OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER

Easter Sunday **05 April 2026**

The Triumph of the Light

Once a priest installed a stained-glass window in the atrium of the parish church. The window depicted the traditional Calvary scene - Jesus hanging on the cross, flanked by the standing figures of his mother Mary and the apostle John.
The sky was dark and threatening; the earth steeped in darkness. Across the middle of the picture there was a faint brightness. And in the distant background there was a hint of dawn coming over the hills.
One day the priest was passing through the atrium when he noticed a man standing in front of the window, deep in thought.
'Well, what do you think of it?' he asked the man.
'It's far too dark to my liking,' came the answer.
'I agree with you,' the priest responded. 'It is a very dark painting. But that is what Calvary was like. The evangelists tell us that as Jesus was dying a great darkness descended on Calvary. We don't know if they are talking about an actual darkness, or if they are using darkness in a figurative sense as a way of saying that Jesus, the Light of the World, was dying.
But one thing is certain: Calvary was a dark place. It was made dark by the cruelty inflicted on Jesus and the mockery and hatred that were directed at him as he died.
'I never thought of it like that,' the man said.
'But to get back to the window,' the priest resumed. 'Right now we're looking at it at the wrong time of day.'
'What do you mean?' the man asked.
'The window faces the rising sun. As the sun comes up, it shines right through the window. If you see the window when that happens, you'll see it in a completely different light.'
The following morning the man put the priest's words to the test. He arrived at the atrium just before dawn and headed straight for the window. As the sun rose, the window was transformed. The mostly unclothed body of Jesus began to glow.
So did the haloes of Mary and John. Every bit of brightness in the picture was magnified to such an extent that the darkness was completely eclipsed. After that day, whenever he looked at the window, he would see it in the light of dawn.

(*continued on the back page)*

PARISH NEWS

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. Forms are available from the church foyer or you can download a copy from our website.
Please send your application to the coordinator no later than **Thurs 07 May**. No late enrolments will be accepted.

DIOCESE NEWS

Divine Mercy Feast

You are warmly invited to attend the *Divine Mercy Feast* **Sun 12 Apr 5.30pm** at St Benedict's Parish, Eden Terrace.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, Blessing of Images, Holy Mass, Veneration of St Faustina's relic. Bring your Divine Mercy images and artefacts to be blessed. Free parking is available at Wilson carpark including free street parking.

Joshua 40-Year Celebration Weekend

The Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship is turning 40! Join us for a retreat in Rotorua as we celebrate this special event.
Bookings are now open, however, spaces are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.
When: Fri 14 Aug to Sun 16 Aug
Venue: Keswick Christian Camp, 5 Cooper Avenue, Holden's Bay, Rotorua
Cost: $247 pp incl accommodation and meals
Key Speaker: Robert Falzon, Leader of Australia's MenALIVE and Author of "*Importance of a Present Dad*"
To register: Scan the QR Code OR contact **Mike Lobo 021 280 9285/ Greg Sullivan 021 437 747**

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

Happy Easter

" Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John 20:29

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

Last Week's Collection:

House - $1,863.90

Parish - $2,981.90

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 06 Apr:	Acts 2:14, 22-33	Mt 28:8-15	Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11
Tue 07 Apr:	Acts 2:36-41	Jn 20:11-18	Ps 32:4-5,18-20,22
Wed 08 Apr:	Acts 3:1-10	Lk 24:13-35	Ps 104:1-4, 6-9
Thu 09 Apr:	Acts 3:11-26	Lk 24:35-48	Ps 8:2, 5-9
Fri 10 Apr:	Acts 4:1-12	Jn 21:1-14	Ps 117:1-2, 4, 22-27
Sat 11 Apr:	Acts 4:13-21	Mk 16:9-15	Ps 117:1, 14-21
Sun 12 Apr:	Acts 2:42-47	Jn 20:19-31	Ps 117:2-4,3-15,22-24
		1 Pet 1:3-9	

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Jesus died in darkness. To his disciples his death, especially the manner of it (crucifixion), seemed to be the defeat of goodness and the triumph of evil. And that is exactly what it would have been without Easter.
Without Easter darkness would have had the last word. But because of the resurrection darkness did not win. God vindicated the faithful love of Jesus by raising him from the dead on the third day. We have to see Jesus' death in the light of Easter. His death may have seemed a defeat but it was not a defeat. It was a victory - the victory of love over hatred, of good over evil and of life over death.
In the Gospel we read how some women came to his tomb towards dawn on the first day of the week. They came in darkness (grief and despair) and were told: 'He is not here; he has risen.'
They left the tomb bathed in light - light of day and light of hope and joy. Just like Jesus we go through our own darkness to then see the light. This means that we can walk through the valley of death without fear.
This is the hope of Easter.
This is the hope that is granted to believers.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Diocesan Youth Mass (Apr-Nov)

Last Sunday of each month ***4.30pm***
St Patrick's Cathedral

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