OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER

Divine Mercy Sunday **12 April 2026**

Seeing Is Not Necessarily Believing

Thomas was not the only apostle to doubt the resurrection. The three synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) make it clear that all the apostles initially doubted but John dramatized that doubt in one individual namely Thomas.
At the Last Supper Thomas interrupted the discourse given by Jesus and said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going so how can we know the way?'
It is clear that Thomas was loyal but also demanding answers. When the other apostles told him that they had seen Jesus, he was reluctant and replied, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into those holes and into his side, I refuse to believe.'
The second time Jesus met with the apostles, he came primarily to meet Thomas where he invited him to put his hands on his side and to feel the holes in his hands in order to gain the proof he desired. Now was the chance to demonstrate that "*seeing is believing*".
Yet it is clear from John's narrative that Thomas did not accept the Lord's invitation. Instead he responded: '*My Lord and my God*.' This is the highest profession of faith in all of the Gospels.
In the mere seeing of the glorified Lord, Thomas had learnt that touch and sight were not the sufficient things he had supposed. In a strangely paradoxical way he had found through seeing that seeing was not necessarily believing. And this makes Thomas the link between the first believers (the apostles) and the believers of every age who make the same confession of faith.
The Gospel of John often points out that seeing miracles does not always lead to true belief. Many witnessed Jesus' miracles but still did not believe, or even opposed him.
The miracles and signs in John's Gospel were fundamentally recorded to provoke faith in readers who could not witness the events in person.
While Thomas needed to see to believe, Jesus teaches that faith based purely on His Word (without the need for physical evidence) creates a more stable, unchanging trust.
The blessedness of belief applies to those who believe, not to those who see.
This is the universal beatitude in which John closes his Gospel.

Flor McCarthy SDB

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

Holy Places Collection

We collected **$3,022.80.**
Thank you for your kind donation

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Parish Foodbank

Many thanks for the generous support on our first *Foodbank Stock Campaign*.
It was overwhelming! Remember one item per family per month.
And this month of April could I request the following: **soups/ noodles/pasta/sauces/oil**.
Any gift you are able to donate is truly appreciated.
In God's love, thank you. Anne

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 - $2,424.60
Parish - $3,991.10

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 13 Apr:	Acts 4:14, 23-31
Jn 3:1-8	Ps 2:1-9
Tue 14 Apr:	Acts 4:32-37
Jn 3:7-15	Ps 91:1-2, 5
Wed 15 Apr:	Acts 5:17-26
Jn 3:16-21	Ps 33:2-9
Thu 16 Apr:	Acts 5:27-33
Jn 3:31-36	Ps 33:2, 9, 17-20
Fri 17 Apr:	Acts 5:34-42
Jn 6:1-15	Ps 26:1-4, 13-14
Sat 18 Apr:	Acts 6:1-7
Jn 6:16-21	Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
Sun 19 Apr:	Acts 2:14, 22-33
Jn 20:19-31	Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11
Lk 24:13-35	1 Pet 1:17-21

Invitation to Serve on the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

Our parish is currently undertaking the renewal of the PPC team, and we warmly invite parishioners to prayerfully consider serving in this important ministry.
The PPC works collaboratively with the Parish Priest to support and guide the pastoral life and mission of our parish community.
Those who would like to learn more are encouraged to attend an *Information Evening* **Tues 21 Apr 7pm** (hall).
Expression of Interest forms are available in the church foyer.
Please return your form to the parish office no later than **Fri 24 Apr 2026 3pm**.

Health & Safety Officer and First Aiders Needed

Called to Serve?
Caring for another is at the heart of our faith, and sometimes that care is expressed in practical ways.
We are looking for volunteers to support the health and safety of our parish and to provide first aid when needed. Thank you and God bless.

Health & Safety Officer - helps ensure our church, hall and grounds are safe; helps identify hazards; and supports safe practices during mass and parish events.
First Aiders - we are compiling a list of trained parishioners who can respond in an emergency during mass and parish events.
If you feel called to support in one of these duties, please contact:
Benoir D'Souza 027 500 9954

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Priests Contacts:

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