OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER

Second Sunday of Lent **01 March 2026**

Abraham's Journey and Ours

There are many great journeys in the Bible. One of the most important is that of Abraham (First Reading). At the word of God he left all the usual securities of life such as home, family, country and set out for a foreign destination.

Abraham's journey is one that emigrants can identify with in a special way. But all of us can identify with it because all of us are travellers on this earth. This is true even for the person who has never left home. And while we are on a common journey, each one's journey is unique.

Abraham's journey was fraught with difficulties. It literally was a journey into the unknown. However, he had one marvellous asset, namely, faith in God. That faith provided him with a compass for his journey.

In many respects the journey of life is a journey into the unknown. Blessed are those who possess the compass of faith. We also need to know that our earthly journey has a destination. Our faith assures us that it is the kingdom of God. Without faith and hope, the journey of life, no matter how pleasurable it might be, would be robbed of ultimate meaning. In essence, it would be a journey to nowhere. But if we do have it, life will be voyage to the promised land of eternal life. The hardships encountered on route will add to the joy of arrival.

Because God had called him, Abraham knew that God would not abandon him. He trusted that God would guide him to his unknown destination. In his love for us, God has sent a special guide – his Son, Jesus.

Here is what we learned from Abraham's journey: he took a leap of faith - his journey began with a command from God. He showed obedience, even with the most difficult command, over emotion. He showed courage and trust by taking action on the spot and knowing that he would have God as his guide throughout his journey and divine provisions.

His journey was not one of perfection but through God's mercy we understood the importance of striving despite imperfections.

He demonstrated endurance and offering hope for others to follow God's guidance in their own lives.

Flor McCarthy SDB

PARISH NEWS

RCIA Information Evening

The RCIA is hosting an *Information Evening* **Mon 09 Mar 6.30pm** (hall) for adults and young people 13 years and over wishing to receive the Sacraments of *Baptism*, *Confirmation* and *First Holy Communion*.
Anyone interested in joining, serving or learning about the Catholic Church is also welcome. Language assistance will be available and we will answer all your queries.

DIOCESE NEWS

Lenten Talks

St Michael's church is hosting a *series of 4-weekly talks (*Tuesdays) by Bishop Peter Brown to guide us reuniting ourselves to Christ through his gift of Reconciliation. It starts **Tues 03 Mar 7pm-8.30pm** at Mary MacKillop Hall, 6 Beatrice Rd, Remuera.

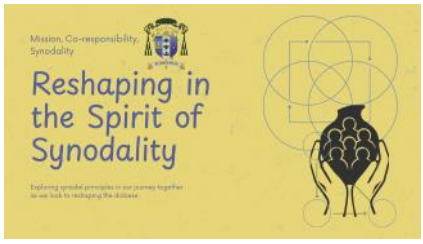
Divine Mercy Devotion

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass **Fri 06 Mar 7pm** at St Mary's Parish, Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass, followed by Veneration of St Faustina's relic.
All welcome.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2026
05-18 June

Experience Our Lady's presence on a *Medjugorje In-Depth* pilgrimage and a fulfilling 10 nights stay in the holy valley. Bookings are now open.
Please contact Patricia:
info@mirpilgrimages.co.nz or call **027 3525 217**

Synodal Workshops



Mar-Apr 2026

As part of the Diocese's *Reshaping in the Spirit of Synodality* journey, you are encouraged to attend one of the upcoming synodal workshops.
These sessions will help us better understand what it means to "walk together" as a Church and prepare us for the important conversations and discernment ahead in our parish communities.
To register please go to:
www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/reshaping-in-the-spirit-of-synodality/ and pick the venue you would like to attend.

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

Parish Morning Tea

Friday 06 Mar
after 9am mass (hall)

We look forward to seeing you for our first monthly parish morning tea of 2026.

Bible Diaries 2026

Beautifully designed to deepen your faith journey every day with God and in preparation for Ministers of the Word.
Spend some quiet time with God today!
To purchase a copy ($20) please email Christian Malaitai (Legion of Mary): cmalaitai@gmail.com

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, Ethan Peter Lelo, Rosalen Ahearn, Saulius David Balsys, Kalameli Tauta, Pauline Caffell, Louisa Baptist, Robert Shearman, Siufaga Maileoi Lilii, Lee Dunn, Alex Soniega, Aaron Ablan, Priscilla Fernandes, Nellie Lemusu-Kea, Joy Rapcsak, Gerard Hoover

Last Week's Collection:

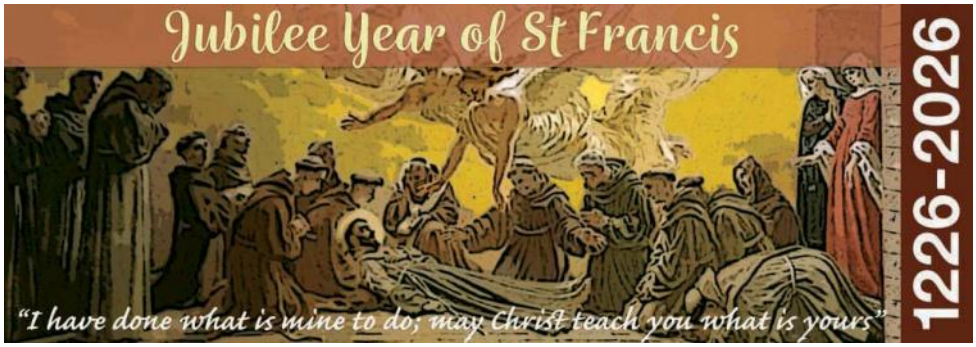
House - $1,653.20
Parish - $2,851.30

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 02 Mar: Dan 9:4-10
Lk 6:36-38 Ps 78:8-9, 11, 13
Tue 03 Mar: Is 1:10, 16-20
Mt 23:1-12 Ps 49:8-9,16-17, 21, 23
Wed 04 Mar: Jer 18:18-20
Mt 20:17-28 Ps 30:5-6, 14-16
Thu 05 Mar: Jer 17:5-10
Lk 16:19-31 Ps 1:1-4, 6
Fri 06 Mar: Gen 37:3-4,12-13,17-28
Mt 21:33-43 Ps 104:16-21
Sat 07 Mar: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20
Lk 15:1-3,11-32 Ps 102:1-4, 9-12
Sun 08 Mar: Ex 17:3-7
Jn 4:5-42 Ps 94:1-2, 6-9
Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

St Francis Retreat Centre (1226-2026)



As we mark the *Franciscan Jubilee Year,* may the enduring spirit of St Francis inspire us to walk together a community of peace, gratitude and joyful simplicity.

Time Out Days - For those who seek a day retreat (9.30am to 2.30pm) $35 incl lunch ~ **Tues 03 Mar** | **Wed 01 Apr**

24-Hour Quietude - Begins Friday 7pm with prayer and rest, and continues until Saturday 7pm with a full day dedicated to reflection, contemplation and prayer ~ **Apr 17-18** | **Jul 03-04**

Bookings essential. Please visit **www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz** or email **admin@sfrc.org.nz**

Medical Retreat & Seminar - The NZ Catholic Medical Association provides community support and chaplaincy for those involved in health care in Aotearoa. The association welcomes anyone in the medical field including counsellors, carers, social workers, chaplains, lawyers. We are holding a retreat and seminar at **St Francis Retreat Centre Fri 20 Mar & Sat 21 Mar**.
For more info and to register, please email:
newzealandcatholicmedical@gmail.com

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Web: www.glenedencatholic.org.nz
Facebook: Glen Eden Catholic Church

Priests Contacts:

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