OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica **09 November 2025**

A Shinning Witness

Shahbaz Clement Bhatti was born to Catholic parents in Lahore, Pakistan.
His father was an army officer and then became a teacher, like his mother.
The couple had six children, five boys and one girl. His father, who died after a protracted illness early 2011, was the main source of strength for Shahbaz. It was his father's support that enabled Shahbaz to take on the most risky and dangerous situations.
In 2002 Shahbaz formed the All Pakistan Minorities Alliance and became its first leader. He also joined Benazir Bhutto's Party (Pakistan People's Party) that came to power in 2008. Such as the respect in which he was held that he was appointed Minister of Minorities Affairs that same year.
In his acceptance speech he said that he was accepting this role '*to help the oppressed, downtrodden, marginalized and to send a message of hope to the people living a life of disappointment, disillusionment and despair*.'
He went on to say '*Jesus is the nucleus of my life and I want to be his true follower through my actions and sharing the love of God with the poor, the needy and suffering people of Pakistan*.' And he was as good as his word.
Back in 2008 Christians constituted approximately 1.4% of the population. Most of them would do menial work while many were child labourers. Shahbaz pointed out that child labour was illegal and against the moral values of Pakistan.
So he decided to campaign against the country's draconian blasphemy law, knowing that in all probability it would cost him his life. It was his defence of one woman in particular (Mrs Bibi) that sealed his death warrant. Mrs Bibi, a Christian mother of five who worked as a farmhand, was falsely accused of insulting the Prophet Muhammad to some of her fellow workers, was sentenced to death by hanging. Shahbaz's support for Mrs Bibi was the last straw for his enemies. On March 2nd 2011 after a visit to his elderly mother, he was shot by gunmen who ambushed his car in broad daylight in the capital. His car was sprayed with bullets. He was only 42.
Later in a video he had made in view of such eventuality was released. In it he said, '*I have lived for my community and for the suffering people of Pakistan protecting their rights. I want to share that I believe in Jesus Christ, who has given his own life for us*.'

(continued on the back page)

PARISH NEWS

Feast of Christ the King

On *Sunday 23 Nov* **Adoration of the Eucharist** after the 10.30am mass till 3pm. Then at 3pm there will be a solemn procession around the church lead by Fr Paul and Deacon Robert ending with benediction.

Altar Servers Meeting

All altar servers and those wanting to join are invited to an important meeting **Sun 16 Nov** (after 10.30am mass) in the crypt.
For registration and guidelines, it is a must for all parents or guardian to attend.

DIOCESE NEWS

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Today the Church celebrates the *Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*. The oldest and highest ranking of the four major basilicas in Rome.

The Basilica of St John Lateran is the cathedral of the diocese of Rome, the official ecclesiastical seat of the Holy Father, the Bishop of Rome, not St Peter's Basilica as so many mistakenly believe. The Basilica is also called the *Church of The Most Holy Saviour* or the *Church of St John the Baptist*.
In ancient Rome this was the church where baptisms took place. Built around 324 CE (4th century) Emperor Constantine ordered the construction of the Basilica which was later consecrated by Pope Sylvester I. It became a pillar of Christian society where believers were granted freedom to practice their religion.

Called - Anointed - Sent

Come and be blessed!
A Spiritual Retreat with Sister Joan from the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ (Texas, USA) - *Main Retreat* **Sat 15 Nov 9am to 1pm** at Sacred Heart Church (hall), 48 Vermont St, Ponsonby.
Evening Session **Tues 18 Nov 7.30pm** at St Dominic Church, Blockhouse Bay.
For retreat sessions at other parishes, kindly look up the noticeboard. Free entry, koha appreciated.
For more info call **Deidre 02102251103** or **Engelbert 021 0234 6853**

Mass Times

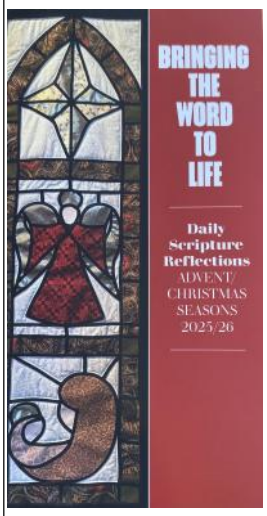
Monday:	9am
Tues/Wed/Thurs	6.30pm
Wed: Novena	6pm
Friday:	9am
First Friday:	6.30pm
Saturday:	5pm Vigil
Sunday:	9am,10.30am,5pm

Reconciliation by appointment.
Please contact the parish office

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

Advent/ Christmas 2025



The year is racing ahead and before we know it, Advent will be upon us!

Get your copy of the amazing 84-page booklet titled *"Bringing the Word to Life"* now on sale at the bookshop. *$8 a copy*

"*As we enter the sacred season, this booklet provides material for reflection each day based on the daily readings. These help us to pause, pray and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.*
I highly recommend it as it reflects our faith experience within the context of this beautiful country we live in."

Paul Martin SM, Archbishop of Wellington

If you wish to place a notice in our parish newsletter, please email the parish office by Wednesday

Last Week's Collection:

House - $1,504.00
Parish - $2,527.10

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 10 Nov: Wis 1:1-7
Lk 17:1-6 Ps 138:1-10
Tue 11 Nov: Wis 2:23 - 3:9
Lk 17:7-10 Ps 33:2-3, 16-19
Wed 12 Nov: Wis 6:1-11
Lk 17:11-19 Ps 81:3-4, 6-7
Thu 13 Nov: Wis 7:22 - 8:1
Lk 17:20-25 Ps 118:89-91, 130, 135,
Fri 14 Nov: Wis 13:1-9
Lk 17:26-37 Ps 18:2-5
Sat 15 Nov: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9
Lk 18:1-8 Ps 104:2-3,36-37,42-43
Sun 16 Nov: Mal 3:19-20
Lk 21:5-19 Ps 97:5-9
2 Thess 3:7-12

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It is people like Shahbaz whom we have witnessed with deeds telling us that life is stronger than the forces of death.
Everybody loves life. He loved life too, but he did not cling to it. Instead he had put his trust in God. For him the real life was eternal life. Faith in eternal life enabled him to sacrifice his earthly life for Christ.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Glen Eden Twilight Christmas

Come & celebrate the joy of Christmas with the Glen Eden community!
The Pastoral Leadership Network - made up of *Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Glen Eden Baptist Church and Glen Eden Methodist Church* - with support from the Waitākere Ranges Local Board, invites you to a family-friendly Christmas event **Sat 22 Nov 3pm-7pm** at Harold Moody Park, 44 Glendale Rd, Glen Eden.

Enjoy an afternoon of festive fun with food trucks, arts and craft stalls, live entertainment and performances from our parishioners. And of course, *Santa Claus will be there too*! Bring your family, pack a picnic and join us for a joyful celebration of community and Christmas spirit.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH
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