

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

08 September 2024

Class Distinction

The apostle James said to the Christians: 'Do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ with the making of distinctions between classes of people.'

His words constitute a strong challenge for us modern Christians. We live in a society that is riddled with class distinction. We see it in the cars people drive in, in the shops they go to, in the areas they live in and so on. In our society people are valued on the basis of wealth. If you are wealthy, you are somebody. If you are poor, you are nobody. Yet the poor are often the ones who are rich in faith (second reading).

It is not so much the fact that there are distinctions, but what results from these distinctions that should concern us. Class distinction leads to partiality - to the favouring of the rich and the disparaging of the poor. It keeps people apart.

There are times, however, when the barriers of class fall down. In times of collective danger or sadness or even joy, these distinctions are swept aside. On such occasions people reach out to one another and great mutual enrichment occurs. Such occasions make us realize even more how much is lost when we choose to create divisions.

If God shows any partiality at all it is towards the poor and the oppressed. God's concern for the poor does not mean that he loves them simply because they are poor but because they are unjustly treated in the law courts. And God is determined to vindicate the oppressed.

Here in the house of God all barriers of class fall down. We are God's sons and daughters, brothers and sisters to each other. Any other distinctions are trivial and insignificant.

Story

St James says, 'It was those who are poor according to the world that God had chosen to be rich in faith and to be heirs to the kingdom which he had promised to those who love him.'

Whenever I hear these words, I think of a scene I witnessed on a Sunday morning in Dublin.

(continued on the back page)

PARISH NEWS

Youth Meeting

Youth meeting **Sunday 22 Sep 6pm** (parish classroom). This is a great chance to meet other youth in our parish. See you there!

DIOCESE NEWS

Cans for Christmas

Cans for Christmas is a charity - we coordinate with Catholic primary schools and colleges to collect canned food items for St Vincent de Paul Society to help those in need. In the last 9 years we've collected 160,000 cans. Please join us by donating to our page - all donations will go directly to St Vincent de Paul. To donate, please see poster on the noticeboard.

St Francis Retreat Centre

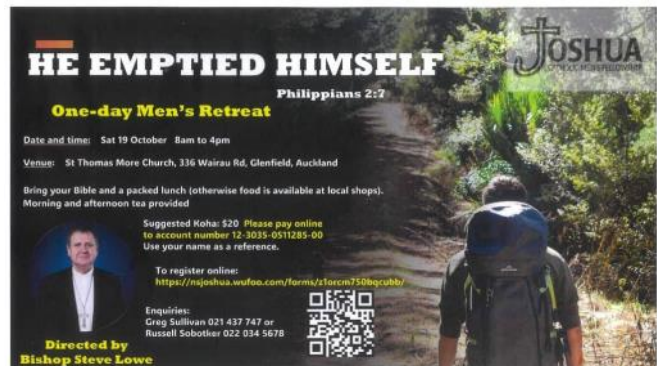
Transitus of St Francis ~ Tues 01 Oct 6.30pm-8pm. Join us to commemorate the "passing over" of St Francis of Assisi with stories of his dying moments, hymns, music and drama. For more details and to register, visit our website.

St Francis Open Day ~ Join us to celebrate the feast of St Francis. Come explore the grounds and learn

more about St Francis. There will be an *Animal Blessing* so please bring your pets **Sun 06 Oct 3pm-4pm.**

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship

Our Lord Jesus invites us - as His followers to draw closer to Him that we may imitate Him in our lives.



Invitation to all men. Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship is hosting a **One-day Men's Retreat**, directed by Bishop Steve Lowe titled "He Emptied Himself" (Philippians 2:7).

Sat 19 October (8am-4pm) at St Thomas Church, Glenfield. It will be a special time of formation, prayer, worship, fellowship and will end with Mass celebrated by the Bishop. Please bring your Bible and a packed lunch. Morning and afternoon tea will be provided. Suggested koha of \$20. **(Bank Account 12-3035-0511285-00).** To register please use the QR code on the newsletter.

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

Last Week's Collection:

House - \$1,504.40

Parish - \$2,429.80

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 09 Sep: 1 Cor 5:1-8

Lk 6:6-11 Ps 5:5-7, 12

Tue 10 Sep: 1 Cor 6:1-11

Lk 6:12-19 Ps 149:1-6, 9

Wed 11 Sep: 1 Cor 7:25-31

Lk 6:20-26 Ps 44:11-12, 14-17

Thu 12 Sep: 1 Cor 8:1-7, 11-13

Lk 6:27-38 Ps 138:1-3, 13-14

Fri 13 Sep: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-27

Lk 6:39-42 Ps 83:3-6, 12

Sat 14 Sep: Phil 2:6-11

Jn 3:13-17 Ps 77:1-2, 34-38

Sun 15 Sep: James 2:14-18

Is 50:5-9 Mk 8:27-35

Ps 114:1-6, 8-9

(continued)

As I drove through the city on my way to the mass, I would see an elderly woman making her way to the church. She was slightly stooped and walked with the aid of a cane. I could clearly see that it was a struggle for her. She appeared to be quite materially poor but there was something else that was more important to be known. The woman had a strong faith. Hail, rain or snow she was there every Sunday morning. *Why are the poor blessed?*

They are not blessed because they are poor but because they place their hope in God. The woman was materially poor.....but rich in faith. She had something much more precious than material things. She had a relationship with God. To know God and to have a relationship with him is a cause of great joy. I have no doubt it was people like her that St James was referring to.

Flor McCarthy SDB

St Francis Retreat Centre - Job Vacancy

We are looking for a part time assistant groundskeeper to join our team to support landscaping and maintenance for our buildings and grounds. Key duties include: performing minor repairs, assisting with maintenance and managing grounds upkeep. To apply or if you have any questions, send your email to:

emily@sfrc.org.nz

St Joseph's Takapuna - Job Vacancy

Following restructuring of the parish staff, two positions have become available: **Executive Assistant** - 25 hrs per week; **Property Manager** 10-15 hrs per week.

For position descriptions and to apply, please email Fr Mark Napa:

frmark@stjoseph.org.nz Applications close 27 Sep 2024.

<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>
--	--