

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



Second Sunday of Advent

08 December 2024

## *Opening Ourselves to Salvation*

Salvation is one of the great themes of Advent.

Today a great cry goes forth from the liturgy: 'Prepare a way for the Lord. Make his paths straight. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be levelled, rough roads be made smooth, and all humanity will see the salvation of God.'

These are wonderful words. They are a declaration of God's love for us.

But a problem can arise here. Some people think that in order for God to love them they must be perfect. They think that God would never want them with their imperfections and sins. This effectively means they try to manage on their own. It is hard for God to save people like that.

Once there was a monk by the name of Ambrose. An expert on the spiritual life, Ambrose was in great demand for talks and retreats. He was a highly intelligent man, and an extremely hard worker. You could say he was a perfectionist - always liked to be organized and in control of things. He dazzled people with his competence and knowledge.

But at the height of his fame, he was struck down with a terminal illness. It seemed as if his ministry was over. However, things didn't turn out like that. Paradoxically, it was when he became weak, and things were totally out of control, that he became most fruitful.

*How did this happen?*

He decided to use his illness to reach out to other sufferers. And so successful was he that his final illness turned out to be the most fruitful period of his life.

Before he died he said, 'I had been travelling in one direction, when all of a sudden I was forced to go in another. But in the process I learned more about myself and about the goodness of other people than I learned in all my previous years of living.'

On a personal level, Ambrose underwent a wonderful transformation. It was as if some protective shell cracked open, and there emerged a truly charming person. Prior to this he had been somewhat of a loner within the community. Now he placed himself at the heart of the community, drinking in the support of his fellow monks, but also making a handsome contribution to community spirit by the gentleness and peace he radiated.

*(continued on the back page)*

## PARISH NEWS

### Important Dates

**Sun 08 Dec ~ Croatian Mass** 1pm

**Tues 10 Dec ~ Parish Advent  
Reconciliation** 7pm (in church)

### Christmas & New Year Mass Times



#### Christmas Eve

6.30pm Carols | Family Mass 7pm  
*Nativity Play*

11.30pm Carols | Midnight Mass

#### Christmas Day

9am & 10.30am

#### New Year's Eve

10pm

#### New Year's Day

9am & 10.30am

The parish office will be closed from  
**24 Dec 2024 to 26 Jan 2025**. Office  
reopens Monday 27 Jan 2025 9am.

## 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 after each mass (namely Sat 5pm, Sun 9am & Sun 10.30am) 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 at the bookshop or available at the office during office hours (Mon-Fri 9am-3pm).

## DIOCESE NEWS

### Food for Faith

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

### 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**

### Advent Retreat

Come, explore and reflect on the  
Gospel readings for Advent



**Monday 16 Dec 6.30pm - 8.30pm**  
(hall)

Please register with Lyn Smith:  
[lyns@cda.org.nz](mailto:lyns@cda.org.nz) by **14 December**.  
Coffee & cake will be served.

**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 - \$1,170.30**

**Parish - \$1,881.50**

**Thank you for your generosity.**

### Readings For The Upcoming Week

**Mon 09 Dec:** Eph 1:3-6, 11-12

Lk 1:26-38 Ps 97:1-4

**Tue 10 Dec:** Is 40:1-11

Mt 18:12-14 Ps 95:1-3, 10-13

**Wed 11 Dec:** Is 40:25-31

Mt 11:28-30 Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10

**Thu 12 Dec:** Is 41:13-20

Mt 11:11-15 Ps 144:1, 9-13

**Fri 13 Dec:** Is 48:17-19

Mt 11:16-19 Ps 1:1-4, 6

**Sat 14 Dec:** Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11

Mt 17:10-13 Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

**Sun 15 Dec:** Is 12:2-6

Lk 3:10-18 Zeph 3:14-18

Phil 4:4-7

*(continued)*

How strange are the circumstances that open us to what God wants to give us. When we approach God from a position of self-sufficiency and power, we put God off. But when we approach God from weakness and need, we invite God in. Our imperfections are the wound that catches God's eye, and qualify us for his mercy and healing. God comes to us because we are sinners in need of redemption. He comes because we are his wounded children in need of healing.

*'There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in'* (Leonard Cohen).

**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/](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/)

### **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](http://www.catholicgifts.co.nz)

### **G.I.F.T Christmas Mass Celebration**

**Grow In Faith Together** for people with intellectual disabilities. Mass ~ **Sunday 15 Dec 4pm** at Good Shepherd Church, Balmoral. Please join us for a meal after mass. All welcome.

<p><b>OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 7 Glendale Rd, Glen Eden <b>Ph:</b> 818-6325 <b>Office hours:</b> 9am to 3pm (Mon-Fri) <b>E-mail:</b> ourladyoflourdes@xtra.co.nz <b>Web:</b> www.glenedencatholic.org.nz <b>Facebook:</b> Glen Eden Catholic Church</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Priests Contacts:</b></p> <p><b>Parish Priest:</b> Fr Paul Helsham OFM Cap E:paulhelsham@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Asst Parish Priest:</b> Fr Boniface Kujur OFM Cap E:bonikujur1969@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Deacon:</b> Robert Mitchell E:robertmitchell1410@gmail.com</p>
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