

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



First Sunday of Advent

03 December 2023

## *Let Us Walk In The Light Of The Lord*

The theme of light figures prominently in today's readings. Isaiah urges 'to walk in the light of the Lord'. And St Paul urges us to turn away from darkness and live in the light. But what in practice does this entail?

There was a wise and learned rabbi. One day he turned to his pupils and asked the following question: 'How can you tell when the night is passed and the day is on its way back again?' One said, 'When you see an animal in the distance and you can tell whether it is a sheep or a goat.'

Another said, 'When you see a tree in the distance and you can tell whether it is a fig tree or a peach tree.'

Yet another said, 'When you can see a person in the distance, and you can tell whether it is friend or an enemy.'

There were a number of other answers. But the rabbi was not impressed. His pupils pleaded with him to tell them his answer. And he replied as follows: *'It is when you can look at the face of any human being and see there the face of a brother or a sister, because if you cannot do this then no matter what time of the day it is, for you it is still night.'*

We are the people on whom the light of Christ has shone and still shines. We must, therefore, strive to walk in the light of truth and life, the light of holiness and grace, the light of justice, love and peace.

Nonetheless, darkness still has power over us. And it takes courage to recognize the darkness in our lives. There is no joy in living in darkness. But with God's grace we can free ourselves from the darkness and experience the joy of walking in the light. The shortest journey to the light is by doing good. The most precious light of all is the light of love. Without it the world would be a very dark place. Love lights up everything and it brings hope. People who love shed light around them. They are like a lamp alight and shining. The image of God is at its best and brightest in us when we love.

Those who live in the light have nothing to fear from the Lord's coming. We are being told to welcome it.

**FLOR McCARTHY SDB**

## PARISH NEWS

### Important Dates

- ♦ **Friday 08 Dec** - additional mass at 6.30pm to celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- ♦ **Friday 15 Dec** - Mass for the Anointing of the Sick at 9am followed by morning tea in the hall.
- ♦ **Sunday 17 Dec** - Father Paul 30 years Ordination to Priesthood

### Young Adults Trivia Night

**Sunday 10 Dec 6.15pm** (parish hall). Bring a team, a friend or come alone. Categories will include: **Catholic Faith, Sports, Entertainment (TV/Film), Marvel/DC, Music, West Auckland and Guess The Logo.**

Bring your favourite dish for a shared meal. Follow our socials for updates: [Instagram \(ourladyoflourdesgleneden\)](#) & [Facebook OurLadyOfLourdes YoungAdultsAndYouth](#).

### Parish Music Group

Leading up to Christmas Eve, the choir will be practising every **Monday 7pm** (in the church). Join us as we will be singing at the midnight mass.

## DIOCESE NEWS

### St Francis Retreat Centre

*Time Out Days:* For those seeking a day retreat ~ **Thurs 07 Dec** 9.30am-2.30pm \$30 (includes lunch).

## G.I.F.T Christmas Mass

Mass **Sunday 10 December at 4pm** (followed by a light meal) at Good Shepherd Church, 27 Telford Avenue, Balmoral. All disabled people and their whānau/support workers are most welcome. For more info please contact: [Vivienne 021 044 8362](tel:0210448362).

### Handel's Messiah: Performance by Auckland Choral

*What is the story behind Handel's Messiah?*

It has been described by the early music scholar Richard Lockett as “a commentary on Jesus Nativity, Passion, Resurrection and Ascension” beginning with God’s promises as spoken by the prophets and ending with Christ’s glorification in heaven.

**Sunday 17 Dec 5.00pm** onwards at the Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall.

Cost \$35 per person + booking fees.

Book your ticket at:

[www.ticketmaster.co.nz/auckland-choral-tickets/artist/1956464](http://www.ticketmaster.co.nz/auckland-choral-tickets/artist/1956464).

Book your tickets around the **Stalls Row SS**.

*Socializing afterwards:* Meet at the Queen Street front door entry, near the grand stairs after the concert.

### 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.**

### 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.



*3-24 December: "Come Lord Jesus".*

*During Advent,  
we prepare for the  
celebration of Christ's  
birth through prayer and  
reflection.*

**If you wish to place a notice in our parish newsletter, please email the parish office by Wednesday.**

### Last Week's Collection:

**House - \$ 889.90**

**Parish - \$ 1,370.70**

**Thank you for your generosity.**

### Readings For The Upcoming Week

**Mon 04 Dec:** Is 2:1-5

Mt 8:5-11 Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9

**Tue 05 Dec:** Is 11:1-10

Lk 10:21-24 Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13

**Wed 06 Dec:** Is 25:6-10

Mt 15:29-37 Ps 22

**Thu 07 Dec:** Is 26:1-6

Mt 7:24-27 Ps 117:8-9, 19-21, 25-27

**Fri 08 Dec:** Gen 3:9-15, 20

Lk 1:26-38 Ps 97:1-4

**Sat 09 Dec:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26

Ps 146:1-6 Mt 9:35 - 10:1, 6-8

**Sun 10 Dec:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Ps 84:9-14 2 Pet 3:8-14

Mk 1:1-8



*Parish Music Group at the Gaudete Concert Saturday 25 Nov 2023*



***Come, explore & reflect on the Gospel readings for Advent on Mondays 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> December: 6:30pm – 8:00pm in the parish hall with Lyn Smith.***

***(tea/coffee & slice will be served)***

***All welcome (no need to register).***

***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](mailto:paulhelsham@gmail.com)

***Asst Parish Priests:***

Fr Boniface Kujur OFM Cap  
E:[bonikujur1969@gmail.com](mailto:bonikujur1969@gmail.com)

Fr Rajat Dungdung OFM Cap  
E:[rajatcap@yahoo.com](mailto:rajatcap@yahoo.com)

***Deacon:***

Robert Mitchell

E:[robertmitchell1410@gmail.com](mailto:robertmitchell1410@gmail.com)