OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER

6th Sunday of Easter **10 May 2026**

The Leave-Taking

The parting of friends is never easy. But some partings are harder than others. The most painful parting of all happens when someone dies. What makes this parting different from all others is the finality of it.

It was the night before Jesus' death. For some time he had been giving the apostles hints of his death. Now he talked to them openly about it. Except he didn't speak of death the way we tend to do - in the sense of life ending.

He spoke of his death as a going away, '*going to the Father'*. But all the apostles heard was the fact that he was leaving them. Yes, he was indeed leaving them but there are degrees of leaving. There is a leaving that implies abandonment such as a girl who had hopes of marriage suddenly finds her fiancé leaving her. Sadly, now and again we hear about children and elderly being neglected and abandoned. To be abandoned is the most painful and damaging emotion that can happen to anyone. In the Gospel we are not dealing with a situation of this nature. Jesus is not abandoning his apostles.

There is a leaving that is necessary because it is good of the one leaving. For instance, a person who has to travel but will be returning home, or leaving to take up a better job somewhere else. Jesus' leaving is for his own good. He is returning to his Father and to return to the Father is to go home.

There is a leaving for the good of the one leaving and of those left behind. Jesus was leaving and as a result of his departure he was sending the Holy Spirit to the apostles. His departure will not leave them unsupported and unguided as they were mostly in fears. 'I will not leave you orphans,' he had said to them.

Even when he was gone, by their faith the apostles were able to see him and through their obedience to his commandments, they were drawn into a loving communion with him and with the Father. Jesus does not leave us orphaned either. We have the same access to his presence and to the help of the Holy Spirit as the first Christians had.

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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.

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 Upper Room

Join us **Wed 20 May 6.30pm** at Good George, Mission Bay, for a night of faith and fellowship in this special interview-style event, James Bergin will talk about his remarkable journey from serving as a Methodist minister to entering the Catholic Church at Easter this year. Tickets on sale at: **www.events.humanitix.com**

Rise Up and Shine Festival

Taste the World, Celebrate the Culture!

Join us at the Migrant Chaplaincy Festival **Sat 30 May 10am-3pm** at Malaeola Community Centre, 16 Waokauri Place, Mangere. Thanksgiving Mass starts at 10am followed by social entertainment until 3pm. Music, Zumba, food stalls and cultural shows are on the agenda. *Keep our spirits up and celebrate our oneness in Christ*.

St Francis Retreat Centre

Time Out Days ~ For those who seek to take a day off **Tues 09 Jun and Thurs 13 Aug** 9.30am - 2.30pm ($35 incl lunch).

Franciscan Vocation Dinner ~ Join the Franciscan Friars for a night of prayer, food and faith **Wed 27 May 6pm**. It will be an opportunity for men (18 to 40) to ask questions about the Franciscan religious life. For more info please contact **Br Philip OFM 021 041 4642** or **Br Yornes OFM 022 525 9931**

The Mystery of Love ~ Designed for young adults (18-35) where we will explore the book written by Pope John Paul II *Love and Responsibility* **every Wednesday** (last 17 Jun) 6.30pm-9pm.

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

Dear Lord,
we pray you will bless all mothers on this day and always.
May they feel your loving arms and know the depth of your love for them.
We pray that you will grant all mothers good health, joy and peace.

Amen

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 - $1,946.50
Parish - $2,887.50

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 11 May: Acts 16:11-15
Ps 149:1-6, 9 Jn 15:26 - 16:4
Tue 12 May: Acts 16:22-34
Jn 16:5-11 Ps 137:1-3, 7-8
Wed 13 May: Acts 17:15, 22 - 18:1
Jn 16:12-15 Ps 148:1-2, 11-14
Thu 14 May: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
Jn 15:9-17 Ps 112:1-8
Fri 15 May: Acts 18:9-18
Jn 16:20-23 Ps 46:2-7
Sat 16 May: Acts 18:23-28
Jn 16:23-28 Ps 46:2-3, 8-10
Sun 17 May: Acts 1:1-11
Mt 28:16-20 Ps 46:2-3, 6-9
Eph 1:17-23

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Nowhere do we feel so close to him as when we receive him in the Eucharist. We are not just in communication with him but also in communion with him - a *holy* communion.

Flor McCarthy SDB

May - Month of Mary

May is traditionally dedicated as the *Month of Mary.*
A time to honour her as the mother of Jesus.
Pope Francis has emphasized Mary as a model of fidelity, obedience and a "mother who prays for us".

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. Furthermore, please join us **Wednesday 13 May 11am** (in church) to celebrate the *Feast of Our Lady of Fatima*.
For more info, please contact: **Agnes Lafaele 021 293 1807**.

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