



Messengers Of The King

Oscar Wilde wrote a beautiful story called *The Happy Prince*. During his life on earth the prince had lived a very sheltered life. When he died the people erected a statue of him in the main square of the capital city. The statue was gilded all over with leaves of gold. It had two sapphires for the eyes and a large red ruby on the handle of the sword.

One cold evening, a little swallow, on its way south, landed at the base of the statue. As he was resting there a few drops of water fell on him. He looked up and saw that the Happy Prince was crying.

'Why are you crying?' the swallow asked.

'When I was alive I saw no suffering. But from my perch up here I see that there is a lot of unhappiness in the world. I would like to help but I can't because my feet are fastened to the pedestal. I need a messenger. Would you be my messenger?'

'But I have to go to Egypt,' the swallow replied.

'Please stay the night with me.'

'Very well, then. What can I do for you?'

'In a room there is a mother tending a sick child. She has no money to pay for a doctor. Take the ruby from my sword and give it to her.'

The swallow removed the ruby with his beak and handed it to the mother who was rejoiced - the doctor came and her child was recovered. The swallow came back and slept soundly.

Next day the prince asked the swallow to stay another night. He asked him to take out one of the sapphires and give it to a little match girl down in the square. She had sold no matches that day and was afraid that her mother would be very upset. Once again the swallow did as he was asked.

As he was running errands of mercy, the swallow's own eyes were opened. He saw how much poverty and suffering there was in the city. He was glad to have stayed with the prince and be his messenger. One by one, at the prince's request, he stripped off the leaves of gold and gave them away to the poor and the needy. He arrived back one evening - the night was very cold.

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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

Parish Music Group



A big thank you to the parish for the support and encouragement leading up to the concert last Saturday. Many thanks, in particular, to those who took time out of their busy schedules and attended the concert. It was lovely seeing you all there! We would like you to join our choir practice every Monday 7pm (in the church) leading up to Christmas Eve as we will be singing at the midnight mass. Please contact [George on 818 2411](tel:8182411).

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.

If you can bring your gear that will be great. We ask for the services of the parish cleaners. For all enquiries please contact:

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

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.

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.**

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.

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.

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 - \$ 988.80

Parish - \$ 1,281.50

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 27 Nov: Dan 1:1-6, 8-20

Lk 21:1-4 Dan 3:52-56

Tue 28 Nov: Dan 2:31-45

Lk 21:5-11 Dan 3:57-61

Wed 29 Nov: Dan 5:1-6, 16-17, 23-28

Lk 21:12-19 Dan 3:62-67

Thu 30 Nov: Rom 10:9-18

Mt 4:18-22 Ps 18:2-5

Fri 01 Dec: Dan 7:2-14

Lk 21:29-33 Dan 3:75-81

Sat 02 Dec: Dan 7:15-27

Lk 21:34-36 Dan 3:82-87

Sun 03 Dec: Is 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8

Cor 1:3-9 Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Mk 13:33-37

(continued.....)

Next morning the swallow was found dead at the base of the statue. By now the statue was bare, having been stripped of all its ornaments. The prince had given away all his riches but he could not have done so without his faithful messenger, the little swallow.

Christ, our King, gave himself totally while he lived on earth. Even as he died, he was still giving to those who were receptive. And from his lofty perch in heaven he surveys the plight of God's children on earth. He needs messengers. He needs us. He has no hands but ours, no feet or tongue but ours. And it is his riches that we are called to dispense - his love, his forgiveness, his mercy, his good news.....

What is involved is helping in simple things - giving a hungry person something to eat, welcoming a stranger or visiting someone who is sick or in prison. To do things such as these one does not have to be either wealthy or talented. All we need is a warm and willing heart.

Everyone can do something - yes, even a little 'swallow'.

FLOR McCARTHY SDB



Come, explore & reflect on the Gospel readings for Advent on Mondays 4th, 11th & 18th December: 6:30pm – 8:00pm in the Parish Hall.

Register with Lyn by 30th November at

lyns@cda.org.nz

Cup of tea/coffee & slice provided

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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