OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time **08 February 2026**

Salt of the Earth, Light of the World

Jesus said to his disciples, '*You are the salt of the earth*; *you are the light of the world*.'

In ancient world, salt was one of the most important necessities of life, especially for preserving and seasoning food. So too was light for obvious reasons.

Both images are making the same point: Christians are called to bear witness to Christ before unbelievers through their good deeds otherwise we become like food without salt, therefore, tasteless or a lamp that doesn't give light.

One day a man visited Mother Teresa's home for the poor and the dying in Calcutta. He arrived just as the Sisters were bringing in some of the dying off the streets. They had picked up a man out of the gutter. He was covered with dirt and sores. Without knowing that she was being watched, one of the Sisters began to care for the dying man. The visitor kept watching the Sister as she worked. He saw how tenderly she cared for her patient. He noticed how she washed the man and smiled at him. She did not miss a detail.

The visitor turned to Mother Teresa and said, 'When I came here today I didn't believe in God, and my heart was full of hate. But now I am leaving here believing in God. I have witnessed the love of God in action. Through the hands of that Sister, through her tenderness, through her gestures, there was so much love being shown for that wretched man. I have seen God's love descend upon him. Now I believe.'

There is surely an example of the kind of thing Jesus had in mind. When he tells us that we must let our light shine, the light he is talking about is our good deeds, especially our deeds of love. People take notice of deeds. Our deeds don't have to be as spectacular as the example given. Most of the times they will be much more ordinary.

In order to produce its effect, salt has to be mixed in with the food. Same rule applies for Christians who need to be in the world without allowing themselves to be absorbed by the world.

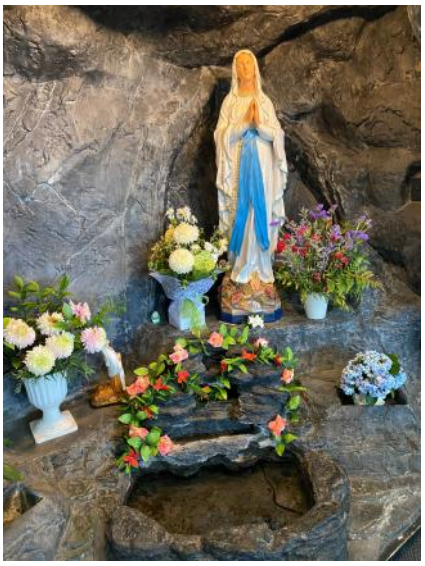
'*The world today needs Christians who remain Christians*' (Albert Camus, French philosopher & novelist).

As Christians we have a very positive role to play in the world. We have something to offer, something the world desperately needs, even though it may not always welcome it.

Flor McCarthy SDB

PARISH NEWS

Our Lady of Lourdes Novena
February 2026



Sat 07 Feb & Sun 08 Feb

Mass 5pm ~ Novena 6pm

Mon 09 Feb & Tues 10 Feb

Novena 6pm ~ Mass 6.30pm

There will be no Perpetual Succour Novena Wednesday 11 Feb

Wed 11 Feb

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Mass 6.30pm followed by a shared meal (hall). Please bring a plate.

Children's Liturgy

Last year we had over 20 children attending our Children's Liturgy (Sun 9am) during school terms and this year we want to continue doing the same but we need your help, we need more volunteers. The process is very easy. You will be rostered and working in pairs. We would love to hear from you. Thank you for your support. Please contact **Julian Williams 027 488 3360**

DIOCESE NEWS

Lenten Talks

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

Tertiary Students

Calling all tertiary students!
There is a large, vibrant and rapidly growing *Catholic Student Community* present across University of Auckland and AUT campuses. Join us in 2026!
To find out more please contact Daniel Story at **dans@cda.org.nz**

Lent 2026

Visit **www.foodforfaith.org.nz** and sign up to receive daily email encouragements from Fr John O'Connor.

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

Praise In The Park

You are invited to *Praise In The Park*
Sun 15 February 2026 4pm-6pm
(rain date: Sat 21 Feb) at Selwyn Domain, 48-56 Tamaki Drive, Mission Bay.
It is a Catholic event involving praise and worship, testimonies, a short Gospel proclamation and will conclude with Eucharistic Adoration.
Bring a chair or picnic mat, invite family and friends. It is free, no registration needed and everyone is welcome.

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 - $1,778.60
Parish - $2,566.00

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 09 Feb:	1 Kg 8:1-7, 9-13	
Mk 6:53-56	Ps 131:6-10	
Tue 10 Feb:	1 Kg 8:22-23, 27-30	
Mk 7:1-13	Ps 83:3-5, 10-11	
Wed 11 Feb:	1 Kg 10:1-10	
Mk 7:14-23	Ps 36:5-6,30-31,39-40	
Thu 12 Feb:	1 Kg 11:4-13	
Mk 7:24-30	Ps 105:3-4,35-37,40	
Fri 13 Feb:	1 Kg 11:29-32; 12:19	
Mk 7:31-37	Ps 80:10-15	
Sat 14 Feb:	1 Kg 12:26-32;13:33-34	
Mk 8:1-10	Ps 105:6-7, 19-22	
Sun 15 Feb:	Sir 15:15-20	
1 Cor 2:6-10	Mt 5:17-37	
Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34		

Bible Study

We believe it is a valuable time for us to learn from God's Word together and grow closer to Him. We would be glad if you could join us *every Tuesday 5.30pm (*classroom). For more info, please contact **Christopher Navarro 021 730 714**

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) to pray 20 Decade Rosary. All welcome.
For more info, please contact: **Agnes Lafaele, WAF President, Diocese of Auckland 021 293 1807**

Legion of Mary

Senior Legion of Mary (Our Lady of Lourdes Praesidium)*:* Wednesdays 7pm-8.30pm(classroom)
Senior Legion of Mary (Mary Mother of Grace Praesidium) : Fridays 7pm-8.30pm
Junior Legion of Mary (Our Lady Queen of Angels) (under 18): Saturdays 3.30pm-4.45pm
Junior Legion of Mary (Mary Mother of Good Counsel Praesidium) (under 18): Sundays 11.45am-1pm

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**

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Priests Contacts:

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Asst Parish Priest*:*
Fr Praful Kerketta OFM Cap
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