



An Unfair Story?

Some consider the story of the workers in the vineyard an unfair story. It seems clearly unjust how the idlers were being favoured at the expense of the hard workers. But this is not so. The story goes out of its way to stress that no injustice has been done. To understand it we need to keep the following in mind. The eleventh-hour people were not idlers. They wanted to work. It was just that nobody had hired them. In effect, they were rejects. The idea that any employer would take such people on the eleventh hour, and pay them a full day's wage, was unthinkable. Yet that is exactly what the owner of the vineyard did. This is the strong point of the parable.

Justice is very important. To realise how important it is, all we have to do is think of its opposite. Anyone who has the experience of being treated unjustly will know what a deep hurt it can cause.

However, the story is not about justice - it is about generosity. Justice is a great thing, but it hasn't the sweetness of generosity. To be more precise, the story is about the generosity of God. God's generosity utterly transcends human generosity. *'As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.'* (First Reading).

God was being generous to sinners. There were some who criticized Jesus because of his kindness to sinners. In their eyes he was betraying the virtuous. According to the system, you must earn your graces by hard work. Jesus did not agree with them. He told them so in this story. His audience knew exactly what he was getting at. The vineyard was the kingdom of God. Those who had been working all day long were the Pharisees and the Jews in general. The eleventh-hour people were sinners and the Gentiles.

Which of us would like to be treated by God according to strict justice? Do we not all stand more in need of God's mercy than of God's justice? Therefore, when we come before God, let us not parade our rights and entitlements. We can't put God in our debt - God is generous beyond our imagining.

PARISH NEWS

Foodbank

The Parish Foodbank team wishes to thank everyone for their continued support (food, general items & online donations). We have been asked to give an update of what we need. Here is our list, thank you.

Dry goods & general items: biscuits, long-life milk, rice, flour, small bottles of cooking oil, toiletries.

Tins/cans: tomatoes, corned beef, tuna, mackerel, peas, five bean mix, lentils, kidney beans, chickpeas, fruit.

Jars: jam & peanut butter

DIOCESE NEWS

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship

All men are invited to a meeting on **Wed 27 Sept 7.30pm** ~ St Josephs Centre, Takapuna.

We hope to spend some time praying the rosary. Please remember to bring your rosaries. For more info please contact [Russell 022 034 5678](tel:0220345678)

Divine Mercy Devotion

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass on **Friday 06 October 7.00pm** ~ 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.

St Francis Retreat

St Francis Open Day ~ join us to celebrate the Feast of St Francis.

Come explore the grounds and learn more about St Francis. There will also be an **Animal Blessing Service** so please bring your pets. **Sun 01 Oct 2pm - 4pm.**

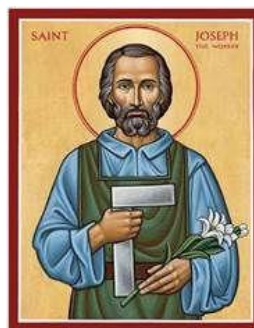
Time Out Days ~ for those who seek a retreat - 9.30am - 2.30pm (\$30 incl lunch). **Tues 03 Oct / Wed 01 Nov / Thu 07 Dec.**

24HR Prayer Retreat For Women ~ join us for a reflective prayer retreat in the Catholic tradition for talks on prayer, with time for personal prayer, Holy Mass and Eucharistic Adoration. **Sat 07 Oct 3pm - Sun 08 Oct 3pm.** \$150 pp. All meals and accommodation included.

Contemplative Prayer Retreat ~ want to deepen your faith?

Join us to learn about fruits of the journey of meditation in the Christian Tradition. **Sat 07 Oct 10am - 4pm \$85.**

St Joseph Prayer Group



Calling any man wanting St Joseph's help. For support, companionship, guidance or encouragement, we would like to invite you to a meeting on **Wed 27 September**

7.00pm ~ Saint John Paul II Centre for Life, 569A Richardson Road, Mt Roskill. For more info, please contact: [Simon Archer on 021 400 729.](tel:021400729)

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.**

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)

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 - \$ 838.50

Parish - \$1,404.40

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 25 Sep: Ezra 1:1-6

Lk 8:16-18

Tue 26 Sep: Ezra 6:7-8, 12, 14-20

Lk 8:19-21 Ps 121:1-5

Wed 27 Sep: Ezra 9:5-9

Lk 9:1-6 Tobit 13:2,4

Thu 28 Sep: Haggai 1:1-8

Lk 9:7-9 Ps 149:1-6

Fri 29 Sep: Rev 12:7-12

Jn 1:47-51 Ps 137:1-5

Sat 30 Sep: Zech 2:5-9, 14-15

Lk 9:43-45 Jer 31:10-13

Sun 01 Oct: Ezek 18:25-28

Phil 2:1-11

Mt 21:28-32

Z for Foodbank

 <p>Choose us at Z. Little token. Big impact.</p>	<p>By choosing us at Z New Lynn you can help us get a share of the \$1M Z is giving to community groups across Aotearoa New Zealand through the “<i>Good in the Hood.</i>” Use your token and choose FOODBANK GE at Z New Lynn to support us in delivering food to those who need it in our community and towards our purchases for Christmas.</p> <p>The voting period is from: 25th September to 23rd October</p> <p><u>Support the Foodbank in a new way for the next month. Please fill up at Z New Lynn</u></p>
---	---

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

Web: 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