

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

05 November 2023

Looking Into The Mirror

There is a story about a Jewish man who survived the concentration camps. The night after his liberation, he went to stay in a nearby house. There he found about thirty other survivors gathered in one room. Seeing a mirror on the wall, he went over to it. He was anxious to see what he looked like. But in the mirror he saw the reflections of several of the people as well. He could not tell which face belonged to him.

Only when he made faces and gestures was he able to distinguish himself from the group. And when he did distinguish his own face, he got a terrible shock - the person he saw in the mirror was one he had never seen before! He changed so much that the person in the mirror did not bear any resemblance to the person he had seen before the war. A strange story, but a true one.

Christ's harshest words were directed, not at sinners, but at religious people such as the scribes and Pharisees. Right from the beginning of his ministry they had dogged him. He had been very patient with them. He had reasoned with them, but to no avail. Eventually he was forced to expose them.

How did he achieve this? In a manner of speaking, he did it by holding up a mirror in front of them so that for the first time in their lives they might be able to see their true image. It was an image that few of them would have recognized as their own.

What were the main faults Jesus found in them? They did not practise what they preached. They made things impossible for the ordinary people by multiplying rules and demanding exact observance of those rules without offering the slightest help when needed - they lacked charity and compassion in their dealings with others.

Which of us can truthfully say that our deeds match our words? Do we not sometimes consider ourselves better than others? Do we not lay down the law for others while excusing ourselves? Are we too not lacking in charity, compassion and a spirit of service?

The real tragedy of the scribes and Pharisees was that they were blind to their own faults. Yet many of them were sincere and pious people. But what good is piety if it doesn't make us more humble, more loving and more compassionate?

FLOR McCARTHY SDB

PARISH NEWS

Youth Adults Group (18s to 35s)

Thank you to all those who came to our Young Adults outing “Eat & Bowl” last Sunday. It was a great night! The next Young Adults session will be **Sunday 12 Nov** (after the 5pm mass) in the parish hall. If you missed out on the last session, don't worry come down to the next one.

See you there!

DIOCESE NEWS

Pompallier Diocesan Centre

You are invited to an **Open Home** at the Centre ~ 30 New Street, St Mary's Bay on **Thurs 09 November 4pm-7.30pm**. It will be an opportunity to engage with staff, explore some of the archival treasure, purchase liturgical resources, enjoy a snack and more.

Prayer for Peace - (Pope Francis)

*Shalom, Peace, Salaam
Lord, God of Abraham, God of the
Prophets, God of Love,
you created us and you call us to live
as brothers and sisters.*

*Give us the strength daily to be
instruments of peace; enable us to see
everyone who crosses our path as our
brother and sister.*

*Make us sensitive to the plea of our
citizens who entreat us to turn weapons
of war into implements of peace,
our trepidation into confident trust,
and our quarrelling into forgiveness.*

Auckland Catholic Singles Group

French Cooking Class ~ **Monday 27 Nov 6pm-9pm** at Selwyn College, 203-245 Kohimarama Rd, Kohimarama - \$76 per person. Register at: www.selwyncomed.school.nz/courses Click on “**Date Night French Cuisine**”

Christmas Market

Carmel College is having a Christmas market by the lake **Sat 18 Nov 10am-3pm** at 108 Shakespeare Rd, Milford. Come along and indulge in some great food from our food trucks, delicious home baking stand, sausage sizzle, get some Christmas shopping started and enjoy live performances throughout the day. You will be helping one of Auckland's Catholic schools fundraise. There will be a Christmas Tree Decorating Contest to view.

Holy Cross Seminary

Holy Cross Seminary in Ponsonby is seeking a part-time chef for 30 hours per week over 5 days (Sun-Thurs, non-negotiable) commencing early Feb 2024. Duties will include responsibility for the weekly grocery shopping within budgets, one evening meal preparation for the Seminarians and Seminary Priests. We follow the university term schedule. If you are interested in this role and have the necessary qualifications/experience, please send your CV with cover letter to Rochelle Pinto: office@holycross.org.nz by **Wednesday 15 November 2023**.

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.



The Parish Music Group will be performing at the Titirangi War Memorial Hall ~ **Sat 18 November at 7.00pm.**

Join us for an evening of unforgettable performances. For more info, visit www.nzmeltingpot.com and to book your tickets.

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

Last Week's Collection:

House - \$ 786.70

Parish - \$ 1,234.90

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 06 Nov: Rom 11:19-36

Lk 14:12-14 Ps 68:30-31, 33-34

Tue 07 Nov: Rom 12:5-16

Lk 14:15-24 Ps 130

Wed 08 Nov: Rom 13:8-10

Lk 14:25-33 Ps 111:1-2, 4-5

Thu 09 Nov: Ezek 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

Jn 2:13-22 Cor 3:9-11, 16-17

Fri 10 Nov: Rom 15:14-21

Lk 16:1-8 Ps 97:1-4

Sat 11 Nov: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27

Lk 16:9-15 Ps 144:2-5, 10-11

Sun 12 Nov: Wis 6:12-16

Ps 62:2-8 1Thess 4:13-18

Mt 25:1-13

Data Entry - Parish

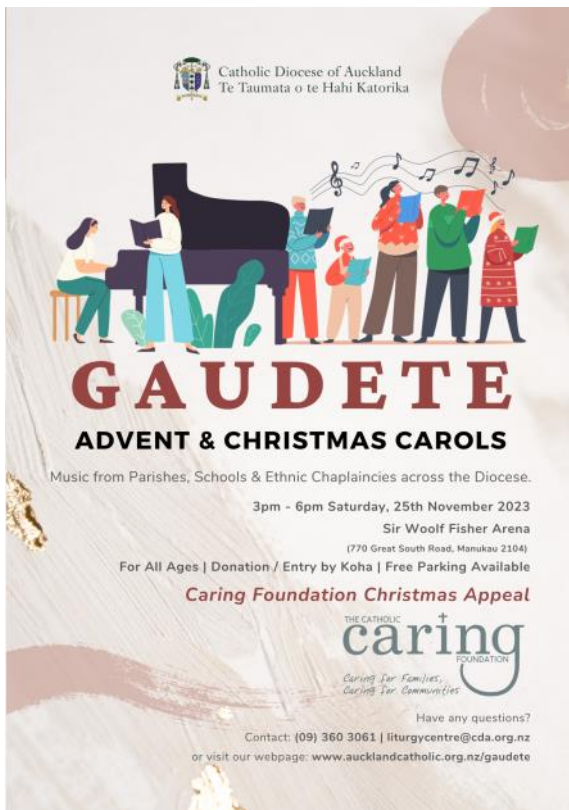
The parish is looking for 2 people to complete Data Entry.
The job is for **1 week** only from **10am - 4pm @ \$28 an hour**.

Start date: **Monday 04 Dec 2023**

Finish date: **Friday 08 Dec 2023**

This job will ideally suit a Year 13 or University student.

Please submit your application in writing (stating why you would be suitable) and include the name of one referee to Fr Paul Helsham - E:paulhelsham@gmail.com by **Friday 03 November**.



Gaudete Advent & Christmas Carols Music from Parishes, Schools & Ethnic Chaplaincies across the Diocese.

The Liturgy Centre, in collaboration with the Caring Foundation and Ethnic Chaplaincies, is hosting an exciting event **Saturday 25 Nov 3pm-6pm** at Sir Woolf Fisher Arena (previously known as Vodafone Arena) 770 Gt South Rd, Manukau. (Poster is on the noticeboard).

For all ages ~ Donation/Entry by Koha ~ Free Parking

We wish the Parish Music Group all the best as they will be representing our parish at this event.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Priests Contacts:

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