OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER

Third Sunday of Lent **08 March 2026**

The Gift of Living Water

What is the most precious commodity on earth?
Oil? No, even though a lot of wars have been fought over it. Gold? Diamonds? No, even though many people have given their lives to acquire them. The most precious commodity with which our earth has been blessed is water. Yes, ordinary water. Why? Because without it there would be no life on earth.
In some countries there is such an abundance of water that it tends to be taken for granted. Moreover, it is readily available - all one has to do is to turn on a tap. But in other countries water is extremely scarce and people have to travel long distances to get it. In those countries people tend to have a greater appreciation of water.
Water is used for cleaning and cooking but its chief property is to give life. Nothing can live or grow without water. We could live several weeks without food but we cannot survive more than a few days without water. Water is not so much a necessity of life - *it is life*!
Jesus too needed water. In today's Gospel, St John presents him as completely human. He shows him sitting by a well in the noonday sun, weary and thirsty. We don't often think of Jesus in that way. When a Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water he asked her for a drink, and she gave it to him. She was a lost woman and regarded as an outcast from her community. Yet Jesus had one of the most profound conversations with her.
Water is also a powerful symbol. Jesus used water to talk to the woman about something deeper. He began to talk to her about another kind of thirst and another kind of water. At first she had no idea what Jesus was talking about. Yet when she reflected on her life, she began to understand what he was trying to say. She understood that there was another kind of thirst - the thirst for love, happiness and meaning. She had been married not once, but five times. Yet she still hadn't found what she was looking for.
She had been searching for love and happiness. Jesus didn't judge her. Ever so gently, he showed her that up to now she had been looking for the right thing, that is love, but in the wrong places. He explained to her that what she was experiencing was a thirst in the human heart that affects everyone and for this deeper thirst we need another kind of 'water'.

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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

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**

Lent 2026

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

The Upper Room

The Upper Room is a night of formation and fellowship for younger adults. Guest speaker James Bergin will be doing a presentation **Wed 18 Mar 6.30pm** at Good George, Mission Bay on *Digital Integrity* where we will delve into how we can be authentically Catholic in a digital world. Tickets $10 please register at: **www.events.humanitix.com/the-upper-room-march-2026**

Church Organists Workshop

A *free practical workshop* helping beginner organists develop stronger hymn-playing skills **Sat 14 Mar 1pm-4pm** at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Pukekohe.
Presenter: Michael Cox.
Registration essential, please email: **office@pukekohecatholic.org.nz**

You Are Chosen

"***You did not choose me, but I chose you***……" (John 15:16).
A Life in the Spirit Seminar **Sat 14 & Sun 15 Mar 9am-4pm** (both days) at St Joseph's Church, Takapuna (parish hall). Deepen your relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. Please register at: **bit.ly/ur-chosen**

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

Bible Diaries 2026

Spend some quiet time with God today!

Beautifully designed to deepen your faith journey every day with God. It acts as a bridge between biblical truth and personal experiences, helping you apply scriptures to your current situation. A display is available in the church foyer.

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 - $1,381.10
Parish - $2,459.00

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 09 Mar:	2 Kg 5:1-15
Lk 4:24-30	Ps 41:2-3; 42:3-4
Tue 10 Mar:	Dan 3:25, 34-43
Mt 18:21-35	Ps 24:4-9
Wed 11 Mar:	Deut 4:1, 5-9
Mt 5:17-19	Ps 147:12-13, 15-16
Thu 12 Mar:	Jer 7:23-28
Lk 11:14-23	Ps 94:1-2, 6-9
Fri 13 Mar:	Hosea 14:2-10
Mk 12:28-34	Ps 80:6, 8-11, 14, 17
Sat 14 Mar:	Hosea 5:15 - 6:6
Lk 18:9-14	Ps 50:3-4, 18-21
Sun 15 Mar:	1 Sam 16:1,6-7, 10-13
Ps 22	Eph 5:8-14
Jn 9:1-41	

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What is this water? It is the life of God inside us.
To experience this thirst is not a curse but a blessing. Jesus is offering us the same living water he offered to the Samaritan woman.

Flor McCarthy SDB

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 ~ **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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