# OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER

**5th Sunday of Easter** **03 May 2026**

## ***An Eternal Home***

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of home. We have to go out into the world to know how lovely our own home is. But imagine if we had no home to go to. Nelson Mandela told of how during the long years of his imprisonment on Robben Island he had a recurring nightmare. He said: 'In the dream, I had just been released from prison. Only it was not Robben Island but a jail somewhere in Johannesburg. I walked outside the gates into the city and found no one to meet me. In fact there were no people at all, no cars, no taxis. I would then set out on foot towards Soweto. I walked for many hours before turning a corner to see my house. But it turned out to be empty - a ghost house with all the doors and windows open but no one in sight.'

Truly it is impossible to exaggerate the importance of home. When things fail, when we feel tired and lonely, there is always home to go to. 'Let's go home. I want to go home.' How many times and in how many different circumstances have we heard people say those words, or have said them ourselves?

Home is not just a house. It is to have a close ties with people who accept us for what we are and who give us a feeling of belonging. It is a place where we feel safe. If you know you are going home, the trip is never too long or too difficult. But in spite of the building we put up and the roots we put down, here on earth we do not have a lasting home. All we have, as Paul says, is a kind of tent. At death, the tent is folded up. Hence, it is not only on earth that we need a home. We also need a home to go to when death comes. During the Last Supper Jesus began telling the apostles that he was leaving them. By this they understood that he was going to die. On hearing this, they were plunged into sorrow. But he consoled them with these words, which are among the loveliest in the Gospel: '*There are many rooms in my Father's. I am going to prepare a place for you. I shall return to take you with me so that where I am you may be too*.'

***(continued on the back page)***

## PARISH NEWS

### Tax Receipts 2026

Please pick up your tax receipt from the church foyer. We are asking everyone to pick up their tax receipts. It helps greatly in reducing the amount of tax receipts that are left behind every year. Thank you.

### Mass Intentions

It has come to our attention that some parishioners are not following the standard procedure when it comes to offer mass intentions.
**Please do not approach the priest prior to the mass start for your mass intention.** You are required to contact the parish office with a **week's notice**. Exceptions will be given if there is a sudden death in the family or someone is critically ill and is requesting for our prayers. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Sacramental Programme 2026

The *Sacramental Programme* starts **Sunday 10 May 3pm**. All parents interested in enrolling their child(ren) are invited to complete an enrolment form (church foyer).
Applications close **Thurs 07 May**.

### Parish Bookshop

The bookshop has many new items on sale including prints of the Divine Mercy from $5 (framed $28), Holy Water bottles, assorted rosaries, prayer cards, medals (Miraculous Medal of Our Blessed Lady) and so much more. Come and see us.
We are open **Sundays 10am-10.30am**.

## DIOCESE NEWS

### Mass of the Neophytes

Bishop Steve invites all those who were initiated into the Church at Easter, their families and friends to return to the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph for the *Mass of Welcome* **Sun 24 May 4.30pm**. This is an opportunity to give thanks for the gift of faith and share with the Bishop in the celebration of the Eucharist.

### The Exodus

Leading up to Pentecost Sunday, Dr Dan Stollenwerk will dive deep into the common themes that link Pentecost and the Book of Exodus. Please join us at St Michael's Parish Centre, Remuera on the following dates (**6th**,**13th**, **20th** & **27th May**)**10.30am-11.45 am**.
No registration needed.

## Mass Times

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| 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 7pm (classroom)

***Senior Legion of Mary (Mary Mother of Grace Praesidium)*** ~ Fridays 7pm (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 1pm (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**

**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, Pratima Hollomon, Christine Coster

## Last Week's Collection:

**House** - $1,898.80
**Parish** - $3,189.70

**Thank you for your generosity.**

## Readings For The Upcoming Week

**Mon 04 May:** Acts 14:5-18
Jn 14:21-26 Ps 113:1-4, 15-16
**Tue 05 May:** Acts 14:19-28
Jn 14:27-31 Ps 144:10-13, 21
**Wed 06 May:** Acts 15:1-6
Jn 15:1-8 Ps 121:1-5
**Thu 07 May:** Acts 15:7-21
Jn 15:9-11 Ps 95:1-3, 10
**Fri 08 May:** Acts 15:22-31
Jn 15:12-17 Ps 56:8-12
**Sat 09 May:** Acts 16:1-10
Jn 15:18-21 Ps 99:1-3, 5
**Sun 10 May:** Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
Jn 14:15-21 Ps 65:1-7, 16, 20
1 Pet 3:15-18

***(continued)***

This means that we have an eternal home to go to, namely, the Father's house. But there remains the question of how to get there. Jesus says to us what he said to Thomas: '*I am the way*.'
He invites us to follow him. Those who follow him will have a star that will not betray them and a compass that will not lie. He will lead us to the Father's house.

**Flor McCarthy SDB**

## St Mary's Catholic School (Avondale)

### Years 1 to 8

*Is your child turning five this year?*
We provide a nurturing, faith-filled education where each child is known by name and our classes have low numbers. We would love to welcome you and your child into our wonderful school.
We have limited new entrant places available for 2026, and we invite you to experience the St Mary's difference. There are also some places available at other year levels. *We look forward to meeting you!*
**Email**: stmarysoffice@stmarysavondale.school.nz
**Visit us at the school office**: 2136 Gt North Rd, Avondale - for a chat
**Call us**: 09 828 5599
**Learn more**: Read our latest newsletter:
stmarysavondale.school.nz/newsletters

***OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH***
7 Glendale Rd, Glen Eden
***Ph***: 818-6325
***Office hours*:** 9am to 3pm (Mon-Fri)
***E-mail:*** ourladyoflourdes@xtra.co.nz
***Web:*** www.glenedencatholic.org.nz
***Facebook:*** Glen Eden Catholic Church

***Priests Contacts:***

***Parish Priest*:** *Fr Paul Helsham OFM Cap*
E:*paulhelsham@gmail.com*

***Asst Parish Priest:***
*Fr Praful Kerketta OFM Cap*
E: *kerkettapraful20@gmail.com*

***Deacon*:** *Robert Mitchell*
E:*robertmitchell1410@gmail.com*