OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER

Fourth Sunday of Advent **21 December 2025**

Twofold Identity of Jesus

There is a danger that Christmas becomes something that concerns only the children. While it is true that a child is at the centre of Christmas but the day concerns us all.

The Second Reading and the Gospel reveal to us the true identity of this special child, Jesus. No prophecy is fully understood until after its fulfilment.

Both St Paul and St Matthew made it clear that, in the first place, Jesus was the *Son of David*. This is because Joseph was descended from the line of David. David is one of the greatest figures in the Old Testament. He is the one who united the scattered tribes and formed them into a nation. Even though he sinned, he repented. He also forgave his enemies which is another sign of his greatness. Many times in the Gospel Jesus is called 'Son of David'.

To say that Jesus came from the line of David was already a great thing. But he was more than that. He has another infinitely greater identity. He is '*Emmanuel*' which means 'God is with us.' So he is not just the Son of David but also the *Son of God.*

The second identity of Jesus was something that was gradually revealed and understood. In fact, it was only after he had been raised from the dead that he was accepted as the Lord (Second Reading). He himself said this identity could not be recognized unless it was revealed by the Father.

We too have a twofold identity. As children of our parents it means we have a human identity. But Jesus has made us children of God (Jn 1:12) therefore this means that we also have a divine identity. Christmas is a wonderful time. It recalls the greatest event in history, namely, the incarnation when God's Son came down on earth to confer on us the dignity of children of God. It is not true that Christmas is just about children. It is about us all. We may consider ourselves very ordinary but nobody is ordinary any longer, not since Christ came on earth.

By revealing himself as both God and man, Jesus provides a full and complete picture of God's closeness to humanity.

Flor McCarthy SDB

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.

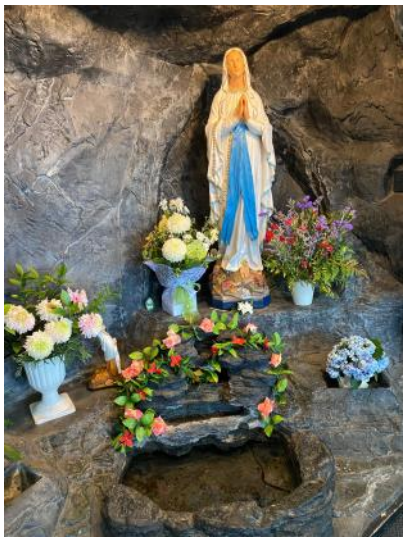
This is the last newsletter of 2025. The parish office will be closed from **Wed 24 Dec 2025** and reopens on **Monday 02 Feb 2026**.

Parish Bookshop

Calendars, Christmas Cards, Rosaries, Crucifixes, Daily Mass Calendars 2026, Pieta Prayer Books, Bible Diaries 2026 and so much more are on sale at the bookshop or visit the parish office on weekdays.

Our Lady of Lourdes Novena

February 2026



Mon 02 Feb to Tues 10 Feb

Novena 6pm ~ Mass 6.30pm

Sat 07 Feb & Sun 08 Feb

Mass 5pm ~ Novena 6pm

There will be no Perpetual Succour Novenas Wednesdays 04 & 11 Feb

Wed 11 Feb

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Mass 6.30pm followed by a shared meal (hall). 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 fourth candle of Advent is Love (also known as the Angel's Candle) reminding us of God's ultimate love heralding the imminent arrival of Christ and the peace He brings.

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 - $1,353.70
Parish - $2,254.40

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

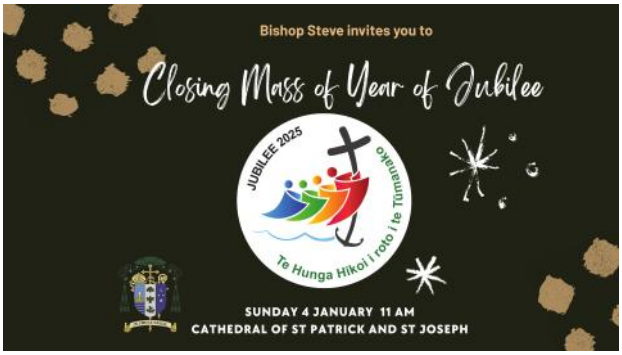
Mon 22 Dec: 1 Sam 1:24-28
Lk 1:46-56 1 Sam 2:1, 4-8
Tue 23 Dec: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24
Lk 1:57-66 Ps 24:4-5, 8-10, 14
Wed 24 Dec: 2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16
Lk 1:67-79 Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29
Thu 25 Dec: The Nativity of the Lord
Fri 26 Dec: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59
Mt 10:17-22 Ps 30:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17
Sat 27 Dec: 1 Jn 1:1-4
Jn 20:2-8 Ps 96:1-2, 5-6, 11-12
Sun 28 Dec: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Col 3:12-21 Ps 127:1-5
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Praise In The Park

Praise In The Park will now be held **Sun 15 February 2026 4pm-6pm** at Selwyn Domain, 48-56 Tamaki Drive, Mission Bay.
Rain date: Sat 21 Feb 2026

It is a Catholic event involving praise and worship, testimonies, Gospel teaching followed by a time of Eucharistic Adoration where space for reflection and prayer will be offered. If you can help with administration, sponsorship, prayer ministry or practical help on the day, please email Deidre: **aucklandccr@gmail.com**

2025 Jubilee Closing Mass



Bishop Steve will be celebrating mass for the closing of the *2025 Year of Jubilee* at the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph **Sun 04 Jan 2026 11am.**

The Bishop invites you and all parish priests to celebrate the closing of the Jubilee Year and our ongoing journey as Pilgrims of Hope during the Feast of the Epiphany.

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Asst Parish Priest:
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