

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



Divine Mercy Sunday

07 April 2024

## *Learning from Thomas*

We tend to think that believing was easier for those who saw Jesus than it is for us. This is a mistake. The Gospels show that there were many people who saw Jesus and yet did not believe in him. Seeing is not necessarily believing. The act of faith involves a decision to believe.

In fact, the Gospels show that even the apostles had problems believing. Thomas was not the only apostle to doubt the resurrection. All of them did.

St Mark tells us that when Jesus appeared to the eleven apostles on Easter evening, 'he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.' (Mark 16:14).

We tend to feel guilty about having doubts. Doubt is often looked upon as a sign of weakness. But doubt is not necessarily a bad thing. The poet, Tennyson, 'There lives more faith in honest doubt than in half the creeds.' And Thomas Merton says, 'The person of faith who has never experienced doubt is not a person of faith.'

The example of Thomas is both enlightening and encouraging for us. Thomas showed a refreshing honesty. He made no attempt to hide his doubts. He was not with the other apostles the first time Jesus appeared to them. When they said to him, 'We have seen the Lord', he said, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into those holes, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.'

What was it that reawakened the faith of the apostles and of Thomas in particular? It was the appearance of the risen Lord. And having reawakened their faith, Jesus gave them a mission - to continue the work of salvation through the forgiveness of sins. And paradoxically, from the lips of a 'doubting Thomas' came the highest profession of faith in all of the Gospels: 'My Lord and my God.' Thomas must not be defined by that period of doubt. That was only one moment of his life. Having come through his crisis of faith, he went on to become one of the greatest missionaries of the early Church. According to tradition, he brought the Gospel to Persia, Syria and India where he was martyred. Thomas was the first of the apostles to die for the faith.

*(continued on the back page)*

## PARISH NEWS

**Holy Places collection: \$2,440.90**

**Easter Offering: \$1,040.00**

### Divine Mercy Sunday



#### The Feast of Mercy - 07 April 2024.

*"I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners.*

*On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy.*

*The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.*

*On that day are open all the divine floodgates through which graces flow.*  
(Diary, 699).

There will be Adoration and Benediction in church from **2pm to 4pm**. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be prayed at 3pm. All welcome.

### Tax Receipts YE310324

Please note that donations (envelopes) received during Holy Week (ending Easter Sunday inclusive) will not be included in your tax receipt this year. It will be counted towards next year. As Easter, this year, clashes with the end of the financial year, the bank was closed from Good Friday to Easter Sunday (being the last day of the financial year).

For online donations the bank has acknowledged receipts up until 28th March 2024 inclusive.

### Legion of Mary

**Active** members attend praesidium meetings and do 2 hours of active work every week. **Auxiliary** members don't attend meetings but pray the rosary daily with the addition of Legion prayers. If you are interested in becoming an **Active** or **Auxiliary** member, please contact [Christian Malaitai](mailto:ChristianMalaitai@gmail.com) on [021 116 8275](tel:0211168275) or send an email to [cmalaitai@gmail.com](mailto:cmalaitai@gmail.com)

### Sacramental Programme 2024

The Sacramental Programme will begin **Sunday 12 May 2024**. We invite all parents who are interested in enrolling their child(ren) to fill in a form available from the church foyer or to apply online from our website (front page).

**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.**

### 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 - \$ 2,548.30**

**Parish - \$ 4,837.00**

**Thank you for your generosity.**

### Readings For The Upcoming Week

**Mon 08 Apr:** Is 7:10-14, 8:10

Lk 1:26-38 Ps 39:7-11

**Tue 09 Apr:** Acts 4:32-37

Jn 3:7-15 Ps 91:1-2, 5

**Wed 10 Apr:** Acts 5:17-26

Jn 3:16-21 Ps 33:2-9

**Thu 11 Apr:** Acts 5:27-33

Jn 3:31-36 Ps 33:2, 9, 17-20

**Fri 12 Apr:** Acts 5:34-42

Jn 6:1-15 Ps 26:1-4, 13-14

**Sat 13 Apr:** Acts 6:1-7

Jn 6:16-21 Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

**Sun 14 Apr:** Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

1 Jn 2:1-5 Ps 4:2, 4, 5, 9

Lk 24:35-48

**(continued.....)**

The story of Thomas shows that doubt can be a growing point, a stepping stone to a deeper understanding. Here on earth, there is no such a thing as absolute certainty about spiritual things. If there were, faith would not be necessary.

Jesus invites us to draw close to him in faith and to look at his wounds. Even though we cannot touch him physically, we can draw close to him spiritually. And we too are called to bear witness to others. Our task is to make Christ 'visible' in the world. The world today is full of doubters and unbelievers. The only way they will be converted to belief is if they can 'see' Jesus and 'touch' him.

To a believer in today's world can be a lonely business. This is where the community comes in. From earliest times, Christians came together in community to witness Jesus' resurrection and to live by his teachings. They supported one another by praying and worshipping together, and by a loving service of one another.

**Flor McCarthy SDB**



### **Young Adults Group**

### **Saints' relics to visit NZ**

**Board Games & Movie Night: *Silence* (2016) Saturday 20 April (6.30pm - 10.30pm).** Poster is on the noticeboard.

**Next Session: Sunday 12 May (after 5pm mass).**

Thank you to all those who were able to come to the Adoration during Lent at Mount St Mary's, Titirangi. Perpetual Adoration is still available for everyone 7 days a week.

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

7 Glendale Rd, Glen Eden

**Ph:** 818-6325

**Office hours:** 9am to 3pm (Mon-Fri)

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### **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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