

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



First Sunday of Advent

01 December 2024

The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is now a common sight in most churches.

The candles on the wreath could be seen as representing the brave people who kept the lamp of hope alight during the long night of Christ's expectation.

A candle is a very fragile thing. Yet it is marvellous if allowed to give its light. All the darkness in the world cannot succeed in extinguishing the light of one candle.

The candles on the wreath shed light onto our path as we journey through Advent. But since they are made of perishable material (wax), the Advent journey is a costly one. In the process of shedding their light they are being consumed.

For this reason a candle is a powerful symbol of life of service to which we, disciples of Jesus, are called. Even though this service can be costly, we draw inspiration from the words of Jesus: 'Anyone who loses his life for my sake will save it' (Luke 9:24).

Candles remind us of loving people. Love makes people luminous. To see loving people is to see human beings at their brightest and best. They are like a lamp alight and shining. Those who love shed light around them. However, their service can cost them dearly. But without people like them the world would be a much darker place.

Now consider the white candle that stands in the middle of the wreath, and that we will light at Christmas. Notice that it is made of the same perishable material as the others. This represents Christ, 'the light of the world'.

But could this wax candle really represent the light about which St John speaks in the prologue of his Gospel, 'the light no darkness can overpower?'

When Christ came on earth, he took on our weak, fragile, mortal nature. It was in this, and through this, that he shed his light. And he paid a high price. In fact, he paid the ultimate price. He gave his life for us.

The Gospels tell us that as Jesus died darkness enveloped the hill of Calvary. However, this terrifying darkness did not succeed in eclipsing the luminous goodness of Jesus. And his resurrection from the dead ensured that darkness would not have the last say.

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PARISH NEWS

Important Dates

Fri 06 Dec ~ *Anointing of the Sick*

Mass 9am

Fri 06 Dec ~ Last *morning tea* for 2024 (hall) after 9am mass

Sat 07 Dec ~ Parish *Working Bee*

9am - 12.30pm

Sun 08 Dec ~ *Croatian Mass* 1pm

Tues 10 Dec ~ Parish *Advent*

Reconciliation 7pm (in church)

Raffle Tickets

Please support our raffle, organized by the Parish Council. All proceeds will go towards supporting our parish community (Youth Ministry, Care for Seniors, Foodbank, etc....)

Tickets will go on sale (hall) after each mass namely Sat 5pm, Sun 9am & Sun 10.30am, starting **Sat 30 Nov** until **Sunday 22 Dec**. Tickets: **\$2 each OR 3 for \$5** (cash only).

Thank you for your support.

Columban Calendar 2025 & Christmas Cards



On sale now at the bookshop or available at the office during office hours (Mon-Fri 9am-3pm).

Christmas Nativity Play



The Youth Group is looking for children and young adults to partake in the *Christmas Nativity Play* on Christmas Eve. We will be having our first practice **Sunday 01st Dec 6pm** (classroom). For more info, please contact: [**Vanessa Sionetali 020 413 52514**](tel:02041352514)

DIOCESE NEWS

Divine Mercy Devotion

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass **Friday 06 Dec 7pm** St Mary's Parish, Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass followed by veneration of St Faustina's relic. All welcome.

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 Ablan,
Priscilla Fernandes, Nellie Lemusu-Kea,
Joy Rapcsak, Gerard Hoover

Last Week's Collection:

House - \$1,716.10

Parish - \$2,955.30

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 02 Dec: Is 2:1-5

Mt 8:5-11 Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9

Tue 03 Dec: Is 11:1-10

Lk 10:21-24 Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Wed 04 Dec: Is 25:6-10

Mt 15:29-37 Ps 22

Thu 05 Dec: Mt 7:21, 24-27

Is 26:1-6 Ps 117:1, 8-9, 19-21

Fri 06 Dec: Is 29:17-24

Mt 9:27-31 Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14

Sat 07 Dec: Is 30:19-21, 23-26

Ps 146:1-6 Mt 9:35 - 10:1, 6-8

Sun 08 Dec: Baruch 5:1-9

Ps 125 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11

Lk 3:1-6

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The light of Christ has come into the world. In baptism God called us out of darkness into the wonderful light of his Son. We must try to live as children of the light.

We must let *our* light shine.

The most precious light of all is the light of love. Love lights up everything. It brings hope. The lovely season of Advent provides us with a marvellous opportunity to make the world a brighter place. How?

Through little words and deeds of kindness and of service.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Local Youth Ministers Wanted

The Catholic Diocese of Auckland is looking for self-motivated leaders to become paid local Youth Ministers working across both a secondary school and parish. This is a unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people. For more info and to apply, please visit:

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/

Food for Faith

As we enter the season of Advent, sign up at www.foodforfaith.org.nz to receive daily email encouragements from Fr John O'Connor's Food for Faith website.

Family Life Catholic Gifts

We have a good variety of Christmas gifts including Nativity Sets (on specials) as well as our usual supply of rosaries, statues, books, etc.....Come and visit us at 569 Richardson Rd, Mt Roskill or order online at www.catholicgifts.co.nz

<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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