



The Hour of Departure

In order to fully understand a statement we need to know the context in which it was made. Take Jesus' statement to his apostles; 'I am the vine, you are the branches.' This is a beautiful image of unity and interdependence: the vine and its branches are one. When we look at the context in which Jesus spoke these words, most likely we will appreciate the beauty of this image all the more. Whether he spoke these words to his apostles towards the end of the last supper or more likely on the way to the garden of Gethsemane, he spoke them the night before his death.

It was a night when everything seemed to be breaking up, falling apart and ending. Jesus foresaw that they would abandon him later that night. He foresaw that Peter would deny him and that Judas would betray him. Betrayal is a terrible thing.

At first it seems strange to talk about unity. In spite of these upheavals, yet this was the night he chose to speak about unity and togetherness. But upon reflection we see that it was a most appropriate time. Jesus had been telling them that he was 'going away.' They knew what he meant - he was going to his death. They were overcome with sorrow.

This then was the hour of departure that causes us to focus on the essentials. The hour of parting is a painful hour. But it can also be a blessed hour, because it is an hour of heightened sensibility. In normal times, we are reluctant to express our deepest feelings lest we be considered soft, but at the hour of parting those feelings come gushing out in spite of us.

'Love knows not its own depth until the hour of separation'. (Kahlil Gibran).

So it was for Jesus. It was the hour of separation. At this lonely moment, Jesus felt close to his apostles. And he let them know this.

This was a difficult night for the apostles. It was a night filled with confusion and fear. It was a night where their weakness and cowardice were going to be confronted when they were presently confronted with the demands of unity and solidarity.

The apostles learned a lot about themselves that night. But they learned even more about Jesus. They learned that he loved them regardless of their weaknesses.

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PARISH NEWS

Tax Receipts YE310324

Tax receipts 2024 are readily available from the church foyer.

We are asking everyone to pick up their tax receipts - it helps greatly in reducing the amount of tax receipts that are left behind every year.

Thank you.

Children's Liturgy

We have introduced the Children's Liturgy on our website. While we do encourage parents to bring their children to mass, this could help those who are unable to attend mass on a Sunday. These Gospel reflections, prayers and activities will help the children to explore their faith. These resources will also be available during school holidays.

Sacramental Programme 2024

Last date for enrolment - **Monday 29 April 2024**. No late enrolments will be accepted. Forms are available in the church foyer or apply through our website.

DIOCESE NEWS

Titipounamu Study & Joy

Bible Stories - What do they mean?

Join us in unravelling Bible stories and looking for answers within a group, and with Bible Scholar Kieran Fenn fms.

Sunday 05 May 2024 5pm-6pm

(Zoom). Koha.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/01/19/bible-stories-what-do-they-mean/>

The Mystery of Miracles

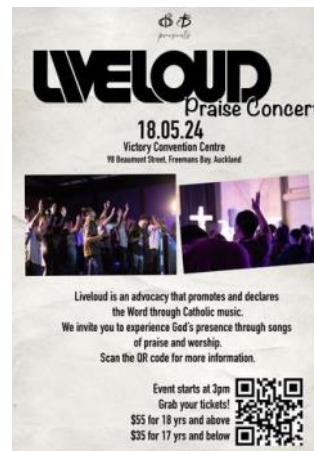
Monday 29 April 2024 7pm-8.30pm
\$25 session including study material.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/01/11/the-mystery-of-miracles/>

For more info: www.studyjoy.nz

Couples For Christ

Established in 2009, **Liveloud** is an advocacy that promotes and declares the Word through Catholic music.



The band was one of the few groups chosen to perform on World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon.

Join us for this extraordinary event where you will have the opportunity to deepen your relationship with Christ through

worship and fellowship. This event promises to be a spiritually enriching experience where we can connect with members of other parishes and youth groups.

Saturday 18 May 2024 3pm at Victory Convention Centre, 98 Beaumont Street, Freemans Bay.

Tickets can be purchased through the link below.

Tickets: \$55 (18 & over)
\$35 (17 & under)

www.couplesforchrist.nz/registration/2024LiveloudAKL.html

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

Last Week's Collection:

House - \$ 1,306.20

Parish - \$ 2,240.40

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 29 Apr: Acts 14:5-18
Jn 14:21-26 Ps 113:1-4, 15-16

Tue 30 Apr: Acts 14:19-28
Jn 14:27-31 Ps 144:10-13, 21

Wed 01 May: Acts 15:1-6
Jn 15:1-8 Ps 121:1-5

Thu 02 May: Acts 15:7-21
Jn 15:9-11 Ps 95:1-3, 10

Fri 03 May: 1 Cor 15:1-8
Jn 14:6-14 Ps 18:2-5

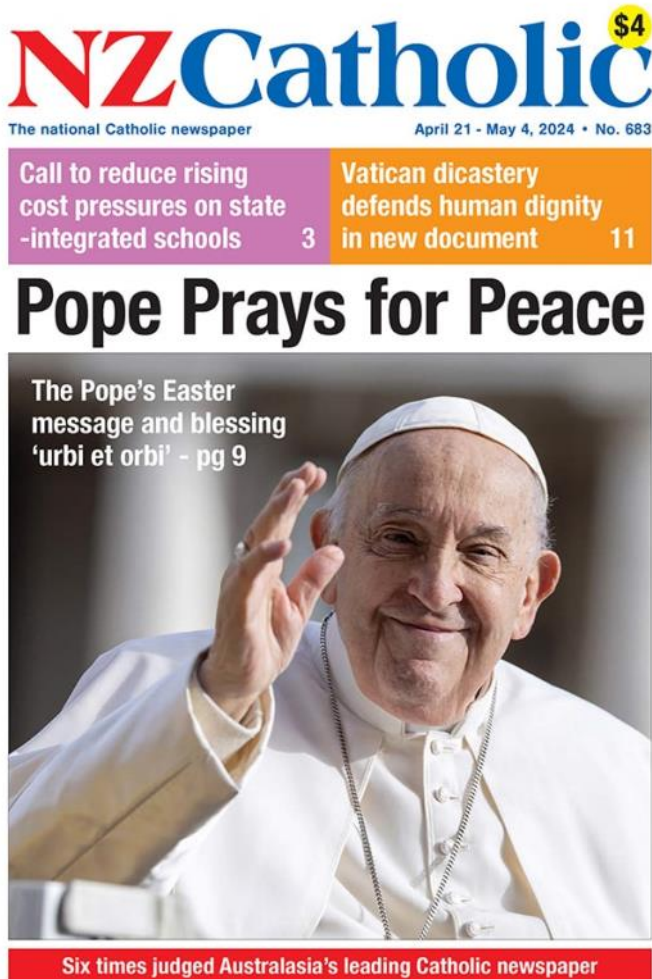
Sat 04 May: Acts 16:1-10
Jn 15:18-21 Ps 99:1-3, 5

Sun 05 May: Ps 97:1-4
1 Jn 4:7-10 Jn 17:11-19
Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

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If they should ever get separated from him, it would not be because he had cut them off. Far from being ended by the events of that night, their bond with Jesus would be strengthened. This was due, not to their faithfulness to him, but to his faithfulness to them. It is through facing struggle, danger and sacrifice that unity grows and deepens. There is more depth to a relationship that has weathered some storms.

Flor McCarthy SDB



Auckland Catholic Singles Social Group



The next event for the Catholic Singles 30s & 40s group will be on **Saturday 11 May 7.30pm** at *Pasta & Cuore* in Mt Eden. Dinner followed by karaoke (for those who feel brave!).

For further enquiries and booking, please email Marie-Claire:

aklcatholicsinglesocialgroup@gmail.com

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