OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER

Third Sunday of Advent **14 December 2025**

Are You The One?

John the Baptist had spent his life preparing the way for Jesus. But now locked up in a dark dungeon with the threat of death hanging over him, he wanted to know for sure if Jesus was the Messiah. He had sent two of his disciples to question Jesus. When the two asked Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come?' Jesus might have replied with a straightforward, 'Yes, I am' and left it at that. But he didn't. Instead of trying to convince John's messengers with words, he pointed to the works he was doing: the blind can see, the lame can walk, the leper is healed and the good news is preached to the poor. These were exactly the kind of things that had been predicted for the messianic times by prophets such as Elijah (First Reading). In other words, Jesus is the one who fulfils the messianic prophecies.

If someone were to ask us: Are you a disciple of Jesus? We would probably say yes. But would there be enough evidence in our lives to bear this out?

John's situation was a grim one and Jesus knew that he needed comfort and reassurance. So he sent a special message to him. '*Blessed is the one who does not lose faith in me*.' These beautiful words are now spoken to us. Blessed are we if we do not lose faith in Jesus. And twice blessed if we show forth our faith in deeds of love and mercy.

Story

Once a group of salesmen were attending a convention. They had assured their families that they would be home in time for dinner. But the meeting ran late so they had to run for the train. Tickets in hand, they dashed along the platform. One of them knocked over a table supporting a basket of apples. But neither he nor his companions stopped to help the young boy who was manning the apple stand.

All reached the train and boarded it with a sign of relief. But then one of them felt a twinge of compassion for the boy whose apple stand had been overturned. Saying goodbye to his companions, he returned to the scene of the incident.

He was glad he did so. He discovered that the boy was blind. The salesman began to gather up the apples. As he did, he noticed that some of them were bruised. He took out his wallet and gave some money to the boy saying, 'Here, take this for the damage we did. I hope we didn't spoil your day.'

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PARISH NEWS

Christmas & New Year Mass Times

Christmas Eve

6.30pm Carols | Family Mass 7pm

Nativity Play

11.30pm Carols | Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9am & 10.30am

New Year's Eve

10pm

New Year's Day

9am & 10.30am

May the light of Christ shine in your home, bringing hope, love, and profound peace this Christmas and always.

Merry Christmas from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Office.

The parish office will be closed from **Wed 24 Dec 2025** and reopens on **Monday 02 Feb 2026**.

Calendars & Christmas Cards

On sale at the bookshop or at the parish office on weekdays.

Nativity Play

The Youth Group is looking for children to partake in the *Nativity Play* at the family mass on Christmas Eve. Parents, if your children are interested please bring them for practice **Mon 15 Dec 6pm** (hall).

Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes February 2026

Mon 02 Feb to Tues 10 Feb

Novena 6pm followed by mass 6.30pm

Sat 07 Feb & Sun 08 Feb

Mass 5pm followed by Novena 6pm. There will be no Perpetual Succour Novena Wednesdays 04 & 11 Feb

Wed 11 Feb

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes Mass 6.30pm followed by a shared meal in the crypt. Please bring a plate.

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

30 Nov - 21 Dec: "Come Lord Jesus"

The third candle of Advent is Joy (also known as the Shepherd's Candle) recalling the joy of the shepherds who were the first to learn of Jesus' birth and went to see Him.

During Advent, we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth through prayer and reflection.

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

Last Week's Collection:

House - $1,404.90
Parish - $2,276.10

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 15 Dec:	Num 24:2-7, 15-17
Mt 21:23-27	Ps 24:4-9
Tue 16 Dec:	Zeph 3:1-2, 9-13
Mt 21:28-32	Ps 33:2-3,6-7, 16,18-19
Wed 17 Dec:	Gen 49:2, 8-10
Mt 1:1-17	Ps 71:1-4, 7-8, 17
Thu 18 Dec:	Jer 23:5-8
Mt 1:18-24	Ps 71:1-2,12-13, 18-19
Fri 19 Dec:	Judges 13:2-7, 24-25
Lk 1:5-25	Ps 70:3-6, 16-17
Sat 20 Dec:	Is 7:10-14
Lk 1:26-38	Ps 23:1-6
Sun 21 Dec:	Is 7:10-14
Ps 23:1-6	Rom 1:1-7
Mt 1:18-24	

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As he started walking away, the bewildered boy called after him, 'Are you Jesus?' In a sense, the man was. Because he acted like Jesus. People will encounter Jesus in us.

Where can Jesus be found today? If he is to be found at all, it will be in us his disciples.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Parish Foodbank

As we reach the last month of the year, the Foodbank team would like to thank all parishioners for their donation and support throughout 2025. Your generous support has enabled us to provide 371 food parcels so far to families with emergency.

It is through the kindness of people like you that we can make a real difference in our community and ensure that no one goes hungry.

If you would like to donate but you are not sure what to donate and/or how to donate, kindly refer to the posters on our *noticeboard* and the *parish website* for guidance. The parish office accepts food parcels on weekdays during office hours. Thank you.

God bless.

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