



The Kindness of Jesus

In biblical times leprosy was believed to be highly contagious. For this reason lepers were forced to live outside the community. They were known as the *untouchables*. (We now know that leprosy is spread not by physical contact but a bacterium). The lepers lived a cold, lonely existence. They had to say goodbye to their home, family and friends. Their life was a living death. People believed they were cursed by God. They considered them to be not only sick but also unclean.

This was the kind of man who approached Jesus He should not have appeared in public without ringing a bell, or shouting a warning. He ran the risk of being chased away with stones. But he was determined to meet the one man he believed would not reject him. Jesus saw the leper approaching and allowed him to come right up to him. Jesus reached out and touched him. It was an act that no doubt shocked onlookers. By touching the leper, it was seen as Jesus becoming unclean himself. Most of us are afraid of the sick and the very poor. We may give a few pennies to a beggar but made sure that there is no contact between us. Yet as human beings we love to be touched. We feel honoured when someone shakes our hands or gives us a pat on the back. Physical contact is precisely what gives people, especially the sick and wounded people, a sense of acceptance. By the very act of touching another person we accept that person exactly as he or she is. Jesus touched lepers, sinners, sick people and the dead. That small gesture meant the world to the leper. He felt he was a human being after all. His body was horribly wounded by leprosy but his spirit was even more wounded by the sense of rejection around him. By touching him Jesus healed his wounded spirit and cured him of leprosy. But Jesus was not finished with him yet. Knowing the great sorrow and indignity he has suffered as a result of family separation and abandonment, he eased his return to society by telling him to show himself to a priest. (The priests were the only people who could officially authenticate his cure). Kindness is almost as important to a sick person as medicine.

When people come out of hospital after an operation or illness, one of the things they always comment is how they were treated by the doctors and nurses.

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PARISH NEWS

Old Palms

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

Important Dates

Ash Wednesday ~ 14th Feb

Mass: 9am / 12.15pm / 6.30pm

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

Columban Calendars

Calendars 2024 are still available for purchase at the bookshop or Parish office. \$12 a copy.

Minimarket

Our first minimarket is on **Sunday 25 February** (after 9am & 10.30am masses) and every 4th Sunday of the month. We would like to bring back the cake stalls as it has always been a success if anyone can be of assistance. Thank you.

Zumba Class

Zumba class is on every Monday 6-7pm in the parish hall. Gold coin donation is appreciated.

Police Vetting Forms

Parishioners who are involved in the church ministry and are subject to a vetting process, please ensure that you are up to date with your vetting applications. The list is on the notice-board. Please email the parish office if there are any changes or if your name is not listed. The vetting forms have been updated, please email the parish office for a copy.

DIOCESE NEWS

Auckland Prayer Breakfast 2024



Date for this year's APB is set for **24 October**. Join with church, NGO, mission, business and other Christian leaders from across the city. \$35 Super Early Bird - closes **Friday 01 March**.

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.

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](tel: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 - \$ 1,367.00

Parish - \$ 1,883.90

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 12 Feb: James 1:1-11

Mk 8:11-13 Ps 118: 67-68, 71-72

Tue 13 Feb: James 1:12-18

Mk 8:14-21 Ps 93:12-15, 18-19

Wed 14 Feb: Joel 2:12-18 (Ash Wed)

Ps 50:3-6 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thu 15 Feb: Deut 30:15-20

Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 9:22-25

Fri 16 Feb: Is 58:1-9

Ps 50:3-6 Mt 9:14-15

Sat 17 Feb: Is 58:9-14

Ps 85:1-6 Lk 5:27-32

Sun 18 Feb: Gen 9:8-15

Ps 24:4-9 1 Pet 3:18-22

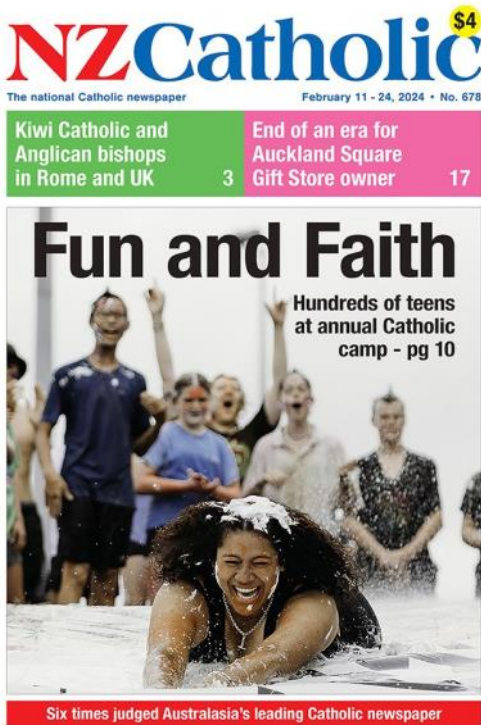
Mk 1:12-15

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Jesus had told the leper to keep quiet about his cure. But he broadcast everywhere what Jesus had done for him. And it was not just the fact that Jesus had cured him that he spoke about, but the astonishing kindness and respect with which he had treated him.

It is amazing what people can do for people. People can rekindle hope, bring back the zest for living, restore self-respect and pride. We can even mirror the infinite compassion of God.

FLOR McCARTHY SDB



School Open Days 2024

Please check the noticeboard for all Open Days happening around Auckland.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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