

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

16 July 2023

The Prodigal Sower

The prophet Isaiah (First Reading) tells us that God cares for the earth by sending rain to make it fruitful. And God cares for us by sending us his word. Our reading emphasizes the effectiveness of God's word. The rain always produces positive results; eventually somewhere the earth responds and becomes fruitful. So God persists with his word until he gets a response.

The parable of the sower echoes that same idea: the word of God achieves the end for which it was sent. Despite the hard ground, predatory birds, stones, thorns, and weeds, the seed finally finds some good soil and produces a harvest...in some cases even a hundred per cent. The parable is telling us that despite all obstacles the word of God *will* bear fruit.

But you might wonder at the carelessness of the sower. The sower sowed the seed haphazardly. Yes, some seed did fall on good ground. But some fell on the hard path, some on ground littered with stones, and some among thorns and briars. You might say that the sower was wasteful and foolish. One could not imagine any farmer scattering seed in such a fashion.

But there is another way of looking at this. You could say that the sower was extremely generous, even prodigal, with the seed. He was determined to give every part of the field a chance to produce something. Of course, the poorer parts would not be expected to produce as much as the more fertile parts.

The sower in the parable is an image of God. God scatters the seed around in a display of reckless generosity. Our God is like that - he sows the precious seed of his word in the most unlikely places.

In his love, God is continually calling us to a better and more fruitful life.

We are not just hearers of the word, we are also sowers of the word. This is particularly true in the case of parents, teachers, and preachers. But to some extent it is true of us all. Jesus' parable is a very encouraging one for sowers. It tells them not to be discouraged if no *product* is apparent. Their job is to go on sowing the good seed and not to get discouraged.

We must leave the harvest to God.

FLOR McCARTHY SDB

PARISH NEWS

Mass with Bishop Steve

On Sunday 30th July, Bishop Steve will be joining us in the celebration of the morning masses (9am & 10.30am). Confirmation and Holy Communion will be celebrated at the 10.30am mass.

Winter Clothes

The parish has been receiving donation of winter clothes (in good condition). Please contact the parish office or feel free to come in during office hours.

Children's Liturgy

We have had a few people coming forward but we still need your help with the Children's Liturgy for Sunday masses (9am & 10.30am). Please contact [Marta Cullen on 021-898345 or email marta.cullen@gmail.com](mailto:marta.cullen@gmail.com)

DIOCESE NEWS

World Youth Day Auckland

Not every young person can get to Lisbon for World Youth Day 2023, but Sancta Maria College is much more accessible. WYD Auckland is happening on **Sunday 6 August (2pm-8.30pm)**.

Let's come together as diocesan young people to celebrate WYD with inspiring speakers, powerful worship, Mass, dinner (paid by Bishop Steve), Reconciliation and Adoration. *Please go to the parish website to register.*

St Francis Retreat Centre

24hr Prayer Retreat ~ Join us for a reflective prayer retreat with talks, Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and personal prayer ~ Sat 5 Aug 3pm - Sun 6 Aug 3pm. **Earlybird \$130/Standard \$150.**

Contemplative Retreat ~ Want to deepen your faith? Join us for an introduction to Christian meditation ~ Sat 12 Aug 10am-4pm. **Earlybird \$65 (before 31 Jul) Standard \$85 (after 31 Jul).**

Hearts Aflame Catholic Summer School

Hearts Aflame is back again this summer with 10 days of uplifting prayer and world-class lectures! It is for young adults aged 18 to 35 who want to know more about their faith and meet other Catholic young adults from all over NZ. Join us this year at Nga Tawa Diocesan School, Marton from 29/12/23 until 07/01/24. To register- heartsaflame.org.nz

Online NZ Catholic Directory

The upgraded online version of the NZ Catholic Directory has now gone live. It has a new website with enhanced features. Changes have been made so that the online directory makes searching for people and organization easier. A subscription costs \$22 (incl GST) for 12 months' access.

MASS TIMES:

Monday: 9am
Tues/Wed/Thurs 6.30pm
Wed: Novena 6pm
Friday: 9am
First Friday: 6.30pm
Saturday: 5pm Vigil
Sunday: 9am, 10.30am, 5pm

**Reconciliation by appointment,
please contact the parish office.**

*****IMPORTANT NOTICE*****

Parish New Bank Accounts

The Parish has recently changed their bank accounts which was necessary to comply with the latest banking regulations.

Please take note of our new bank accounts:

Parish Account: 02-0108-0707868-000

House Account: 02-0108-0707868-001

If you are donating through AP (automatic payments), you do not need to make any changes to your bank account details as it will automatically route to our new bank accounts. On the other hand, if you have set up the Parish as your payee, please ensure that you update your payee record with our new bank accounts.

Thank you.

If you wish to place a notice in our parish newsletter, please 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, 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 - \$864.75

Parish - \$1,332.55

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 17 Jul : Ex 1:8-14, 22
Mt 10:34-11:1

Tue 18 Jul: Ex 2:1-15
Mt 11:20-24

Wed 19 Jul: Ex 3:1-6, 9-12
Mt 11:25-27

Thu 20 Jul: Ex 3:13-20
Mt 11:28-30

Fri 21 Jul: Ex 11:10 - 12:14
Mt 12:1-8

Sat 22 Jul: Cor 5:14-17
Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Sun 23 Jul: Wis 12:13, 16-19
Rom 8:26-27
Mt 13:24-30

Legion of Mary

Senior Legion of Mary (Our Lady of Lourdes Praesidium) ~ every Wednesday 7.10pm in the classroom.

Senior Legion of Mary (Mary Mother of Grace Praesidium) ~ every Friday 7.00pm in the classroom.

Junior Legion of Mary (Mary Mother of Good Counsel Praesidium) ~ Every Friday 5.30pm in the classroom (under 18).

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](tel:0212994357)

A Farewell Concert Saturday 29th July 7.00pm St Patrick's Cathedral

A concert for Maeve Herd, Cathedral Choir Director and Cantor. This is an invitation to music lovers of all ages for an evening of song spanning the operatic, sacred, art song and musical theatre genres. Repertoire will include works by Mozart, Strauss, Puccini, Rossini and many more! Entry to the concert is free with a retiring cash collection and digital donation available to support Maeve's further study at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

For more information, visit [Move Maeve to Manchester: www.givealittle.co.nz/cause/move-maeve-to-manchester](http://www.givealittle.co.nz/cause/move-maeve-to-manchester)

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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