Furtado, Yvonne Sommers, Mary Holmes, Kanesi Masae, Ethan Peter Lelo, Rosalen Ahearn, Saulius David Balsys, Kalameli Tauta, Joan Unkovich, Lloyd Ball, Pauline Caffell, Louisa Baptist, Robert Shearman, Siufaga Maileoi Lili, Lee Dunn, Alex Soniega, Barbara Lynch, Fata Peter & Lenora Fuiava, Priscilla Fernandes, Nellie Lemusu-Kea, Aaron Ablan, Joy Rapcsak, Gerard Hoover.

Last Week's Collection:

House- \$832.20

Parish- \$1360.50

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings for the upcoming week

Mon 08 May: Acts 14:5-18
Jn 14:21-26

Tue 09 May: Acts 14:19-28
Jn 14:27-31

Wed 10 May: Acts 15:1-6
Jn 15:1-8

Thu 11 May: Acts 15:7-21
Jn 15:9-11

Fri 12 May: Acts 15:22-31
Jn 15: 12-17

Sat 13 May: Acts 16:1-10
Jn 15:18-21

Sun 14 May: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
Pet 3:15-18;
Jn 14:15-21

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