

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



Christ the King

24 November 2024

The Judge on Trial

On the last Sunday of the Church's year, we naturally think of judgement - the Last Judgement and our own individual judgement after death.

Today's Gospel then comes as a great surprise, because here the one who is being judged is Jesus himself, the one we call our King.

If you go into a normal court you can tell at a glance who is doing the judging and who is being judged.

However, occasionally things are reversed. It is not the accused who is on trial but the judge. Indeed, sometimes it is the very concept of justice itself. And sometimes it is the judge who emerges condemned, and the accused who emerges innocent.

The first enquiry into Bloody Sunday (1972) in Derry, Northern Ireland when British soldiers shot 26 unarmed civilians during a protest march is an example of this. Lord Widgery who conducted the enquiry, produced a verdict in which, in the words of Bishop Daly, '*the innocent were declared guilty, and the guilty innocent.*' Some forty years later the Saville enquiry declared that those shot dead on that day were completely innocent. Now it is Lord Widgery who stands trial.

Picture the scene in today's Gospel - alone and unarmed Jesus stands before Pilate on trial for his life. He has been accused by the Jews of stirring up trouble among the people, and of telling them that it was wrong to pay taxes to Caesar.

Pilate soon sees that Jesus is innocent of these charges. He even declares him innocent before the religious leaders. But the religious leaders exert political pressure on him. They threaten to report him to Rome for letting go someone they claimed was an enemy of Caesar.

Now the focus shifts from Jesus to Pilate. Now it is Pilate who is on trial. He is caught between light and darkness, truth and falsehood. Like any other, Pilate must take a stand for or against the truth.

Will he see that justice is done?

Jesus makes it easy for him by assuring him that his kingdom is no threat to Caesar. Just by his words Pilate could set Jesus free. Yet, out of fear for his own position, he delivers a predictable and cowardly verdict, and allows the most innocent person ever to walk this earth to go to his death.

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PARISH NEWS

Important Dates

- ♦ **Sun 24 Nov** ~ *Christ the King* - Adoration (in church) 2pm-4pm
- 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)

Thank You!



We have been receiving beautiful comments from parishioners complimenting on the flower arrangements in our church. Thank you to the flower ladies who does an immaculate job every week beautifying our church.

Columban Calendar 2025



On sale now at the bookshop or available at the office during office hours.
\$13 a copy

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](mailto:vanessa.sionetali@parish.org)

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 \$2 each OR 3 tickets for \$5 - available after all masses starting **Sat 30 Nov (after 5pm mass)**. Please bring cash. Thank you for your support.

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**

Musical Ensembles



Join us for an evening of unforgettable performances at the Blockhouse Bay Community Centre ~ **Sat 30 Nov 5pm** (gates open) \$10 ticket. For more info and to book your tickets, visit www.nzmeltingpot.com

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship

Upcoming meeting ~ **Wed 27 Nov 7.15pm** St Thomas More Church Hall, Glenfield. This is the last meeting for the year and is a family evening. For more info, please contact: [Jerome 027 233 4380](tel:0272334380)

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 - \$1,244.00

Parish - \$2,079.00

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 25 Nov: Rev 14:1-5
Lk 21:1-4 Ps 23:1-6
Tue 26 Nov: Rev 14:14-19
Lk 21:5-11 Ps 95:10-13
Wed 27 Nov Rev 15:1-4
Lk 21:12-19 Ps 97:1-3, 7-9
Thu 28 Nov: Rev 18:1-2, 21-23, 19:1-3
Lk 21:20-28 Ps 99:2-5
Fri 29 Nov: Rev 20:1-4, 11 - 21:2
Lk 21:29-33 Ps 83:3-6, 8
Sat 30 Nov: Rom 10:9-18
Mt 4:18-22 Ps 18:2-5
Sun 01 Dec: Jer 33:14-16
Lk 21:25-28 1 Thess 3:12 - 4:2
Ps 24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

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Pilate emerges condemned whereas Jesus emerges innocent. Jesus gives hope to all who are unjustly accused. Pilate is remembered as the Roman Governor whereas Jesus has become the Light of the World. And we give him an allegiance we would not give to any earthly ruler or institution.

To get back to the idea we started with judgement. We should not fear the verdict of earthly courts, only the verdict of God who judges differently.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Advent Sunday Gospels

Pondering the Advent Sunday Gospels ~ Sunday evenings **01st, 8th, 15th, 22nd Dec 7pm-7.30pm** on Zoom. For more info please email diannaf@cda.org.nz

Wake and Pray

Tuesday mornings ~ **3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th Dec 6.15am-6.45am** a half hour meditation on Zoom. For more info please email diannaf@cda.org.nz

Pope Francis “Delexit Nos”

Pope Francis has just released his latest encyclical, *Delexit Nos, He loved us*. Dianna Fouhy at the Diocese of Auckland will host a series of 3 sessions on this ~ Wednesday evenings **4th, 11th & 18th Dec 7pm-7.30pm** on Zoom.

For more info please email diannaf@cda.org.nz

St Francis Retreat Centre

Time Out Days ~ For those who seeks a day retreat **9.30am - 2.30pm** (\$30 incl lunch) **Tues 26 Nov | Thurs 05 Dec**. For more info and to book, visit:

www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz or call [09 625 6651](tel:096256651)

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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