OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER

Third Sunday of Easter **19 April 2026**

Our Story Too

The story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus is one of the loveliest stories in the Gospel. But how does it connect with us?

There is a painting by Rembrandt (Dutch painter) of Jesus sitting at the table between two disciples. The painting tries to capture the joy on the faces of the disciples the moment they recognized Jesus.

There was a guide at the museum whose job it was to show Rembrandt's painting to visitors. He always began by telling them the story behind the picture, the story we have just read in the Gospel. Sadly, for many years he told the story mechanically and without conviction.

Then his wife, whom he loved dearly, got cancer and died a slow, agonizing death. He could see absolutely no meaning in her terrible suffering and untimely death. She was a good person and did not deserve to die like that.

He was heart-broken. For him it was as if the world had come to an end. Nevertheless, sometime after the funeral, he was persuaded to go back to work at the museum. So once again he found himself telling the story to most visitors. Then one day he had a moment of epiphany and suddenly realized that the story was not just about those two disciples. *It was about him too*.

Like those two disciples, he was going down a sad and lonely road. Though he was a believer but for the first time in his life Jesus came alive for him. He felt his presence at his side, the presence of a friend who knew all about human suffering. At that moment his eyes were opened and he saw things differently.

It was as if he was hearing the Easter message for the first time. Jesus was alive! Therefore, his beloved wife, who believed in Jesus, was alive too. The fact is that Jesus overcame death not just for himself but for us too.

He went on telling the story at the museum, only now he is telling it differently. He tells it with conviction and a thoughtful spirit. And as he did so, a healing process was at work inside him. And he began to hope and live again.

So what is the connection with us?

The connection is that all of us have some experience of the road to Emmaus which represents the road of disappointment, failure, sorrow, grief and broken dreams. The risen Lord is with us on this road, even though we may not recognize him. He shows us that God brings life out of death and glory out of suffering.

Flor McCarthy SDB

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.

Mass Intentions

It has come to our attention that some parishioners are not following the standard procedure when it comes to offer mass intentions.
Please do not approach the priest prior to the mass start for your mass intention. You are required to contact the parish office with a **week's notice**.
Exceptions will be given if there is a sudden death in the family or someone is critically ill and is requesting for our prayers. Thank you for your cooperation.

Anzac Day

"Lest We Forget"

Mass 5pm

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 available from the church foyer or download a copy from the parish website. Please send your application to the coordinator no later than **Thurs 07 May**. No late enrolments will be accepted.

DIOCESE NEWS

Special Recital for Pope Francis

The Graduate Choir NZ who performs regular concerts with the Auckland Philharmonia and the NZ Symphony Orchestra is giving a concert **Tues 21 Apr 7.30pm** at St Michael's Church, Remuera, to honour Pope Francis' first death anniversary. Pope Francis left an enormous legacy not only for the Catholic Church but for the world at large amidst many global societal changes. The choir will present music to reflect the compassion, humility and spiritual depth that characterized Pope Francis.
Scan the QR-Code to purchase your ticket ($30-$40).

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

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 - $1,195.10
Parish - $2,033.10

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 20 Apr:	Acts 6:8-15	
Jn 6:22-29	Ps 118:23-24, 26-30	
Tue 21 Apr:	Acts 7:51 - 8:1	
Jn 6:30-35	Ps 30:3-4, 6-8, 17, 21	
Wed 22 Apr:	Acts 8:1-8	
Jn 6:35-40	Ps 65:1-7	
Thu 23 Apr:	Acts 8:26-40	
Jn 6:44-51	Ps 65:8-9, 16-17, 20	
Fri 24 Apr:	Acts 9:1-20	
Jn 6:52-59	Ps 116	
Sat 25 Apr:	Is 9:1-6	
Jn 12:23-28	1 Cor 1:18-25	
Sun 26 Apr:	Acts 2:14, 36-41	
Jn 10:1-10	Ps 22:1-6	
1 Pet 2:20-25		

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
7 Glendale Rd, Glen Eden
Ph: 818-6325
***Office hours*:** 9am to 3pm (Mon-Fri)
E-mail: ourladyoflourdes@xtra.co.nz
Web: www.glenedencatholic.org.nz
Facebook: Glen Eden Catholic Church

Priests Contacts:

***Parish Priest*:** *Fr Paul Helsham OFM Cap*
E:*paulhelsham@gmail.com*

Asst Parish Priest:
Fr Praful Kerketta OFM Cap
E: *kerkettapraful20@gmail.com*

***Deacon*:** *Robert Mitchell*
E:*robertmitchell1410@gmail.com*