

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



First Sunday of Lent

18 February 2024

Clothing Ourselves in Newness of Life

Once a king was walking through the streets of the capital city when he came upon a beggar. The beggar asked him for money. But the king did not give him any money. Instead, he invited him to visit him in his palace. The beggar took up the king's offer. On the appointed day he made his way to the royal palace and was duly ushered into the king's presence. As he approached the king, he became acutely conscious of his rags and felt ashamed of them. Those rags were an eloquent symbol of the misery and wretchedness of his life.

The king, an exceptionally kind man, received him warmly, took pity on him and among other things gave him a new suit of clothes. The beggar departed the royal palace in good spirits. However, a few days later he was back begging on the streets, dressed in his old rags.

Why did he give up the new suit?

Because he knew that if he wore it, he would have to give up the life of a beggar and make a new life for himself. This is something he was not prepared to do. It wasn't that the new life didn't appeal to him, it was just that he knew it would involve painful changes in his behaviour and way of living.

In his love for us, God is continually calling us to a deeper and more authentic life. To answer God's call would involve painful changes in our way of living.

Here is where Lent comes to our aid. Lent is a window of opportunity and a time of special grace. On the first Sunday of Lent, the liturgy puts before us the tempting of Jesus. Because Jesus shared our humanity, he was tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin. Though Jesus was victorious over temptation, we may think that it was easy for him. It wasn't. He triumphed over Satan through prayer, fasting and obedience to the word of God.

Lent is an opportunity to look at our lives. It challenges us to change what needs to be changed. The change of heart to which Lent calls us can be accomplished most of all through the power of prayer. Through prayer, the power of Christ becomes available to us. Lent is also a time of joy, because we are preparing for Easter. It challenges us to clothe ourselves in newness of life so that when Easter comes, we will feel young again in our discipleship.

Flor McCarthy SDB

PARISH NEWS

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent at 7pm.

Minimarket

Our first minimarket is on **Sunday 25 February** (after 9am & 10.30am masses) and every 4th Sunday of the month. If anyone could be of assistance for the cake stalls this would be much appreciated. Thank you.

Commemorative Plaque

In loving memory of our dear friend and parishioner, David Cockerton (1931-2023) the plaque unveiling ceremony will be on **Sunday 25 February** (after the 10.30am mass) in the church garden.
Forever loved and sadly missed.

Police Vetting Forms

Parishioners who are subject to a vetting process, please ensure that you are up to date with your vetting applications. The list is on the noticeboard. Email the parish office if there are any changes and for an updated application form.

Important: please take note of the expiry date of your application as no reminders will be sent out.

DIOCESE NEWS

Ministry Workshops

The Liturgy Centre is offering liturgical ministry workshops across the deaneries which will cover training/ refreshers for **Ministers of the Word** and **Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion**. These workshops will consist of context, prayer and practical formation in these areas. The workshop will be held at our parish **Sunday 10 March 2024** (1pm-3pm) in the church. A light lunch will be served in the hall. Upon completion, a certificate will be presented to you at mass on a chosen date and time (determined by your parish). Register via the link below or email the parish office if you are interested.
www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/liturgy-prayer/formation/

Marriage Day Celebration

This year World Marriage Day was celebrated on February 11. In his 2023 apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love) Pope Francis said: "Marriage based on an exclusive and definitive love becomes an icon of the relationship between God and his people and vice versa. God's way of loving becomes the measure of human love."

The Parish Marriage Day mass will be celebrated **Sunday 18 February** at the 10.30am mass with the esteemed presence of Marriage Educators Jon & Gerry Smith.

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.**

Divine Mercy Devotion

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass ~ **Friday 01 March 7pm** 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.

Young Leaders' Commissioning Mass

Join us as we begin another grace-filled year of youth ministry in the Diocese. Bishop Steve will be commissioning young leaders as they are sent out for ministry in 2024 ~ **Sunday 25 February 7pm** at St Patrick's Cathedral. Please join us to support our young leaders.

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 - \$ 1,312.50

Parish - \$ 2,377.00

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 19 Feb: Lev 19:1-2, 11-18

Mt 25:31-46 Ps 18: 8-10, 15

Tue 20 Feb: Is 55:10-11

Mt 6:7-15 Ps 33:4-7, 16-19

Wed 21 Feb: Jonah 3:1-10

Lk 11:29-32 Ps 50:3-4, 12-13, 18-19

Thu 22 Feb: 1 Pet 5:1-4

Ps 22: Mt 16:13-19

Fri 23 Feb: Ezek 18:21-28

Ps 129 Mt 5:20-26

Sat 24 Feb: Deut 26:16-19

Mt 5:43-48 Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 7-8

Sun 25 Feb: Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

Rom 8:31-34 Ps 115:10, 15-19

Mk 9:2-10

School Open Days 2024

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

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**.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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