

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

23 June 2024

Faith in a Time of Crisis

When our world is calm we do not tend to question our faith. It is only when the storm strikes that we discover what kind of faith we have, or if we have any faith at all.

We must distinguish between faith and trust. Though they are closely linked they are not the same thing. The person who firmly believes, trusts completely. But if someone has not perfect trust in God, his belief will be faint as well.

When the storm suddenly hit the apostles, what happened?

Their faith failed them and they were overcome with fear. They began to doubt Jesus' love and care for them.

In their fear they cried out, 'Master, do you not care? We are going down!'

Jesus gently rebuked them for their lack of faith.

He said to them, 'Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?'

The incident shows that the apostles were not supermen. They were just ordinary people like us. Their cry to the Lord for help is a cry made by many and probably by ourselves when danger strikes, and God seems not to care or even to be found.

Some people think that if God was with them, and if he really cared about them, then no storm would ever hit them. Life would be all plain sailing. So, when a storm does come, they immediately think that God has abandoned them. But today's gospel story shows that this is not so. The storm hit the apostles even though Jesus was present with them in the boat.

If faith doesn't prevent the storm, what does it do?

Faith assures us that God is with us in the midst of the storm. It is the conviction that we are not alone that enables us to get through the storm. Our faith doesn't have to be perfect - even a little faith can get us through.

'A man with a grain of faith in God never loses hope.....' (Gandhi).

In their grave need, the apostles turned to Jesus for help. Pretty much everyone turns to God in times of extreme danger. But there are some who turn to God only then. For some, religion is for emergency use only.

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PARISH NEWS

Minimarket

We are introducing new pastries for our minimarket this Sunday **23 June** after 9am & 10.30am masses. Help us improve our minimarket - feel free to tell us what you are looking for.

We are also in the process of getting a new coffee machine. We look forward to seeing you all.

First Friday of the Month

On the **first Friday** of the month after the 9am mass, you are welcome in the Parish hall for a cuppa, chat with friends and meet new people.

Feel free to bring your favourite plate and share with others. Poster is on the noticeboard. Thank you to Kevin Davis who is hosting this monthly event.

Legion of Mary

Experience the intersection between faith and the profound act of compassion.

Please join the Legion of Mary as they welcome guest speaker Tony Lenton (Senior Catholic Hospital Chaplain) to our parish **Saturday 29 June 9am-12pm** in the Parish hall.

We will be focussing on the ministry of taking Holy Communion and visiting the sick. All welcome. For more info, please contact Justine Mitchell:

justinemitchell18@gmail.com

Junior Legion of Mary

We look forward to welcoming young adults to our Junior Legion of Mary meetings **Saturdays (3.30pm-4.30pm)** or **Sundays (11.45am-1.00pm)** at the parish. These sessions include prayers, having a well-developed spiritual life in Jesus and Mary. For more info please contact [Cristy Herrera 021 170 6809](tel:0211706809) (Saturdays) and [Christian Malaitai 021 116 8275](tel:0211168275) (Sundays).

DIOCESE NEWS

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship

An open invitation to all men to join others in a spirit of learning, prayer and fellowship - **Wed 26 June**

7.30pm-9.30pm at St Thomas More Catholic Church, 336 Wairau Rd, Glenfield. Topic: *Dealing with Conflict*
Guest Speaker: Harry Lowe

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.**

Music Ministry Workshop

Music Enhancing the Liturgy



The Liturgy Centre is conducting a Music Ministry Workshop at our parish **Thursday 27 June 7.00pm-8.30pm.**

This workshop will cover the foundations of music ministry, repertoire selection and formation. Ideal for musicians, choir members, cantors, liturgy committees and anyone with an interest in music in the liturgy. Registrations will be available at the door. For more info please contact: liturgycentre@cda.org.nz or email the [Parish Office.](#)

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, Margaret Sampson

Last Week's Collection:

House - \$ 1,296.40

Parish - \$ 2,179.00

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 24 Jun: Acts 13:22-26
Lk 1:57-66, 80 Ps 138:1-3, 13-15
Tue 25 Jun: 2 Kg 19:9-11, 14-21
Mt 7:6, 12-14 Ps 47:2-4, 10-11
Wed 26 Jun: 2 Kg 22:8-13, 23:1-3
Mt 7:15-20 Ps 118:33-37, 40
Thu 27 Jun: 2 Kg 24:8-17
Mt 7:21-29 Ps 78:1-5, 8-9
Fri 28 Jun: 2 Kg 25:1-12
Mt 8:1-4 Ps 136:1-6
Sat 29 Jun: Acts 12:1-11
Mt 16:13-19 Ps 33:2-9
Sun 30 Jun: Wis 1:13-15, 2:23-24
Mk 5:21-24, 35-43 2 Cor 8:13-15
Ps 29:2, 4-6, 11-13

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Story

A sea captain who in his retirement skippered a boat taking day-trippers to the Shetland Islands. On one trip the boat was full of young people. They laughed at the old captain when they saw him saying a prayer before setting out, because the day was fine and the sea calm. However, they weren't long out at sea when a storm suddenly blew up and the boat began to pitch violently. The terrified passenger came to the captain and asked him to join them in prayer. But he replied, 'I say my prayers when it's calm. When it's rough, I attend to my ship.'

There is a lesson here for us. If we cannot or will not seek God in the quiet moments in our lives, we are not likely to find him when trouble strikes. We are more likely to panic. But if we have learnt to seek and trust God in the quiet moments, then most certainly we will find God when the going gets tough.

Life can be a voyage. Though each of us has to steer our own boat, the life of a Christian is not meant to be a solo voyage. We journey with our fellow Christians, and thus are able to support one another in times of difficulty.

Flor McCarthy SDB



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