



Refusing To Be Deflected From His Destiny

Nelson Mandela tells us that when he was struggling to establish himself as a young lawyer in Johannesburg, he became friendly with a businessman by the name of Hans Muller. One day Muller pointed out, seeing men and women scurrying up and down the street, that they were all after wealth and money, no exceptions. His belief was once you have money, you will want nothing else. But Mandela was an intelligent man - if he had taken Muller's advice he could have done very well for himself. Instead he decided to dedicate himself to serving his country.

This incident helps us to understand how it relates to today's Gospel. In a short span of time Peter saw Jesus as the Messiah and according to popular expectation, the Messiah would be a great military leader. It seems that Peter had bought into the idea of a political Messiah. But this was not Jesus' idea of the Messiah. He had told his apostles that the Messiah would suffer and be put to death. That was what God wanted. Not that God wanted the suffering of his Son, but that he wanted to show us the depth of his love for us in and through the faithfulness and love of his Son, a faithfulness and love that cost him his life.

The notion of a suffering Messiah was completely unacceptable to Peter. But Jesus was not going to allow Peter to deflect him from his destiny.

When Mandela decided to dedicate his life to his country, he did not know that it would mean spending 27 years of his life in prison. Same applies to Jesus when he was on the road to Jerusalem, he did not know the full consequences of his journey. When the hour came for him to drink the cup of suffering and death, he did not find it easy. On the contrary, he underwent a terrible agony and asked his Father to remove the cup from him. Nevertheless, he remained faithful.

Jesus says that anyone who wishes to be his disciple must take up his cross and follow him. It is not a cross for the sake of a cross - it is the cross of fidelity, of service and of love.

PARISH NEWS

Parish Retreat ~ Encountering Christ

Come and deepen your understanding and relationship with Jesus through a time of reflection and prayer activity ~

Saturday 09 September 1pm - 4.45pm (afternoon tea will be served) in the parish hall. The retreat is suitable for people over the age of 16.

Please register your interest by replying to Lyn Smith lyns@cda.org.nz by **Thursday 7th September.**

Pledge Envelopes 2023/24

Please pick up your new set of envelopes (starts Sunday 01st October) from the church foyer.

Seeking New Members

The Parish Council is seeking new members as we move forward with our revitalization plan. If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Parish Councillor, please join us ~

Sunday 10 September ~ 1pm - 4pm (afternoon tea will be served) in the parish hall. Please register your interest by replying to the parish office ~ ourladyoflourdes@xtra.co.nz by **Wednesday 6th September.**

Pre-Election 2023

Are you interested working during the pre-election periods?

The parish hall will be used for advance voting from 2nd October through to 14th October (date of the Election). Please apply to the **Kelston Electorate.**

As referral code please use: **Our Lady of Lourdes.**

To apply use QR Code below or go to: <https://work.elections.nz/work-at-general-elections>.



Group Fitness ~ Zumba



Maria & Patsy would love you to join them every Monday (6pm-7pm) in the parish hall for a fun Zumba workout. Gold coin donation is appreciated.

DIOCESE NEWS

Baila Salsa

Organized by the Auckland Catholic Singles Group (30s & 40s), beginner's class starts **Thursday 14 September** at Revelry Bar, 106 Ponsonby Rd, Ponsonby.

Free entry.

8.00pm ~ socializing

8.30 - 9.15pm ~ class

For more info, please email aklcatholic-singlesocialgroup@gmail.com

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.**



Dear God,

**thank you for the gift of
fatherhood.**

**We pray for all fathers and those
hoping to become fathers.**

**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 - \$ 951.85

Parish - \$1, 487.65

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 04 Sep: Thess 4:13-18

Lk 4:16-30 Ps 95:11-13

Tue 05 Sep: Thess 5:1-6, 9-11

Lk 4:31-37 Ps 26:13-14

Wed 06 Sep: Col 1:1-8

Lk 4:38-44 Ps 51:10-11

Thu 07 Sep: Col 1:9-14

Lk 5:1-11 Ps 97:2-6

Fri 08 Sep: Micah 5:1-4

Rom 8:28-30 Ps 12:6-7

Sat 09 Sep: Col 1:21-23

Lk 6:1-5 Ps 53:3-4, 6

Sun 10 Sep: Ezek 33:7-9

Rom 13:8-10 Ps 94:1-2, 6-9

Mt 18:15-20

2023 Auckland Prayer Breakfast



The Auckland Prayer Breakfast gathers church, NGO, mission, business and other Christian leaders from across the city every year. We will pray for a flourishing life in homes and neighbourhoods, workplace, education, government and society. Our guest speaker is Maria English (ImpactLab CEO and 2021 Xero Hi-Tech Young Achiever).

This is happening at **Eden Park ~ Thursday 9th November.**

[Doors open at 6.30am, Mihi at 6.55am followed by breakfast at 8.20am.](#)

For a limited time, we are releasing Early Bird tickets.

Don't miss this special gathering of fellowship, prayer, networking, worship and of course an excellent breakfast!

See our website for more details and to grab your tickets:

www.prayerbreakfast.nz/auckland

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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