

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

09 June 2024

Refusing to Abandon His Mission

In today's gospel passage we see some of the frustrations Jesus had to contend with. He had to grapple with constant opposition from his enemies. On top of that there was a misunderstanding from his own family.

In his Gospel, St Mark portrays Jesus as constantly surrounded by a crowd of needy people. So many wanted to touch him that at times he was in danger of being crushed (Mk 3:9). Things got so bad that Jesus could not even have a meal in peace.

News of all this reached Nazareth. Worried about the direction his life had taken, his relatives set out to rescue him and bring him back home. They were fearing for his safety, and even doubted his sanity.

When they arrived outside the house where he was preaching, their worst fears were confirmed. So many people had gathered that they couldn't even get into the house. It was a chaotic scene. We don't often think of Jesus' ministry like that. Yet this is the scene that Mark presents us with.

They had sent a message to Jesus; 'Your mother, brothers and sisters are outside asking for you.' On hearing this he replied, 'Looking around at those sitting in a circle around me, they are my brothers and sisters. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister.'

When Jesus left Nazareth to begin his public ministry, he 'lost' his natural family. But in the meantime he had gained another family - the family of his disciples.

Relatives are not always the people to whom we are closest. Blood relationship is important but it is not everything. It does not automatically confer closeness. The natural family is only the beginning.

Jesus refused to go back home with his relatives. Even his mother couldn't prevail upon him to do so. It can't have been easy for him to say no to his relatives and especially to his mother. Mary must have felt it. But all parents have to learn this painful lesson - to let go of their children.

It must have been tempting for Jesus to go back to the peace and quiet of Nazareth. His mission was proving frustrating.

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DIOCESE NEWS

Young Adults Ball 2024

The theme for this year is *Wonderland*.
Saturday 14 September 7pm-11pm
at Muhughs of Cheltenham,
46 Cheltenham Rd, Auckland.
Early bird tickets on sale now.
Go to [AKCYM Facebook Page](#)
to get your ticket or email
felicitym@cda.org.nz for more info.

NZ Catholic

Message from Bishop Steve



Paper Ending (see pg 3)



NZ Catholic and its predecessors, the *Tablet* from Dunedin and the *Zealandia* have been part of our Catholic print media since 1873.

Like all other newspapers Catholic has been impacted by falling circulation subscribers. Now, with less than a thousand subscribers, it has reached the point where it is no longer sustainable to publish a printed Catholic newspaper and it is my sad duty to inform you that the issue published on 30 June will be the last printed fortnightly edition of the NZ Catholic. At this time it is right to give thanks for the work of the NZ Catholic staff (past & present). They have been amazing. They have told the stories of our Church and society. They have published the joys and sorrows of people's lives. They have sincerely used the written word to point to Jesus Christ the Word. Thank you also to the contributors from across the country and the parishes. While this might mark the end of a regular printed newspaper, the Diocese remains committed to sharing our Catholic news and stories so we intend developing a new monthly digital publication with enhanced use of video. I ask for your prayerful support as we make this transition. Yours sincerely in Christ the Good Shepherd, **Bishop Stephen Lowe**.

St Francis Retreat Centre

Time Out Days ~ For those who seek a day retreat **Thursday 27 June** 9.30am - 2.30pm (\$30 incl lunch). To book please call [\(09\) 625 6651](tel:096256651) or visit www.stfrancisretreatcentre.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.**

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 Sunday 11.30am-1.00pm 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, Priscilla Fernandes, Nellie Lemusu-Kea, Joy Rapcsak, Gerard Hoover.

Last Week's Collection:

House - \$ 1,307.30

Parish - \$ 2,123.20

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 10 Jun: 1 Kg 17:1-6
Mt 5:1-12 Ps 120:1-8
Tue 11 Jun: Acts 11:21-26, 13:1-3
Mt 10:7-13 Ps 97:1-6
Wed 12 Jun: 1 Kg 18:20-39
Mt 5:17-19 Ps 15:1-2, 4-5, 8, 11
Thu 13 Jun: 1 Kg 18:41-46
Mt 5:20-26 Ps 64:10-13
Fri 14 Jun: 1 Kg 19:9, 11-16
Mt 5:27-32 Ps 26:7-9, 13-14
Sat 15 Jun: 1 Kg 19:19-21
Mt 5:33-37 Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-10
Sun 16 Jun: 2 Cor 5:6-10
Ezek 17:22-24 Mk 4:26-34
Ps 91:2-3, 13-16

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Even the good that he did was deliberately misinterpreted by the scribes. Given all of this, it would have been a good moment to quit. But Jesus refused to do so. He had a mission to accomplish, a mission given to him by his Father. He had committed himself to that mission. He had grown into his vocation and would not opt out now. On one occasion he had said to his disciples, *'No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God'* (Luke 9:62).

Anyone among us who are in a difficult situation and may be tempted to walk away, can draw strength from the example of Jesus.

Jesus was calling people to a new community, into a spiritual family. Family or racial ties don't necessarily create community. Belief in Jesus and the practice of God's will are what create community. This new community is based on faith and love.

Jesus gives us an example of faithfulness in a time of darkness. With his example to inspire us, and his grace to strengthen us, we too can be faithful to our vocation as his disciples.

Flor McCarthy SDB

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