



Behind Closed Doors

Jesus' crucifixion dealt a shattering blow to his disciples. On Easter Sunday evening we find them gathered in the upper room, not daring to go out.

The room was haunted by absence and full of bittersweet memories. It was here Jesus had washed their feet and celebrated the last supper with them. And it was there too that they had sworn loyalty to him, a loyalty that did not even see the night through. As a result of their cowardice and betrayal, they were overcome with guilt.

Jesus didn't wait for them to come to him. He came to them. In one bold move he broke through the barrier they had erected around themselves and stood among them. At first they thought he was a ghost. But the risen Christ is no phantom. He appeared to the disciples in the same body that was tortured and crucified. Yet this authentic, real body possessed new properties - *it is no longer subject to the ordinary laws of nature.*

His approach was ever so gentle. He did not blame them or even scold them for failing him. He knew how they were feeling, so he did not rub salt into their wounds. Instead, he said these simple but magical words, '*Peace be with you.*'

This was no mere greeting. This was a statement of fact, not a wish. This was the fulfilment of what he said to them at the last supper: '*Peace I leave with to you; my peace I give unto you. A peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.*' (Jn 14:27)

In receiving his peace, they received his forgiveness.

Then he showed them his hands and side that still bore the wound marks inflicted during his crucifixion. Why did he do this?

Those wound marks enabled them to identify him as the same one who died. On realizing that indeed it was Jesus, the disciples were filled with joy. Thus another promise he made to them at the last supper was fulfilled: '*Now is your time of grief but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.*' (Jn 16:21-22)

Gradually the greatness of what had happened sunk in: the humble Jesus had triumphed over all the evil forces that had been arrayed against him. Death had been overcome. Good had triumphed, love had triumphed and life had triumphed. Their sins were forgiven and their discipleship restored.

Then he commissioned them to preach reconciliation, forgiveness, healing and salvation in his name to all the nations.

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PARISH NEWS

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.

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.**

DIOCESE NEWS

Dove Catholic Fellowship

Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women, is celebrating 40 years of ministry to the women of New Zealand.

There are celebration days planned in North Shore, Hamilton and Nelson.

For more info, please visit our website: www.dove.org.nz or look for us on Facebook.

Safeguarding Workshop

Safeguarding training is a policy requirement of the Catholic Diocese of Auckland and the National Office for Professional Standards (NOPS) for those volunteers working with children, youth and vulnerable adults.

Holy Cross Parish (2 Lavelle Road, Henderson) is holding a Safeguarding Workshop **Tuesday 30 April 7pm**. All welcome. Poster is on the noticeboard.

RSVP by Thursday 25 April to Lisa-May Gray (coordinator) Lisam@cda.org.nz

St Francis Retreat Centre

Lenses of Love ~ Come, meet and listen to Nina Talau - **Monday 22 April 7pm** - as she shares her story and experiences, answering God's call for her in consecrated life and as a missionary in the Middle East. Light refreshments will be served. Koha/Donation.

RSVP emily@sfrc.org.nz

Time Out Days ~ For those who seek a day retreat - **Tues 16 April / Wed 15 May / Thurs 27 June** 9.30am - 2.30pm (\$30 incl lunch)

24Hr Quietude ~ For those who seek a short retreat - **17 & 18 May / 12 & 13 July (Fri 7pm - Sat 7pm)** (\$120pp incl accommodation & food).

~ Let Peace be with you ~

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.**

Anzac Day

Ode of Remembrance



They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.

Mass times

9am & 6.30pm

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, Aaron Ablan,
Fata Peter & Lenora Fuiava,
Priscilla Fernandes, Nellie Lemusu-Kea,
Joy Rapcsak, Gerard Hoover.

Last Week's Collection:

House - \$ 1,137.10

Parish - \$ 1,845.30

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 15 Apr: Acts 6:8-15
Jn 6:22-29 Ps 118:23-24, 26-27
Tue 16 Apr: Acts 7:51- 8:1
Jn 6:30-35 Ps 30:3-4, 6-8, 17, 21
Wed 17 Apr: Acts 8:1-8
Jn 6:35-40 Ps 65:1-7
Thu 18 Apr: Acts 8:26-40
Jn 6:44-51 Ps 65:8-9, 16-17, 20
Fri 19 Apr: Acts 9:1-20
Jn 6:52-59 Ps 116
Sat 20 Apr: Acts 9:31-42
Jn 6:60-69 Ps 115:12-17
Sun 21 Apr: Acts 4:8-12
1 Jn 3:1-2 Jn 10:11-18
Ps 117:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29

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Imbued with fortitude, those frightened disciples were able to unlock the door and to set out for the ends of the earth.

Like the apostles we often stand within our barricades, our high walls of fear. We must allow the risen Christ to enter and speak his words of peace to us.

At Sunday mass, we relive the experience of the apostles on the evening of Easter when the risen Lord appeared to them and greeted them with the words, 'Peace be with you.' Christians do not just believe that Jesus rose, but that he is alive today. He is not a heroic figure of the past, but a living person. He is not a memory but a presence. Growth in Easter faith comes not so much from analyzing evidence in favour of the resurrection, but from experiencing the risen Christ in worship with others.

Flor McCarthy SDB



Young Adults Group

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)

E-mail: ourladyoflourdes@xtra.co.nz

Web: www.glenedencatholic.org.nz

Facebook: Glen Eden Catholic Church

Priests Contacts:

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Helsham OFM Cap
E:paulhelsham@gmail.com

Asst Parish Priests:

Fr Boniface Kujur OFM Cap
E:bonikujur1969@gmail.com
Fr Rajat Dungdung OFM Cap
E:rajatcap@yahoo.com

Deacon:

Robert Mitchell
E:robertmitchell1410@gmail.com