

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

28 July 2024

Understanding God's Goodness

The practice of saying grace before meals is a good one. In describing the miracle of the loaves and fishes, the evangelists tell us that Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks.

We too should give thanks when we eat. In a world in which millions are hungry, we should not take food for granted. And we shouldn't waste food. Jesus told the apostles to gather up the leftovers.

One evening a man sat down with his family at a table laden with food. Then he and his wife bowed their heads as their little girl said grace.

'Thank you God for your goodness to us. Thank you especially for giving us such a lot of food. Amen.'

Normally this little ritual brought great joy to the father. But that evening it made him feel uneasy. It suddenly struck him how blessed he was to be living in a developed world where there was an abundance of food. At the same time he realized how different things were in the third world where food was scarce and sometimes non-existent.

And he thought to himself, 'Why are we the ones to receive such gifts from God? Is it that we deserve them more than the many people who will go hungry tonight and who instead of thanking God will go to bed in bitterness?'

He had raised a profound and disturbing question that did not do his appetite any good at all.

God's goodness becomes a curse if it makes us think like that. In order to understand God's goodness in his gifts, we must think of them as held in trust.

We cannot thank God for having blessed us then proceed to live a selfish life.

Possessions are indeed signs of God's blessing and goodness, but they are also opportunities of service that God entrusts to us.

In today's scripture readings we see God's concern for the hungry. In the first reading we see Elisha giving bread to hungry people. And in the Gospel we see Jesus providing bread for the people who had followed him into the desert.

Feeding the hungry is the first of the great corporal works of mercy.

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PARISH NEWS

Sacramental Programme 2024



A big thank you to **Lyn Smith, Steven Sequeira, Malia Tonga, Evelyn Pereira, Barbara Stepanicic,** and **Cheryl Sinclair** for their generous time and great dedication this year in assisting the children, parents and sponsors to the preparation and celebration of Confirmation & First Holy Communion at our parish **Sunday 04 August** at the 10.30am mass with Bishop Steve.

DIOCESE NEWS

Diocesan Training

The Diocesan Faith Formation Team is offering refresher education sessions at our parish for the ministries of **1st Sacraments for Children and Baptism Preparation ~ Sunday 18 August 1pm-3pm.** This is open to all educators and volunteers in our parish. To register, please email Dcn Steve Fraser: stephenf@cda.org.nz or call [021 439 407](tel:021439407)

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship

An invitation to all men.....

Wed 31 July 7.15pm at St Thomas More Church, 336 Wairau Rd, Glenfield.

Guest Speaker: **Clive Goodman**

Topic: ***The Deacon ~ A Role Model for Men in the Church***

For more info please contact:

[Russell 022 034 5678](tel:0220345678)

Divine Mercy Devotion

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass **Friday 02 August 7.00pm** St Mary's Parish, 20 Kitenui Ave, Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass followed by veneration of St Faustina's relic. All welcome.

University Students

For all Catholic university students, join us **every Tuesday during semester** at Maclaurin Chapel, 18 Princes Street, Auckland, for mass at **12.10pm** followed by a delicious (free) lunch. For more info about what's going on for Catholic university students in Auckland, go to: [instagram.com/aucklandcatholicstudents/](https://www.instagram.com/aucklandcatholicstudents/)

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) ~ Wednesdays
7.10pm (classroom)

Senior Legion of Mary (Mary Mother of Grace Praesidium) ~ Fridays 7.00pm (c)

Junior Legion of Mary (Our Lady Queen of Angels) (under 18) ~ Saturdays 3.30pm to 4.45pm (c)

Junior Legion of Mary (Mary Mother of Good Counsel Praesidium) (under 18) ~ Sundays 11.45am to 1.00pm (c)

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.

Receive a special protection and greatest blessings through her intercession.

If you are interested, please contact

[Marilyn 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 Abla,
Priscilla Fernandes, Nellie Lemusu-Kea,
Joy Rapcsak, Gerard Hoover, Margaret Sampson

Last Week's Collection:

House - \$ 1,399.10

Parish - \$ 2,388.30

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 29 Jul: 1 Jn 4:7-16
Ps 33:2-11 Lk 10:38-42

Tue 30 Jul: Jer 14:17-22
Mt 13:36-43 Ps 78:8-9, 11, 13

Wed 31 Jul: Jer 15:10, 16-21
Mt 13:44-46 Ps 58:2-5, 10-11, 17-18

Thu 01 Aug: Jer 18:1-6
Mt 13:47-53 Ps 145:2-6

Fri 02 Aug: Jer 26:1-9
Mt 13:54-58 Ps 68:5, 8-10, 14

Sat 03 Aug: Jer 26:11-16, 24
Mt 14:1-12 Ps 68:15-16, 30-34

Sun 04 Aug: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15
Eph 4:17, 20-24 Jn 6:24-35
Ps 77:3-4, 23-25, 54

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But we might protest that we can't multiply the loaves as Jesus did. But we don't have to. God does the same miracle through the seasons and the harvests. In our wheat fields God multiplies, not loaves, but grains. So the food is there. All we have to do is share it, or the money to buy it.

In the light of all this, what would be a more appropriate grace before meals?

How about the following:

'Thank you Lord for your goodness to us and especially for this plentiful food.

May we use our gifts in such a way that others too will know your goodness, and give you thanks as we do.' Amen.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Job Vacancy

Administration Assistant ~ Marriage & Family Life are seeking an exceptional hardworking administrative assistant to join their team of marriage educators at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New Street, St Mary's Bay. This is a part-time role of 16 hours, 4 days a week (Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri) from 10am-2pm with some evening & weekend work in venues.

For full details and requirements, please visit the Diocesan website:

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz under Diocesan Services and Staff Vacancies.

Other Job Vacancies

Please check the noticeboards (foyer & inside the church) for church job vacancies around Auckland.

<p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Priests Contacts:</p> <p>Parish Priest: Fr Paul Helsham OFM Cap E:paulhelsham@gmail.com</p> <p>Asst Parish Priest: Fr Boniface Kujur OFM Cap E:bonikujur1969@gmail.com</p> <p>Deacon: Robert Mitchell E:robertmitchell1410@gmail.com</p>
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