

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



Sixth Sunday of Easter

14 May 2023

## *The leave-taking*

The parting of friends is never easy. But some partings are harder than others. The most painful parting of all happens when someone dies. What makes this parting different from all others is the finality of it. It was the night before Jesus' death. For some time he had been giving the apostles hints of his death. Now he talked to them openly about it. Except he didn't speak of death in the way we tend to do – in the sense of life ending. He spoke of his death as going away, 'going to the Father'. But all the apostles heard was the fact that he was leaving them. Yes, he was indeed leaving them. But there are degrees of leaving. There is a leaving that implies abandonment. Sadly, now and again we read in the newspapers about babies that are abandoned at birth. To be abandoned is the most painful and damaging thing that can happen to anyone, particularly in the case of the young and the elderly. In the Gospel we are not dealing with this. Jesus is not abandoning the apostles. There is a leaving that is necessary because it is for the good of the one leaving. For example, a person is leaving to return home, or leaving to take up a better job somewhere else. This is certainly true here. Jesus' leaving is for his own good. He is returning to his Father. To return to the Father is to go home. It is to go to honour and glory. Finally, there is a leaving that is of those left behind. This is the full truth of what is happening here. Jesus' leaving is, or will be, good for the apostles because he will send them the Holy Spirit. His departure will not leave them unsupported and unguided as they feared. "I will not leave you orphans," he said. But there was another thing that would have been great consolation to the apostles at this sad and painful hour. Even as he spoke about leaving them, he spoke about coming back to them. He would come to them through the Spirit, and he would come to them himself. They did not encounter him after the resurrection. And even though after the ascension they would see him no more, he assured them that he would still be with them, yes, even to the end of time. Jesus did not leave his disciples orphaned or desolate. By their faith they were able to 'see' him, and through their obedience to his commandments, they were drawn into a loving communion with him and with the Father. Nor does Jesus leave us orphaned. We have the same access to his presence, and to the help of the Holy Spirit as the first Christians had. Jesus is not present as a vague memory of a person who lived long ago, but as a real, life-giving presence that transforms us. Nowhere do we feel so close to him as when we receive him in the Eucharist. When we receive the Eucharist we are not just in communication with him, but also in communion with him – a *holy* communion. Here he nourishes our hearts with his love. The food of the Eucharist gives us the strength to do his word and to live as his disciples.

**FLOR McCARTHY SDB**

## PARISH NEWS

### Pentecost Sunday 28th May

If you wish to do a Prayer of the Faithful or a reading in your own language, kindly contact your mass coordinator.

*5pm (Vigil) - Margaret Newcombe*

*9am – Anau Cheesman*

*10.30am – Olinda Domingo*

*5pm – Jean Soniega*

### Legion of Mary - UPDATE

Senior Legion of Mary:

*Our Lady of Lourdes Praesidium* - meeting every Wednesday at 7.15pm in the classroom.

*Mary Mother of Grace Praesidium* - meeting every Friday at 7pm in the classroom.

Junior Legion of Mary:

*Mary Mother of Good Counsel Praesidium* meeting every Friday at 5.30pm in the classroom. Anyone under 18 and had their First Communion may join.

### Blessed Virgin Mary

Would you like the Blessed Virgin Mary to visit your home?

Members of The Legion of Mary can leave her statue at your place for 2 weeks. Gather the whole family and pray the rosary daily. Receive a special protection and greatest blessings through her intercession.

If you are interested, please contact [Marilyn on 021 299 4357](mailto:Marilyn on 021 299 4357).

## 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](http://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](mailto: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**

### Executive Secretary of the Justice & Peace Commission

The Diocese seeks an enthusiastic committed person to fulfil the above role. To promote, encourage and support justice and peace initiatives in the Diocese. The position is full time, with some flexibility.

For full details and requirements please visit the Diocesan website

[www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz), under Diocesan Services and Staff vacancies.

Applications close 5pm Wednesday  
24 May 2023.

### Jubilee Bursary Semester 2, 2023

For Theology and RE courses.

Applications close Thursday 8 June 2023.

Please contact [michellej@cda.org.nz](mailto:michellej@cda.org.nz)

**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 - \$1,168.20**

**Parish - \$1,495.30**

**Thank you for your generosity.**

### Readings for the upcoming week

**Mon 15 May:** Acts 16:11-15

Jn 15:26 - 16:4

**Tue 16 May:** Acts 16: 22-34

Jn 16:5-11

**Wed 17 May:** Acts 17:15, 22-18:1

Jn 16:12-15

**Thu 18 May:** Acts 18:1-8

Jn 16:16-20

**Fri 19 May:** Acts 18:9-18

Jn 16: 20-23

**Sat 20 May:** Acts 18:23-28

Jn 16:23-28

**Sun 21 May:** Acts 1:1-11

Eph 1:17-23

Mt 28:16-20

## ***A Prayer in Gratitude for Our Mothers***

Good and Gentle God, we pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life. You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings.



### **OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH**

7 Glendale Rd, Glen Eden

**Tel:** 818-6325

**Office hours:** 9am to 3pm (Mon-Fri)

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**Website:** [www.glenedencatholic.org.nz](http://www.glenedencatholic.org.nz)

**Facebook:** Glen Eden Catholic Church

### **Priests Contacts:**

*Parish Priest:* Fr Paul Helsham OFM Cap  
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*Asst Parish Priest* Fr Boniface Kujur OFM Cap  
Email: [bonikujur1969@gmail.com](mailto:bonikujur1969@gmail.com)

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