OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER

Christ the King **23 November 2025**

The Two Thieves

Jesus was crucified between two thieves. The first thief is a profoundly disturbing character. Even with death staring him in the face, he showed no trace of remorse. There was no pity or humanity left in this scornful and wretched man. He showed how low he had sunk by joining in the mocking of Jesus. Even Jesus couldn't save him. No one can save a person who does not want to be saved.
'*He who is in a state of rebellion cannot receive grace' (Oscar Wilde).*
The second thief is a very interesting character. He showed that there was still some decency left in him when he rebuked his companion and spoke up for Jesus. As he hung on the cross, he did a quick review of his life.
And what did he see?
He realized that he had wasted his life and it was too late to do anything about it. Yet, here is an amazing thing: he made no excuses. Nor did he blame others for the predicament in which he found himself. He could have blamed his upbringing, his friends or his environment but he didn't. He took full responsibility for the person he had become. What he did was a tremendous thing. It involved something that is never easy - radical honesty with oneself. Now the curtain was going down on his murky life. Everything was dark and hopeless.
Who could he turn to?
No one but Jesus. The goodness of Jesus awakened his own lost goodness. Turning to Jesus, he said, 'Remember me when you come into your kingdom.' Jesus was moved with compassion for him and said, 'This day you will be with me in paradise.'
Thanks to his encounter with Jesus, he found peace, hope and love in the end. There is nothing pretty about a crucifixion. Yet from a spiritual point of view his death was different. He died a different person.
We often hear this saying: *As a person lives so shall he die*.
No doubt there is truth in this but there have also been people who lived through a life of hell yet had a luminous death.

Story

Mother Teresa told how one day in Calcutta she picked a man out of the gutter and brought him to the home for the dying. Before he died he said to her, 'I have lived like an animal but I'm dying like an angel, loved and cared for.'

(continued on the back page)

PARISH NEWS

Feast of Christ the King

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*

Important Dates

Anointing of the Sick Mass ~ Fri 05 Dec 9am
Parish Morning Tea (last) ~ Fri 05 Dec
Parish Working Bee ~ Sat 06 Dec 9am
The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary~ Mon 08 Dec Mass 9am
Parish Advent Reconciliation ~ Tues 09 Dec 7pm

DIOCESE NEWS

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship

An invitation to all men, their wives or partners to the last meeting for 2025 **Wed 26 Nov 7pm** at St Thomas More Church, Glenfield.
Our speaker, Fr Glen Lowe, will talk about *"The Season of Advent: Preparing to Welcome Jesus".*
We look forward to seeing you there!

Mass Times

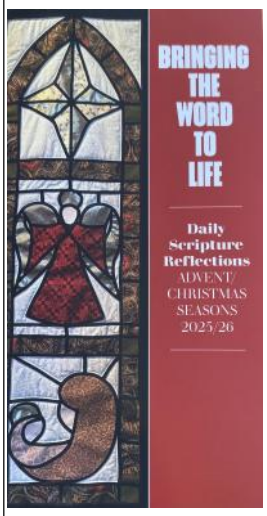
Monday:	9am
Tues/Wed/Thurs	6.30pm
Wed: Novena	6pm
Friday:	9am
First Friday:	6.30pm
Saturday:	5pm Vigil
Sunday:	9am,10.30am,5pm

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 - $1,516.50
Parish - $2,504.10

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 24 Nov:	Dan 1:1-6, 8-20
Lk 21:1-4	Dan 3:52-56
Tue 25 Nov:	Dan 2:31-45
Lk 21:5-11	Dan 3:57-61
Wed 26 Nov:	Dan 5:1-6, 13-14, 23-28
Lk 21:12-19	Dan 3:62-67
Thu 27 Nov:	Dan 6:12-28
Lk 21:20-28	Dan 3:68-74
Fri 28 Nov:	Dan 7:2-14
Lk 21:29-33	Dan 3:75-81
Sat 29 Nov:	Dan 7:15-27
Lk 21:34-36	Dan 3:82-87
Sun 30 Nov:	Is 2:1-5
Mt 24:37-44	Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9
Rom 13:11-14	

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Mother Teresa took note on the greatness of a man who could speak like that and who could die without blaming or cursing anyone. She felt privileged to have been able to help him to live out his last hours feeling loved and cherished.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Parish Morning Tea

While shared meals were a part of the very early Christian Church (known as *agape* meals), the modern "morning tea" tradition is likely an adaptation which was popularized in the British Empire in the 19th century. The practice was a way for people to socialize and this cultural norm was integrated into church life as a structured social time following the Sunday service. It is now being practiced in many parishes today as it serves as a practical expression of Christian hospitality, making newcomers, visitors or those who are alone feel seen, welcomed and be part of a church community. It also provides an opportunity for parishioners to chat, catch up with friends, and develop stronger personal bonds in a relaxed setting.

It is with sadness that we are informing you all that Kevin will no longer be hosting our *Monthly Parish Morning Tea*.

THANK YOU Kevin for all the years (and not just recent ones) that you have welcomed us, entertained us, and told us that it is time to leave…. (LOL).
You have been an amazing host with a cheerful spirit always. God bless.

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