

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

03 November 2024

Love is More Important than Sacrifice

In his book, *Les Misérables*, Victor Hugo tells the story of a man by the name of Jean Valjean.

Valjean had just been released from prison after serving nineteen years. He was a bitter man because he had been sentenced to jail for stealing a loaf of bread to feed his children.

Free at last, Valjean was denied food and lodging in a village because no one wants an ex-convict around. Finally, a kindly bishop invited him to his house, offering him a meal and a bed. When Valjean dined with him, the bishop insisted on putting his finest silver plates, used only for special guests, out on the table.

During the night Valjean woke up, stole the bishop's silver plates and sneaked out of the house. The police caught him. He lied about the silver plates, saying that the bishop gave them to him as a gift. The police took him back to the bishop's house with the stolen goods. When the bishop saw Valjean he declared that he was glad to see him because he wanted to give him the silver candlesticks as well. The police had no choice but to let him go.

This amazing kind of forgiveness and mercy made a deep impression on Valjean. He was transformed into a new person, and spent the rest of his life serving others and showing mercy to them.

To offer sacrifice to God is a great thing. But to show mercy to a fellow human being is an even greater thing, and is harder. When we offer a sacrifice to God there is an immediate payback - we feel good that we have done something worthwhile and chalked up some merit. But when we show mercy to a person, often there is no payback. And in some cases (as in Valjean's case) it is far from easy, especially when the person involved deserves to be punished and when it is in our power to punish them.

One thing should be a big help to us, namely, the conviction that we ourselves stand in daily need of God's mercy. And we should remember the words of Jesus: 'Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy'. It is tragic to find religious people devoid of compassion for others.

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PARISH NEWS

Minimarket



We made a total sale of \$300 last Sunday. Thank you from the minimarket ladies.

Bible Study Group

“.....for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” (Luke 6:36-38)



Our parish has recently started a *Bible Study* class - **every Tuesday 5.30pm** (classroom). Invitation is open to everyone who is keen on knowing and understanding the truth of God's Word. Join us on the journey of a lifetime. For more info please contact [Christopher Navarro 021 730 714](mailto:Christopher.Navarro@parish.org.nz)

Croatian Mass

On **Sun 10 Nov 1pm-2pm** Fr Danko Bizjak (Asst. Priest East Coast Bays Parish) will celebrate mass in Croatian at our parish.

DIOCESE NEWS

Candlelight Vigil for the Unborn

Sunday 03 Nov 7.30pm at Potter's Park, corner of Dominion & Balmoral Roads. Bring family and friends. Candles provided. For more info contact [Simon 021 400 729](mailto:Simon.021.400.729).

Advent Retreat with Dr Robert Loretz

St Michael's Church (Remuera) is hosting a retreat to prepare us for the Incarnation of our Lord this Advent ~ **Sat 30 Nov 9am - 5.30pm**. You are welcome to join our Saturday Mass at 8am (confession 8.30am).

Join us as we delve into the theme of *'Friendship & Virtue'* enriching our understanding of hope, faith, joy and peace with Dr Robert Loretz. Light lunch provided. Koha on entry.

To register, go to:

www.remueracatholic.org.nz/events/advent-lunch-ssc89

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 - \$1,643.90

Parish - \$2,777.90

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 04 Nov: Phil 2:1-4

Lk 14:12-14 Ps 130

Tue 05 Nov: Phil 2:5-11

Lk 14:15-24 Ps 21:26-32

Wed 06 Nov: Phil 2:12-18

Lk 14:25-33 Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14

Thu 07 Nov: Phil 3:3-8

Lk 15:1-10 Ps 104:2-7

Fri 08 Nov: Phil 3:17 - 4:1

Lk 16:1-8 Ps 121:1-5

Sat 09 Nov: Ezek 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

Jn 2:13-22 Ps 45:2-3, 5-6, 8-9

Sun 10 Nov: 1 Kg 17:10-16

Ps 145: 7-10 Heb 9:24-28

Mk 12:38-44

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God acts generously towards people who have not earned or deserved his generosity. Because he shows us grace and mercy when we least deserve it and like Valjean, when we truly experience it, we are transformed.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Pilgrimage Tour 2025

Fr Chris Friel (Timaru) will lead this 17-Day tour of Portugal, Spain and France in June 2025. Early bird tickets on sale now and over the next two months. Sale will extend to early 2025.

For full details and itinerary please email Pilgrimage Tours (Auckland) at: info@travlink.co.nz or call [0800 99 7788](tel:0800997788)

Anniversary Mass 2025

Registrations now open for **Coach Trip** on **12 Jan 2025**. We are excited to invite you to join us on this 1-Day pilgrimage trip by coach to attend the Anniversary Mass at Totara Point. We will leave Pompallier Diocesan Centre at 6am and expect to arrive back by 7pm. Hydration and lunch will be provided - cost per person \$15. All welcome. For more info, email Deacon Steve Fraser:

stephenf@cda.org.nz

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

Priests Contacts:

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Helsham OFM Cap
E:paulhelsham@gmail.com

Asst Parish Priest:
Fr Boniface Kujur OFM Cap
E:bonikujur1969@gmail.com

Deacon: Robert Mitchell
E:robertmitchell1410@gmail.com