OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time **16 November 2025**

Faith in a Time of Confusion

The first issue in the Gospel concerns the end of the world. The many tragedies and disasters that we seem to confront nowadays could easily lead us to despair. But this may not be how Jesus looks upon these events. He believes that it is precisely in difficult times for Christians to bear witness to him and to the Gospel. It is in times of darkness that the light is needed. It is in times of falsehood that the truth is needed. It is in times of hatred that love is needed.

What is it that helps a person to endure?

It is faith. It gives us the conviction that goodness will triumph in the end and that God will have the last say. A strange thing about faith is that it seems to thrive in adversity. Indeed, sometimes faith is born out of adversity.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not be frightened. One would not be human if one didn't feel fear when danger threatens. It is not fear but the overcoming of fear that is the question.'

'*A hero is not a hero in the absence of fear, he is a hero when he overcomes fear*' (Solzhenitsyn).

Story

Shusaku Endo (Japanese writer) was raised by a devout Christian mother and baptized at the age of eleven. Growing up as a Christian in pre-war Japan where Christianity comprises less than one percent of the population, he felt an acute sense of alienation and was sometimes bullied by classmates due to his western religion. After the war ended he travelled to France, hoping to find spiritual soulmates there. Again he faced persecution, this time on account of race. He became the target of racial abuse.

The days and months that follow saw Endo undergoing a deep crisis of faith. He decided to visit Palestine and made some research surrounding the life of Jesus. There he made a transforming discovery: Jesus too knew a rejection or two - at the time of his birth he was being refused shelter. Two of his disciples rejected him and he was not always welcomed in the Synagogue.

All this came as a revelation to Endo. From the Bible he discovered that Jesus was also tortured and condemned to death. He was convinced that Jesus could understand the rejection he himself was experiencing. He drew strength from that conviction.

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PARISH NEWS

Feast of Christ the King

On **Sunday 23 Nov** *Adoration of the Eucharist* **11.30am-3pm** followed by a solemn procession around the church lead by Fr Paul and Deacon Robert ending with benediction.

Thanksgiving Message

A *heartfelt thank you* to all our wonderful volunteers, parishioners, and guests who supported our Parish Get-Together in any way through time, effort, donations, or simply by being there. Your generosity and kindness have truly strengthened our parish community. We extend our sincere gratitude to all the stall holders, performers, and our fantastic MCs for bringing so much life, colour, and joy to the event. Congratulations to our raffle winners and thank you everyone who participated and contributed to making the day such a success. Together, we celebrated not just food and culture, but the spirit of community that makes Our Lady of Lourdes truly special.

PPC Team

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.

Important Dates

Minimarket (last) ~ Sun 23 Nov

Anointing of the Sick Mass ~ Fri 05 Dec 9am

Parish Morning Tea (last) ~ Fri 05 Dec

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary~ Mon 08 Dec Mass 9am

Parish Advent Reconciliation ~ Tues 09 Dec 7pm

Mass Times

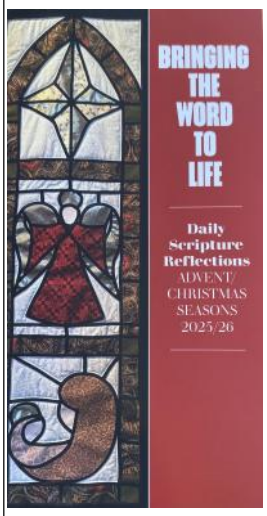
Monday:	9am
Tues/Wed/Thurs	6.30pm
Wed: Novena	6pm
Friday:	9am
First Friday:	6.30pm
Saturday:	5pm Vigil
Sunday:	9am,10.30am,5pm

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 - $1,525.20
Parish - $2,580.40

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 17 Nov: 1 Macc 1:10-15,41-43
Lk 18:35-43 Ps 118:53,61,134,150
Tue 18 Nov: 2 Macc 6:18-31
Lk 19:1-10 Ps 3:2-7
Wed 19 Nov: 2 Macc 7:1, 20-31
Lk 19:11-28 Ps 16:1, 5-6, 8, 15
Thu 20 Nov: 1 Macc 2:15-29
Lk 19:41-44 Ps 49:1-2, 5-6, 14-15
Fri 21 Nov: 1 Macc 4:36-37, 52-59
Lk 19:45-48 1 Chron 29:10-12
Sat 22 Nov: 1 Macc 6:1-13
Lk 20:27-40 Ps 9:2-4, 6, 16, 19
Sun 23 Nov: 2 Sam 5:1-3
Lk 23:35-43 Ps 121:1-5
Col 1:12-20

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Christians today should not grow discouraged by rejection or lack of belief. It is through our endurance that becomes the way to the closest possible companionship with Jesus.

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.

Called - Anointed - Sent

Come and be blessed! A Spiritual Retreat with Sister Joan from the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ (Texas, USA). *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**

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