

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



The Presentation of the Lord

02 February 2025

Rejected by His Own

Years after leaving his native village, Nelson Mandela returned home for a visit. Of that visit he later wrote: 'There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have changed.

The old place went on as before, no different from when I had grown up there. I realized that my own outlook and world views had evolved.'

In effect, what he was saying was that, while it was nice to go back home, he could no longer live there - it had become too small for him. Away from home one can be the person one wants to be.

Jesus went back to Nazareth and to the people among whom he had grown up. He wanted to bring them too the benefit of his gifts. They were the people who knew him best. You would have thought, then, that they would have appreciated him the most. Sadly, they had no faith in him.

But what happened to Jesus at Nazareth went deeper than this. It was not just a case of them not appreciating him. They rejected him. Why? Because he pointed out their lack of faith, and told them that the Gentiles were more open to God than they were.

Jesus suffered the fate of all prophets. Prophecy is not about pleasing people. It is about speaking the truth that no one wants to hear, the truth that is often covered up. But Jesus' overriding motive was one of compassion.

What was he to do?

He might have said, 'To heck with everybody!' And then retired in the woods. Or he could have said, 'What do they want?' And having found out what they wanted, he could have given it to them. But in that case the special gift he wanted to give them, and which they sorely needed, would be lost.

It is very hurtful to be rejected by one's own. Jesus was saddened by what happened to him at Nazareth, but he did not get embittered and bury his gifts. He did what he could for those who believed in him and then took his gifts elsewhere.

Flor McCarthy SDB

PARISH NEWS

Parish Novena Our Lady of Lourdes



Parish Novena to *Our Lady of Lourdes* will begin **Sun 02 Feb to Mon 10 Feb 2025**.

Rosary & Novena ~ 6pm daily followed by mass 6.30pm.

Sun 02 Feb & 09 Feb ~ mass 5pm followed by Rosary & Novena

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes ~ Mass **Tues 11 Feb 6.30pm** followed by shared meal in the hall. Please bring a plate.

Waitangi Day ~ Mass 9am & 6.30pm

Perpetual Succour Novena ~ starts **Wed 12 Feb 6pm** and every Wednesday thereafter.

New Year's Prayer

The start of the new year usually is a time of reflection on the past year and giving thanks while finding inspiration, seeking guidance for the coming year and asking for God's blessings.

This brings us to **Jeremiah 29:11** where God declares to us, "***For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.***"

The power of prayer can help you achieve your goals as you seek God's plan for your life. God bless.

Children's Liturgy 2025

The Children's Liturgy resumes **Sunday 02 February 9am**. We are currently seeking more adult leaders to join our team as we are hoping to introduce the Children's Liturgy at the 10.30am mass as well. The roster will be as per school terms - Term 1 starts **02 Feb to 06 April**. For more info, please contact [Julian 027 488 3360](tel:0274883360)

Youth Meeting

The Youth Group is having their first meeting of the year **Sunday 09 Feb 6pm** (classroom). Come and meet other youths in the parish.

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, 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 - \$1,411.30

Parish - \$2,495.60

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 03 Feb: Heb 11:32-40

Mk 5:1-20 Ps 30:20-24

Tue 04 Feb: Heb 12:1-4

Mk 5:21-43 Ps 21:26-28, 30-32

Wed 05 Feb: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15

Mk 6:1-6 Ps 102:1-2, 13-14, 17-18

Thu 06 Feb: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24

Mk 6:7-13 Ps 47:2-4, 9-11

Fri 07 Feb: Heb 13:1-8

Mk 6:14-29 Ps 26:1, 3, 5, 8-9

Sat 08 Feb: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21

Mk 6:30-34 Ps 22

Sun 09 Feb: Is 6:1-8

Lk 5:1-11 Ps 137:1-5, 7-8

1 Cor 15:1-11

Parish Raffle

There are 2 remaining raffle prizes unclaimed - Ticket **Green C078** prize winner is **Ivan** & ticket **Orange A1026** prize winner is **Lorenzo**. We are hopeful that the winners will claim their prizes. Please contact [Julian Williams 027 488 3360](mailto:Julian.Williams@parish.org.nz) to claim your prize.

The Prayer Journey



The Prayer Journey St Teresa of Avila directed by Fr Carl Telford is a one-day retreat open to all ~ **Sat 15 Feb 8am to 4pm** at St Thomas More Church, 336 Wairau Rd, Glenfield. Bring lunch, morning and afternoon tea provided. Suggested koha \$20 cash on the day. Scan the QR code to register. For more info, please contact [Greg Sullivan 021 437 747](mailto:Greg.Sullivan@parish.org.nz)

Commissioning Mass

As we begin another grace-filled year of youth ministry, we are inviting Catholics from across the Diocese to be part of the Young Leaders' Commissioning Mass **Sun 23 Feb 7pm** at St Patrick's Cathedral. Bishop Steve will be celebrating the mass and commissioning our young leaders as they are sent out for ministry in 2025. Unite with our young leaders in faith, hope and joy as we commence another beautiful year of youth ministry in the Diocese of Auckland!

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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