

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



The Ascension of the Lord

21 May 2023

## *His witnesses*

There is a story that says that when Jesus returned to heaven after his death and resurrection, the Archangel Gabriel was surprised to see him back so soon. Thirty-three years is not a long time, especially when you think about the enormity of the task he had been given to do.

“Back so soon?” Gabriel said to Jesus.

“Well, I would have stayed longer but they crucified me,” Jesus replied.

“Oh, so they crucified you,” said Gabriel. “That means you failed.”

“Not necessarily, said Jesus. “You see I called together a little group of disciples. They will carry on my work.”

“And what if they should fail?” asked Gabriel.

“I’ve no other plans,” Jesus answered.

Jesus had preached the Gospel only to Israel. But now he commissioned the apostles to preach the Gospel to all nations. It was a daunting task. However, he promised that he would send them the Holy Spirit. He also assured them that he himself would always be with them. That assurance gave them the courage and strength to face whatever difficulties lay ahead. But how could he always be with them if he was ascending to heaven? The Ascension did not represent Jesus’ removal from the earth. The Ascension was his liberation from all restrictions of time and space. During his earthly ministry he could only be in one place at a time. But now that he is united with God, he is present wherever God is present; and that is everywhere. A sense of the presence of Christ with us doesn’t change the world for us, but it can give us the courage to face it. God’s closeness shields us against a sense of abandonment and despair. Jesus now depends on us to preach the Gospel. We are his *witnesses* before the world. It is a daunting task but a great privilege too. How are we to witness? The great Mahatma Gandhi said, ‘My life is my message.’ The most effective way to witness to Jesus is to live a Christian life. Those who truly live their faith give a powerful witness. We must not be discouraged by our weaknesses or demoralised by our failures. We should draw encouragement from the words of Mother Teresa: ‘I don’t pray for success; I pray that I may be a faithful witness.’

**FLOR McCARTHY SDB**

## PARISH NEWS

### Legion of Mary ~ UPDATE

#### Senior Legion of Mary:

*Our Lady of Lourdes Praesidium* - meet every Wednesday at 7.10pm in the classroom.

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

#### Junior Legion of Mary:

*Mary Mother of Good Counsel Praesidium* meet every Friday at 5.30pm in the classroom. Children under 18 can join regardless of whether they have received the sacrament or not.

### 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@stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz).

### Pentecost Sunday

For 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 co-ordinator.

*Margaret Newcombe - 5pm (Vigil)*

*Anau Cheesman (9am)*

*Olinda Domingo (10.30am).*

*Jean Soniega – 5pm*

## International Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition

Do you believe Jesus Christ is really present in the Eucharist? Come and see our exhibition (in the parish crypt) conceived and designed by Blessed Carlo Acutis. *Sponsored by the Legion of Mary.*

*Saturday 10th June 4pm-7pm.*

*Sunday 11th June 10am-12pm and 4.30pm-7pm.*

### *The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ*

On Sunday 11th June, there will be an Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (in the church) from 2pm-4pm.

## 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)

### **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**

### **Mass of the Neophytes – Sunday 28 May 4.30pm**

All those baptised or received into full communion at Easter or throughout the last 12 months are invited by Bishop Steve to join him at the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph. Family sponsors, RCIA team members and members of the Diocese are all invited. Validated parking available.

### **Free Books**

The Diocese has a number of books available for collection Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 3.30pm at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New Street, Auckland. This will last until Friday 26 May. For more details:

[aucklandcatholic.org.nz/books/](http://aucklandcatholic.org.nz/books/)

**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 - \$ 966.00**

**Parish - \$1,535.90**

**Thank you for your generosity.**

### **Readings for the upcoming week**

**Mon 22 May:** Acts 19: 1-8  
Jn 16:26 - 16:4

**Tue 23 May:** Acts 20: 17-27  
Jn 16:29-33

**Wed 24 May:** Sirach 4: 11-18  
Cor 1: 18-25

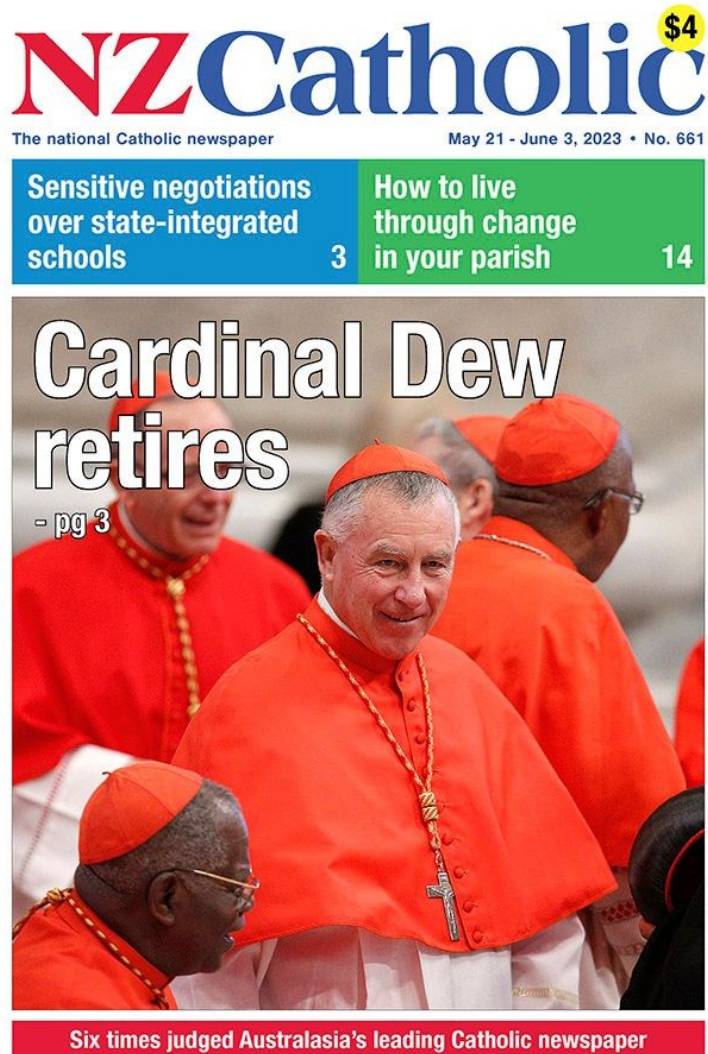
**Thu 25 May:** Acts 22:30, 23:6-11  
Jn 17:20-26

**Fri 26 May:** Acts 25:13-21  
Jn 21:15-19

**Sat 27 May:** Acts 28:16-20, 30-31  
Jn 21:20-25

**Sun 28 May:** Gen 11:1-9  
Ex 19: 3-8, 16-20  
Joel 3:1-5

## NZ Catholic on sale at the bookshop



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

7 Glendale Rd, Glen Eden

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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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