

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



Sixth Sunday of Easter

05 May 2024

## *Where Love Is, God Is*

In a Swiss village there is a small church that has been used by generations of worshippers. Even though it is no work of art, the local people have always had a special affection for it. What is it that makes it so special to them? It is the story of how it came to be built on that particular spot. Here is the whole story.

Two brothers worked a family farm, sharing the produce and profit. One was married, the other wasn't. The climate was harsh with the result that grains were sometimes scarce.

One day the single brother said to himself, 'It is not fair that we should share the produce equally. I am alone, but my brother has a family to support.'

So every now and then he would go out at night, take a sack of grain from his own barn, quietly cross the field between their houses, and place it in his brother's bin. Meanwhile, his brother had a similar idea, and said to himself, 'It is not right that we should share the produce equally. I have a family to support me but my brother is all alone.'

So every now and then he would go out at night, take a sack of grain from his barn, and quietly place it in his brother's bin.

This went on for a number of years. Each brother was puzzled as to why his supply of grain never dwindled. Then one night they bumped into each other in the dark. When they realized what had been happening, they dropped their sacks and embraced each other. Suddenly a voice from heaven said, 'Here I will build my church. For where people meet in love, there my presence shall dwell.'

What is the purpose of life?

*'And we are put on this earth a little space that we might learn to bear the beams of love'* (William Blake).

But we cannot give love unless we have first received it. A radiator cannot give out heat unless it has first received heat. This was true even of Jesus. He said to his disciples. 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.' The love he shared so generously with his disciples and with the people at large, was the love he had received from his Father.

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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.**

## DIOCESE NEWS

### 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](mailto:aklcatholicsinglesocialgroup@gmail.com)

### May - Month of Mary

**Let's talk about Mary** - join Sr Siân Owen **Wed 08 May 7.30pm** Poynton Room, Pompallier Diocesan Centre and on Zoom for an opportunity to explore Mary, missionary disciple. Please register:

[pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz](mailto:pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz)

### Mass of the Neophytes

On Pentecost Sunday - **19 May 4.30pm** - there will be a Mass of Welcome at St Patrick's Cathedral to give thanks for the gift of faith. Bishop Steve and the diocesan community invite all those baptized at Easter (or at other times) with their godparents and those received into full communion in the last 12 months to attend. RSVP is not required but it would be appreciated if we had an indication of the number of neophytes attending.

[pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz](mailto:pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz)



### Marriage Educators

Marriage & Family Life Ministry at the Diocese is seeking married couples of 5 years (or more) who would like to train as Marriage Educators to prepare engaged couples for marriage in the church. This is a very rewarding and significant role. If interested, please call [Gerry 021 022 47442](tel:02102247442) or email [gerrys@cda.org.nz](mailto:gerrys@cda.org.nz)

### 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.**

### 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.

### NZSL Week 06-12 May 2024

Theme for this year is "*an Aotearoa where anyone can sign anywhere*" inspired by World Federation of the Deaf.



### NZSL Gospel Readings

The Gospel for each day is uploaded in the NZ Sign Language by the Diocese through the [Auckland Catholic Deaf Community Facebook](#) page.

**If you wish to place a notice in our parish newsletter, please email the parish office by Wednesday.**

### Last Week's Collection:

**House - \$ 1,464.80**

**Parish - \$ 2,457.60**

**Thank you for your generosity.**

### Readings For The Upcoming Week

**Mon 06 May:** Acts 16:11-15

Ps 149:1-6 Jn 15:26 - 16:4

**Tue 07 May:** Acts 16:22-34

Jn 16:5-11 Ps 137:1-3, 7-8

**Wed 08 May:** Acts 17:15,22 - 18:1

Jn 16:12-15 Ps 148:1-2, 11-14

**Thu 09 May:** Acts 18:1-8

Jn 16:16-20 Ps 97:1-4

**Fri 10 May:** Acts 18:9-18

Jn 16:20-23 Ps 46:2-7

**Sat 11 May:** Acts 18:23-28

Jn 16:23-28 Ps 46:2-3, 8-10

**Sun 12 May:** Acts 1:1-11

Eph 1:17-23 Ps 46:2-3, 6-9

Mk 16:15-20

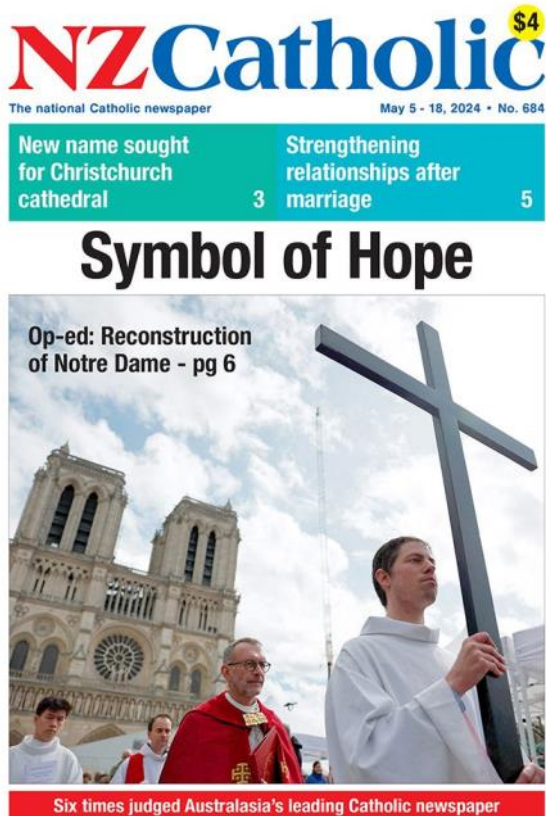
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As far as God's love is concerned, we don't have to earn it. It is God who first loved us. God loves us, not because we are good, but because he is good. Our very existence is a sign of God's love. All we have to do is receive it and then try to share it with others. Love is well being. To love is to begin to live. The way of love is the way of the cross, and it is only through the cross that we come to the resurrection. There is nothing terrible about suffering a bit on earth if it has taught us how to love.

There is a prayer which says: 'Lord, don't let me die yet, because I haven't loved enough.'

It is prayer we might make our own.

**Flor Carthy SDB**



### **Homestays for Students**

The Diocese has a few pre-seminary students from Vietnam discerning vocations to the priesthood. They are learning English with a view to entering our seminary at the start of 2025. They need homestay hosts for the next 8-10 months. The Diocese will cover the full cost of their board. If you are able to offer them a supportive home with a room of their own, please email Alison: [alisonm@cda.org.nz](mailto:alisonm@cda.org.nz) or phone [\(09\) 360 3003](tel:(09)3603003).

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

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**Web:** [www.glenedencatholic.org.nz](http://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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