

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

04 February 2024

Response to Suffering

The question of suffering was a big problem in biblical times especially the suffering of the innocent and the just. That is the problem Job was wrestling with (First Reading).

Suffering is still a big problem - sickness, poverty, injustice, hunger, war, oppression, tragedy.....happening in our world today. In the Old Testament suffering was seen as a punishment from God to sin.

What was Jesus' answer to the problem of suffering?

Firstly, Jesus did not regard suffering as a punishment from God. Secondly, he was not sentimental about suffering. He did not like to see people suffer. Thirdly, he did not give an answer as to why we suffer....but what we are able to know is that suffering became an opportunity for Jesus to show what God is like. He reveals the compassion of God in the face of human suffering.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Suffering is challenging and people often wonder how a kind, loving God can allow suffering. The Bible mentions at least 10 things about suffering but we can look at some. Suffering has many faces - it can come due to our foolish choices and actions. Suffering is not random, it is not without purpose. God sovereignly uses circumstances to teach powerful lessons or accomplish His will. We see this in Joseph's tough circumstances where his suffering led to many people being rescued. Suffering teaches us to seek and trust God. "Before I was afflicted, I went astray but now I obey your word." (Psalm 119:67-71).

Suffering matures and equips us - while in the midst of extreme trial, it can be hard to develop mature faith, but the lessons learned can equip a believer for future ministry. New wisdom and maturity are tools God can use. When Christians face trials and tribulations and find God faithful, they have first-hand experience to encourage others in their suffering.

Suffering finds refuge in community - the church is meant to be a refuge for those who hurt, a place where those in various struggles receive the help and support that they need.

Christians are meant to carry each other's burdens.

Christianity.com Oct 2019

PARISH NEWS



Parish Novena

As announced last week, the Parish Novena started Friday 02 Feb and will last until Saturday 10 Feb. Please note that the Rosary and Novena prayers will begin at 6pm followed by mass at 6.30pm during the week. Sat 03 Feb, Sun 04 Feb and Sat 10 Feb the Rosary and Novena prayers will start at 4.30pm followed by mass at 5pm. There will be no Perpetual Succour Novena on Wed 07 February.

Feast Mass

The Feast mass will be celebrated on **Sunday 11 February** at the 10.30am mass. There will be a shared lunch in the parish hall after the mass. Please bring a plate.

Old Palms

Baskets have been placed in the church foyer for the disposal of your old palms which will be used for the preparation of ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Important Dates

Waitangi Day ~ Tuesday 06 Feb

Mass: 9am & 6.30pm

Ash Wednesday ~ 14 Feb

Mass: 9am / 12.15pm / 6.30pm

Stations of the Cross ~ all Fridays during Lent starting Friday 16 Feb at 7pm. Please note that there will be no Stations of the Cross on Friday mornings.

Columban Calendars 2024

Calendars are still available for purchase at the bookshop or Parish office ~ \$12 a copy.

Young Adults Group (18 -35s)

Happy New Year!

Our first session for 2024 will be on **Sunday 11 February** (after the 5pm mass). We will discuss plans for Young Adults including World Youth Day in South Korea in 2027, spiritual and social events, and suggestions for the future of the group.

We encourage all young adults to attend our first session as your input matters. We shall meet every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

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](mailto:Marilyn@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 - \$ 1,021.30

Parish - \$ 1,382.50

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 05 Feb: 1 Kg 8:1-7, 9-13

Ps 131:6-10 Mk 6: 53-56

Tue 06 Feb: 1 Kg 8:22-23, 27-30

Ps 83:3-5 Mk 7:1-13

Wed 07 Feb: 1 Kg 10:1-10

Ps 36:5-6 Mk 7:14-23

Thu 08 Feb: 1 Kg 11:4-13

Ps 105:35-37 Mk 7:24-30

Fri 09 Feb: 1 Kg 11:29-32

Ps 80:10-15 Mk 7:31-37

Sat 10 Feb: 1 Kg 12:26-32

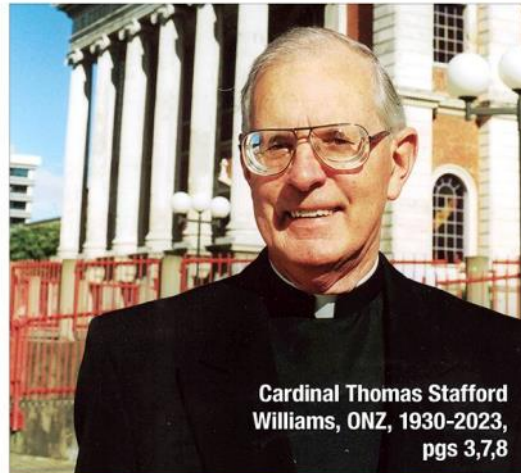
Ps 105:19-22 Mk 8:1-10

Sun 11 Feb: 1 Cor 10:31 - 11:1

Ps 31:1-2, 5, 11

Mk 1:40-45

Vale Cardinal Tom



Cardinal Thomas Stafford
Williams, ONZ, 1930-2023,
pgs 3,7,8

Six times judged Australasia's leading Catholic newspaper

DIOCESE NEWS

St Francis Retreat Centre

Women's Prayer Retreat ~ A reflective prayer retreat in the Catholic tradition for Women. **Friday 16 Feb 5pm - Sun 18 Feb 3pm.** \$330 (standard).

Time Out Days ~ For those who seek a day retreat. 9.30am - 2.30pm \$30 (incl lunch). **Wed 21 Feb / Thurs 21 Mar / Tues 16 Apr.**

Homecoming ~ A Lenten retreat that will reflect on the spiritual implications of Rembrandt's painting and Henri Nouwen's book "The Return of the Prodigal Son" **Friday 22 Mar 7pm - Sun 24 Mar 4.30pm.** Earlybird \$300

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