



The Weakness of the Great

Elijah was perhaps one of the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. It was thought that he would return to usher in the Messianic era. Yet in the first reading we see the great man weak, exhausted and terror-stricken. He is lying under a tree in the desert where he has fled. He is sick and tired of being God's prophet. It has brought him nothing but trouble. He wants to die and even prays for it. This is how he was feeling.

What was it that brought him to such a point?

He had pursued a fierce war against idolatry which was rampant at that time, especially in the court of kings and queens. Now Queen Jezebel wanted him killed. So he fled for his life into the desert. There everything caught up with him. He just wanted to die. Then all his troubles would be over.

Some may be surprised to discover such weakness in a man of God. But even the great know times of weakness and weariness. We should not be surprised at all. It just shows that they are human too.

Even Jesus had such a moment in the garden of Gethsemane. We too can experience low moments in our journey to the mountain of God. When we go through something sudden and tragic, life is suddenly emptied of meaning. We doubt life. We even doubt God. We lose our spirit which is our greatest source of strength.

What can we learn from the story of Elijah for our own low times?

Firstly, we can draw consolation from knowing that everyone (even the best and the bravest) faces trials and tribulations.

Secondly, at all costs we must hold onto faith in God. A person with even a grain of faith never loses hope. We must cling to God even though it may not be easy.

Thirdly, there are practical things we can learn from Elijah. He acknowledged his condition. Many people are sometimes reluctant to admit their weakness. They think they will lose face before others if they show their weakness and fear.

Elijah rested, always a good idea in such time. He knew he needed help and accepted it when it was offered.

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PARISH NEWS

Assumption of Mary



**Mass Thursday 15 August
9am & 6.30pm**

Legion of Mary Auxiliary Day

The Legion of Mary warmly invites you to a special day dedicated to all **AUXILIARY MEMBERS Sunday 25 August** (after the 10.30am mass) in the Parish hall.

It is our humble way of saying "THANK YOU" to the Auxiliaries for all the support and prayers, and the important role they play in the Legion of Mary. Without them, the Legion would be incomplete. Come and join us if you wish to become an **Active** or **Auxiliary** Legion of Mary member.

Email Scams ** IMPORTANT **

Parishioners please be aware that there are emails circulating at the moment pretending to be from our Parish Priests. **If the email address is other than the ones listed at the back of our newsletter then delete it immediately.** Alternatively you can report it as phishing or blacklist the sender's email address (if you have this option).

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)

World Apostolate of Fatima Group (WAF)

We are blessed to offer the opportunity for parishioners to welcome the statue of Our Lady of Fatima into their homes. If you are interested in this spiritual enrichment, you are invited to contact:

[Agnes Lafaele, WAF President](#)
[Diocese of Auckland on 021 2931807](#)

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 - \$ 1,451.30

Parish - \$ 2,409.80

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 12 Aug: Ezek 1:2-5, 24-28

Mt 17:22-27 Ps 148:1-2, 11-14

Tue 13 Aug: Ezek 2:8 - 3:4

Mt 18:1-5 Ps 118:14,24,72,103

Wed 14 Aug: Ezek 9:1-7; 10:18-22

Mt 18:15-20 Ps 112:1-6

Thu 15 Aug: 1 Cor 15:20-26

Lk 1:39-56 Ps 44:10-12, 16

Fri 16 Aug: Ezek 16:1-15, 60, 63

Mt 19:3-12 Is 12:2-6

Sat 17 Aug: Ezek 18:1-10,13,30-32

Mt 19:13-15 Ps 50:12-15, 18-19

Sun 18 Aug: Prov 9:1-6

Eph 5:15-20 Ps 33:2-3, 10-15

Jn 6:51-58

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He took food and drink - we must take care of ourselves. Eventually his strength and spirit returned. He resumed his journey to Mount Horeb.

In the same manner, we must get on with life and with our tasks.

But we might say it was easy for Elijah. He had an angel to minister him. Most likely the 'angel' was none other than his servant who had accompanied him to the edge of the desert. The kind of 'angel' that God in his goodness also sends us - some dear person who cares for us in our difficult time.

Flor McCarthy SDB

2024 Auckland Prayer Breakfast

It is happening on **Thursday 24 October** at Eden Park North Lounge.

This year's theme is **BUILD**. It is a word that is strongly used in the Bible.

Doors open at 6.20am; Mihi 6.55am; breakfast 8.20am.

Early Bird tickets (\$40) are now on sale, closes **26 September**:

www.prayerbreakfast.nz/auckland

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.

St Francis Retreat Centre (09 - 625 6651)

Time Out Days ~ **Wed 21 August** 9.30am - 2.30pm \$30 (incl lunch).

<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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