

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

27 August 2023

The Highs And Lows Of Peter

Peter is at the centre of today's Gospel. There he makes a marvellous profession of faith in Jesus. Jesus reacts by conferring the primacy on him (this shows that the primacy was not something that was invented by the Church later on. It went right back to the beginning, to the mind and will of Christ himself).

But why did Jesus confer the primacy on Peter and not on any of the others?

It is clear that Peter had leadership qualities. In all four Gospels he is the one who is mentioned most frequently, and who speaks most frequently. Indeed, very often, he acts as spokesman for the Twelve. And whenever the twelve apostles are listed, his name is always first. His great profession of faith in Jesus was one of his finest moments.

Yet the Gospels do not spare Peter. True, they show that there was a solid side to his character but they also show there was an opposite side of him. On the night Jesus was on trial for his life, instead of standing by him, Peter denied him not once but three times. That was his lowest moment.

The Peter who said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God,' was the same Peter who said, 'I do not know this man.' Still, we might be inclined to say that the first Peter was the real Peter. This would be a mistake - there was only one Peter.

No one would have been surprised had Jesus written off Peter at this point, as being a coward, weak and unreliable. But he did not. Instead he restored him to where he was before, and made him the chief shepherd of his flock. Why? Because Jesus knew that there was another and better side of Peter. Generosity and selfishness, courage and cowardice can co-exist in the same person.

Compared to Judas whose betrayal was a planned one, and was carried out in a cold, calculating manner. Peter's denial was not planned and was the result of weakness rather than malice. Peter did not fall because he was weak, he fell because he thought he was strong. He learned two great lessons from that experience. Firstly, he learned a painful truth about himself - he wasn't as strong and brave as he thought he was. And secondly, he learned a wonderful truth about Jesus. In spite of his denials, Jesus still loved him. It was his love that enabled him to turn an hour of pain and shame into an hour of grace and salvation. God does not choose perfect people to do his work - there are no such people. Peter is a great consolation to us. The frailties we see in him we recognize in ourselves.

FLOR McCARTHY SDB

PARISH NEWS

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

Zumba is fun, energetic and makes you feel amazing. Whether you want to tone your muscles, burn calories or have a blast with your friends, Maria & Patsy would love you to join them every Monday (6pm-7pm) in the parish hall for a good workout and laughter! Gold coin donation is appreciated.

Pledge Envelopes 2023/24

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

DIOCESE NEWS

Divine Mercy Devotion

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass ~ **Friday 1st September 7.00pm** at St Mary's Parish, 20 Kitenui Ave, Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass followed by general blessing of St Faustina's relic. All welcome.

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship

All men are invited to a meeting on **Wednesday 30 August at 7.30pm** at St Josephs Centre, Takapuna. Fr Merv Duffy, Lecturer in Theology at Catholic Theological College, will do a teaching on '*What Lessons Can We Learn From The Early Christians House Church?*' Do you know the lifestyles the early Christians lived by? We look forward to your presence. For more information please contact [Basil 027 2612585](tel:0272612585) or see our FB page.

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 - \$ 752.00

Parish - \$1,190.90

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 28 Aug: Thess 1:1-5, 8-10

Mt 23:13-22 Ps 149:1-6, 9

Tue 29 Aug: Jer 1:17-19

Mk 6:17-29 Ps 70:1-6, 15, 17

Wed 30 Aug: Thess 2:9-13

Mt 23:27-32 Ps 138:7-12

Thu 31 Aug: Thess 3:7-13

Mt 24:42-51 Ps 89:3-4, 12-14, 17

Fri 01 Sep: Thess 4:1-8

Mt 25:1-13 Ps 96:1-2, 5-6, 10-12

Sat 02 Sep: Thess 4:9-11

Mt 25:14-30 Ps 97:1, 7-9

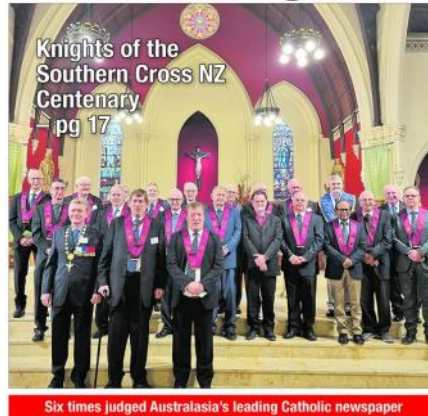
Sun 03 Sep: Jer 20:7-9

Rom 12:1-2 Ps 62:2-6, 8-9

Mt 16:21-27



Good Knights



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, so gather your teams and leaders, and come to this unique time of unified prayer for our city.

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

www.prayerbreakfast.nz/auckland

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

7 Glendale Rd, Glen Eden

Ph: 818-6325

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

E-mail: ourladyoflourdes@xtra.co.nz

Website: www.glenedencatholic.org.nz

Facebook: Glen Eden Catholic Church

Priests Contacts:

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Helsham OFM Cap
E:paulhelsham@gmail.com

Asst Parish Priests:

Fr Boniface Kujur OFM Cap
E:bonikujur1969@gmail.com
Fr Rajat Dungdung OFM Cap
E: rajatcap@yahoo.com

Deacon:

Robert Mitchell
E:robertmitchell1410@gmail.com