

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

19 November 2023

Self-Expression

It has been said that our true birthplace is the place in which we awaken to our gifts and talents. Often it takes an outsider to recognize the talent. Just as the sun helps to bring to birth the fragrant flowers, so are there people who find their fulfilment in helping to unfold the talents God has deposited in others.

The Russian novelist, Fyodor Dostoevsky, was only 20 when he wrote his first book entitled *Poor Folk*. The foremost critic of the day was a man by the name of Belinsky. When Belinsky read the manuscript of the young Dostoevsky he said: 'You have a great gift. Take good care of this gift and you will become a great writer.'

Dostoevsky was intoxicated by the words of the famous critic. Many years later he stated that it was the happiest moment of his life. The recognition of Belinsky did more than just confirming him in his belief in his own talent.....it launched him on his way. Dostoevsky spent the rest of his life expressing himself through his writings. One of our greatest needs is the need to express ourselves.

'There is a great loneliness in almost everyone, a great hunger to express oneself' ~ Kahlil Gibran.

Unless we express ourselves we cannot realize or fulfil ourselves. Expression is as necessary for us as leaf and blossom are for a tree. Of course, there are many ways in which people can express themselves. But sadly a lot of talent goes unexpressed. How many of us could say that we have developed our full potential as human beings? Often this is due to lack of opportunity. But sometimes people just drift through life. When talents go unexpressed, we become the losers. In the haunting words of Gilbert Keith Chesterton who was one of the greatest and most prolific writers of the 20th century, *'They die with all the music inside them'*. Every talent has to be developed - commitment, discipline, patience and hard work are required if a talent is to bear its full fruit. We see this in the example of the first two servants in Jesus' story. But we see the opposite of it in the case of the third servant. It was not the harshness of his master that prevented him from using his talent - that was merely an excuse. It was the result of laziness.

Life is God's gift to us. What we do with life is our gift to God.

FLOR McCARTHY SDB

PARISH NEWS

Parish Work Bee



Our Parish will be conducting a Work Bee **Sat 02 Dec from 9am.** All are welcome to support our parish by offering your services

for an hour or two. Tradies are most welcome to give a hand with needed areas including painting, water blasting, roof and gutter cleaning. An electrician is most needed. If you can bring your gear that will be great. We ask for the services of the parish cleaners for rearranging, dusting inside our church and the final clean up around the church. For all enquiries please contact:

[Deacon Robert 027 508 3902](tel:0275083902)

Carpark Wardens

The Parish is looking for carpark wardens for each weekend Mass. If you are able to be a carpark warden (on a roster basis) please give your contact details and the preferred Mass time to the parish office by **Friday 24 November**. We appreciate all the support we can get.

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).

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship

The end of year meeting will be held **Wed 29 Nov 7.30pm** at St Joseph's Centre, Fred Thomas Drive Takapuna. A celebratory gathering of a successful year bringing Catholic men together in a spirit of fraternity and comradeship. All men are warmly invited together with their wives/partners or you may bring a friend for a shared meal. Please bring a plate, refreshments will be available. For more info contact: [Russell 022 034 5678](tel:0220345678).

Divine Mercy Devotion

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass **Friday 01 Dec 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 veneration of St Faustina's relic. All welcome.

Catholic Hospitality

Catholic Hospitality in NZ and Australia. Payment \$50 (per night for 1 guest) and \$30 (for each additional guest), e.g. a couple would pay \$80 per night for bed & continental breakfast. This is a wonderful way for Catholics to meet and enjoy the company of other Catholics. To purchase a book of details of hosts, please email: [Marie Anderson at marie.ian@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Marie.Anderson@marie.ian@xtra.co.nz)

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.**

Young Adults Group

We apologize for the last minute postponement of last Sunday's session due to the unavailability of its members. We are happy to announce our next event happening on **Sat 25 Nov ~ Rosary Hike/Walk at Mercer Bay Loop 9am-12pm.**

We are meeting at the end of Log Race Road at **8.30am**. All welcome. Please visit the parish website (Youth/Young Adults section) for more details. Facebook & Instagram if you wish to support the young adults at Our Lady of Lourdes. Contact [Christian Malaitai](mailto:Christian.Malaitai@parish.org) **021 116 8275**



Columban Calendar 2024

*On sale now
at the bookshop
\$12*

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 - \$ 1,013.90

Parish - \$ 1,626.30

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 20 Nov: 1 Macc 1:10-15, 41-43
Lk 18:35-43 Ps 118:53,61,134,150

Tue 21 Nov: 2 Macc 6:18-31
Lk 19:1-10 Ps 3:2-7

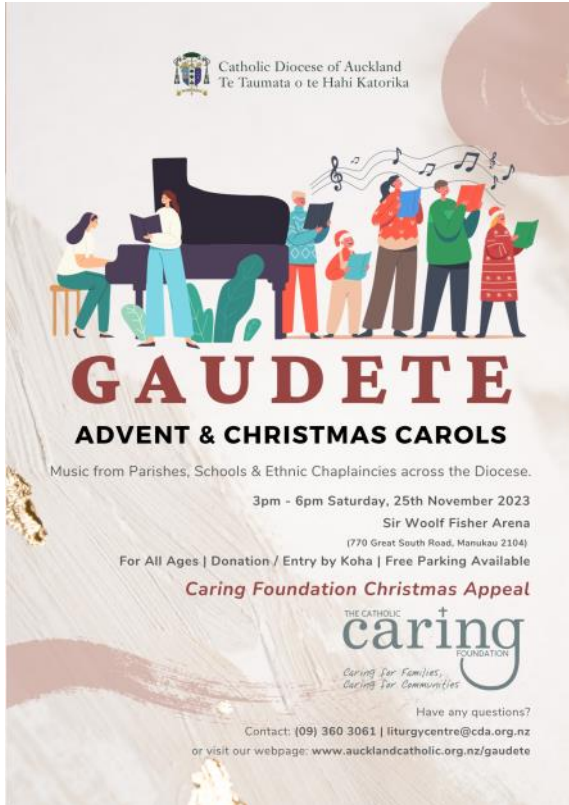
Wed 22 Nov: 2 Macc 7:1, 20-31
Lk 19:11-28 Ps 16:1,5-6,8,15

Thu 23 Nov: 1 Macc 2:15-29
Lk 19:41-44 Ps 49:1-2,5-6,14-15

Fri 24 Nov: 1 Macc 4:36-37, 52-59
Lk 19:45-48 1 Chron 29:10-12

Sat 25 Nov: 1 Macc 6:1-13
Lk 20:27-40 Ps 9:2-4, 6, 16, 19

Sun 26 Nov: Ezek 34:11-12, 15-17
Mt 25:31-46 1Cor 15:20-26, 28
Ps 22:1-3, 5-6



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-5pm (new times)** 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.

Z For Foodbank



Z ~ New Lynn has announced that our parish has earned a total of **\$1,136.00** towards Foodbank.

Thank you all for your support.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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