

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



Fifth Sunday of Lent

17 March 2024

## *Human Vulnerability*

Some people insist that their hero must never show any sign of weakness or display hesitation, doubt, uncertainty or fear. The hero must at all times and in all circumstances be strong, brave and unflinching. But real heroes are not like that. To take just one example - Martin Luther King was the leader of civil rights movement in America. A (difficult) task which brought him hardships, insults, imprisonment and threat to his life. In the end it claimed his life - he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

During that struggle he knew many low moments. He tells how one night he had reached rock bottom. His home had been bombed. As a result he felt he could not go on. He was tired of the insults and injuries. In this state of exhaustion and despair, he threw himself on his knees before God and prayed.

'Lord, I have taken a stand for what I believe is right. But now I am afraid. The people are looking to me for leadership. If I stand before them without strength and courage, they too will falter. But I am at the end of my powers. I have nothing left. I cannot face it any longer.'

He says that at that moment he experienced the presence of God in a way he had never experienced before. That experience enabled him to continue the struggle. Martin Luther King is no less a hero because he showed that he wasn't made of stone. When we meet someone who is hesitant, reluctant and fearful, we find that person in alignment with who we are as human beings. We love to see the human being behind the hero.

Jesus himself did not go to his death with great assurance. He had his lowest moment in the garden of Gethsemane. St John has no account of the agony in the garden in his Gospel but we catch an echo of the passion in today's Gospel where Jesus says, 'Now my soul is troubled.'

Up to this point Jesus had gone resolutely to his fate. But now that the dreadful moment has come, he was not contemplating suffering and death with a stoical calm.

So from where did Jesus get the strength to face it?

He got it from praying which means he got it from God.

'A person without fear is no hero; the person who overcomes fear is.' (Alexander Solzhenitsyn).

*(continued on the back page)*

## PARISH NEWS

### **Palm Sunday**



There will be a procession (**only applies to the 9am mass**) around the church with palms preceding the mass on **Sunday 24 March**. Please bring your own palm to be blessed.

### **Holy Week & Easter**

#### **Holy Thursday**

**7pm:** Mass of the Lord's Supper

**Adoration at Altar of Repose** in the Parish classroom till 11pm.

#### **Good Friday**



**9am:** Stations of the Cross (in church)

**10.30am:** Stations of the Cross (in church)

**3pm:** The Passion of the Lord

#### **Holy Saturday**

**7pm:** Easter Vigil

### **Easter Sunday**



**9am & 10.30am** masses  
(No 5pm mass)

### **Easter Monday**

**9am** mass

### **Parish Reconciliation**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a most natural way to celebrate God's forgiveness and love - **Thurs 21 March 7pm** (in church). Mass will be at 6.30pm as usual.

### **Sacramental Programme 2024**

The Sacramental Programme will begin **Sunday 12 May 2024**. We invite all parents who are interested in enrolling their child/children to fill in a form available from the church foyer or apply online from our website (front page). Alternatively, you can email the Parish office for a copy:

[ourladyoflourdes@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ourladyoflourdes@xtra.co.nz)

**Important** - All enrolment forms must be returned before or by **Monday 29 April 2024**. **No late enrolments will be accepted.**

### 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.**

### The Book of Job

Dr Israel McGrew (PhD Asst Prof of Sacred Scripture) will be giving a lecture on *The Book of Job - 5 Things to Know Before Reading* **Wed 20 March 6pm-8.30pm** at Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College, 40 Vermont St, Ponsonby. For more info please email Jelvine Cortez: [j.cortez@tekupenga.org.nz](mailto:j.cortez@tekupenga.org.nz) or go to the website [www.tekupenga.ac.nz](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz) Zoom link available.

### Stations of the Cross Procession

You are invited to a procession on **Good Friday 29 March** which will start at Albert Park Rotunda 9am and will conclude at St Patrick's Cathedral 11am. Join us for this powerful public witness of faith through the streets of Auckland. For more info please email Sam: [samuelb@cda.org.nz](mailto:samuelb@cda.org.nz)

**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 - \$ 1,371.30**

**Parish - \$ 2,309.70**

**Thank you for your generosity.**

### Readings For The Upcoming Week

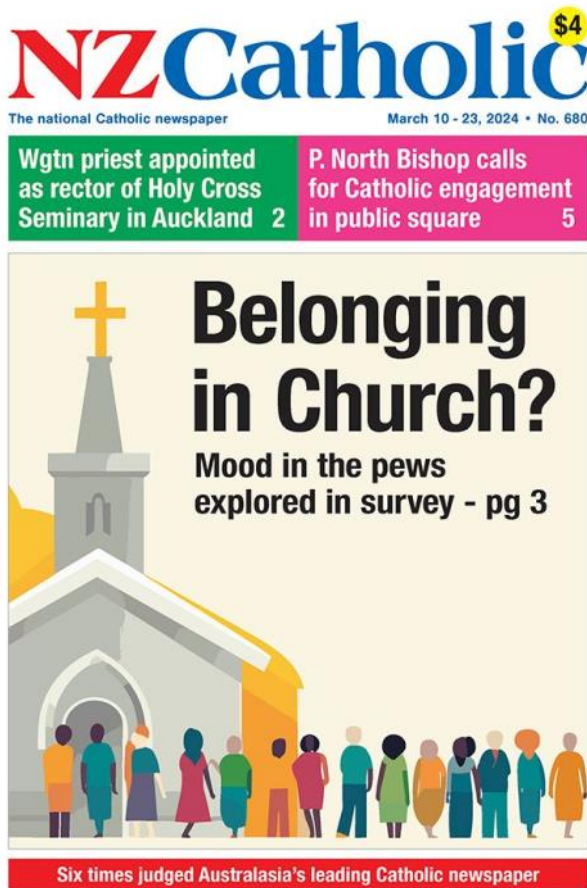
**Mon 18 Mar:** Jer 1:4-9  
Acts 13:46-49 Lk 10:1-12, 17-20  
**Tue 19 Mar:** Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22  
Mt 1:16, 18-21 Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29  
**Wed 20 Mar:** Dan 3:14-20, 24-25  
Dan 3:52-56 Jn 8:31-42  
**Thu 21 Mar:** Gen 17:3-9  
Jn 8:51-59 Ps 104:4-9  
**Fri 22 Mar:** Jer 20:10-13  
Jn 10:31-42 Ps 17:2-7  
**Sat 23 Mar:** Jer 31:10-13  
Ezek 37:21-28 Jn 11:45-56  
**Sun 24 Mar:** Is 50:4-7  
1 Cor 1:22-25 Ps 21:8-9, 17-20  
Phil 2:6-11 Mk 14:1 - 15:47

*(continued.....)*

In some respect the agony in the garden is the most comforting part of the Gospel because it shows Jesus at his most human. His agony gives us comfort and hope in our low moments. We must not hide our vulnerability and fear.

Like Jesus and Martin Luther King we must turn to God in heartfelt prayer. And we must also seek the support of others as Jesus did when he asked Peter, James and John to watch and pray with him.

**Flor McCarthy SDB**



### Young Adults

Meetings every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month (after 5pm mass). Next meeting is on **Sunday 24 March**.

**Saturday 20 April** - Board Games & Movie Night: **Silence (2016)** featuring Andrew Garfield and Adam Driver. It is about two Jesuit priests who travel to Japan to locate their mentor.

Everyone is welcome to attend. For more info, please visit the Parish website (Youth/Young Adults section) or follow our Social Media (@ourladyoflourdesgleneden).

### **OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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**Web:** www.glenedencatholic.org.nz

**Facebook:** Glen Eden Catholic Church

### **Priests Contacts:**

**Parish Priest:** Fr Paul Helsham OFM Cap  
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#### **Asst Parish Priests:**

Fr Boniface Kujur OFM Cap  
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Fr Rajat Dungdung OFM Cap  
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#### **Deacon:**

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