

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



Second Sunday of Lent

16 March 2025

## *They Have Gone Before Us*

Any funeral scene is sad. But the scene that greeted Jesus and his apostles at Nain was a particular sad one. It involved the death of a young boy, the only son of his widowed mother. The loss of a child is surely the heaviest cross any parent could be asked to carry.

They say that when the old die, they take part of our past (our history) with them. And when the young die they take part of our future (hopes and dreams) with them. Sometimes the sense of loss is great that it causes the one who mourns to neglect their own life, and perhaps to even lose the will to live.

The Bible tells a very moving story about the agony of King David suffered when his young son fell gravely ill (2 Sam 12:16-25). Overcome with anguish, David pleaded with God for the child. He kept a strict fast and spent the night lying in a sackcloth on the ground. The officials of his household tried to get him to rise from the ground, but he refused. They were terrified as to what would happen if the boy died. On the seventh day the boy did die. The people were now more afraid than ever that the king would do something desperate. When David heard that his son had died, they watched him in fear. But the king surprised them. He got up, bathed, anointed himself and put on fresh clothes. Then he went into the sanctuary and prostrated himself before God. On returning to his house, he asked to be served with food and ate it.

Greatly puzzled at this behaviour, his retinue said, 'When the child was alive, you fasted and wept. And now that he is dead, you get up and take food.'

King David replied, 'When my son was alive, I would have done anything to save him. But now that he's gone, he cannot come to me anymore. But I can go towards him.'

Thus David was able to get on with his life. He set an example of how to accept the claims of life in the face of unchangeable loss. We don't forget the deceased, and we have occasions for remembering them. But because life is precious, we must go on living it. We grieve because a life is lost. But to spend our lives mourning would be to lose two lives.

*(continued on the back page)*

## PARISH NEWS

### RCIA Programme 2025

*“Is God Calling You to Something More?”*

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) programme is now open for enquiries. We warmly welcome anyone who feels drawn to the Catholic faith, desires a deeper relationship with Christ, or wishes to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation or the Holy Eucharist to join us on this sacred journey.

Registrations close **Tues 22 April 2025**.

To learn more, please call the parish office or send your email to:

[glenedenrcia@gmail.com](mailto:glenedenrcia@gmail.com)

*May the Holy Spirit and Our Blessed Mother guide you on your journey of faith.*

### Safeguarding Workshop

Our parish is hosting a **Safeguarding Workshop Wednesday 19 Mar 7.15pm** (hall). All ministers in our parish are being called to attend this workshop. For more info please email: Lisa-May Gray (CDA) Safeguarding Coordinator [lisam@cda.org.nz](mailto:lisam@cda.org.nz) or call [09 360 3019](tel:093603019)

### Legion of Mary Acies Ceremony

It is that special time of the year when we renew our consecration to Our Lady: *“I am all Yours, my Queen and my Mother, and all that I have is Yours.”*

All Active and Auxiliary Legion members are warmly invited to the **Acies Ceremony Sun 30 Mar 2pm** at Christ the King Church, Mt Roskill. Rosary begins at 6.30pm followed by Holy Mass 7pm.

## DIOCESE NEWS

### SUMMIT WEEKEND

*SUMMIT ~ Young Leaders Weekend 28-30 March 2025*

Youth Ministry and young adult ministry leaders - get ready for an incredible weekend of formation, fellowship and being spiritually filled.

SUMMIT is a highlight of young leader formation in the Diocese of Auckland each year. Please note that this is an 18+ event. Standard registration \$140. To register go to:

[www.summit25.eventbrite.com](http://www.summit25.eventbrite.com)

### 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**

### 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

### World Apostolate of Fatima

We are blessed to offer the opportunity for parishioners to welcome the statue of Our Lady of Fatima into their homes. Additionally, we meet *every Friday* in church (after the 9am mass) and pray 20 Decade Rosary. All welcome.

For more info, please contact: [Agnes Lafaele, WAF President, Diocese of Auckland 021 293 1807](#)

### Singles Ministry

Singles Ministry is holding a *Meet & Connect* for single Catholics (no age limits) looking for a (romantic) partner **Sat 29 Mar 4pm-6pm** at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Epsom.

Snacks & drinks provided. To register please contact: [Clytie 021 836 705](#) or [Reena 027 838 7151](#)

**If you wish to place a notice in our parish newsletter, please email the parish office by Wednesday**

### Last Week's Collection:

**House** - \$1,798.20

**Parish** - \$2,724.50

**Thank you for your generosity.**

### Readings For The Upcoming Week

**Mon 17 Mar:** Jer 1:4-9  
Acts 13:46-49 Lk 10:1-12, 17-20  
**Tue 18 Mar:** Is 1:10, 16-20  
Mt 23:1-12 Ps 49:8-9, 16-17, 21  
**Wed 19 Mar:** 2 Sam 7:4-5, 12-14, 16  
Rom 4:16-18 Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29  
**Thu 20 Mar:** Jer 17:5-10  
Lk 16:19-31 Ps 1:1-4, 6  
**Fri 21 Mar:** Gen 37:3-4, 12-13  
Mt 21:33-46 Ps 104:16-21  
**Sat 22 Mar:** Micah 7:14-15, 18-20  
Lk 15:11-32 Ps 102:1-4, 9-12  
**Sun 23 Mar:** Ex 3:1-8, 13-15  
Lk 13:1-9 Ps 102:1-4, 6-8, 11  
1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

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At a time of death we may experience an apparent absence of God. But the opposite can also happen. Death can actually bring us close to God. Why is this? Because we realize that in death only God can help us. God alone holds the keys of death. Therefore, we throw ourselves on the love and mercy of God. And just as God visited the people of Nain in the person of Jesus, so God visits us at a time of death with his gifts of comfort, hope and peace.

The dead are not far from us. They still love us and can help us. But they don't come back. We go towards them. They are waiting for us. We go towards our loved ones in the sure hope that we will see them again.

**Flor McCarthy SDB**

### **Inner Healing Retreat**

*Jesus My Light Ministry* invites you to a Lenten Inner Healing retreat on the following days at St Dominic Church, Blockhouse Bay.

- ♦ *Fri 04 Apr 6.30pm - 9pm*
- ♦ *Sat 05 Apr 9.30am - 5pm*
- ♦ *Sat 12 Apr 9.30am - 5pm*

A journey with Christ to release past hurts, nurture your emotional well-being and receive a deep sense of peace. Please bring your Bible, notebook and lunch. Tea & coffee will be provided. For more info please contact:

**[Betsy Rego 021 165 3856](tel:0211653856)**

#### **OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH**

7 Glendale Rd, Glen Eden

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**Web:** [www.glenedencatholic.org.nz](http://www.glenedencatholic.org.nz)

**Facebook:** Glen Eden Catholic Church

#### **Priests Contacts:**

**Parish Priest:** *Fr Paul Helsham OFM Cap*  
E:[paulhelsham@gmail.com](mailto:paulhelsham@gmail.com)

#### **Asst Parish Priests:**

*Fr Boniface Kujur OFM Cap*  
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