OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER

Pentecost Sunday **24 May 2026**

The Miracle of Change

After Pentecost the apostles were changed people. That is the real miracle of Pentecost. However, it is a mistake to think that the change came about in an instant. It had to be a gradual thing, a growth process set in motion by the action of the Holy Spirit. Growth happens gradually.

Though we are dealing with mystery that doesn't mean we cannot understand anything about it. Let us look at how spring goes about its work of change and renewal.

Each year in Ireland towards the middle of March you will see patches of green begin to appear in the fields and on the hillsides. Day by day the patches get bigger. A month or so later spring will replace the old garment with a completely new garment.

Yet spring doesn't make anything happen. It is only a facilitator. It merely creates a climate in which things can grow. The new life comes from within. It cannot be imposed but a response is needed otherwise all spring's efforts will be in vain. What spring does is provide living things with the opportunity and impulse to realize what is already inside them in a germinal state. This is achieved in a gentle way. One good thing about nature is that it is incapable of deception. It does not put on an outward show when there is nothing inside.

People too need to renew themselves. This renewal just like nature cannot be imposed. Many people carry profound pains into their spirits sometimes encounter individuals who attempt to force them into a rigid mould or behaviour. What we need is someone to awaken us to what is already inside us, to bid us live and help us grow. But as we know growth is slow and can be painful at times. We don't let go easily of the old garment, old attitudes, old habits. This probably accounts for the fact that many people are left unawakened and die without having experienced even one spring in their lifetime!

What happened to the apostles at Pentecost can happen to us too.

(continued on the back page)

PARISH NEWS

Foodbank

Many thanks for your generous support throughout the month of April. For the month of May could I request the following: **Long life milk**, **cooking oil**, **pasta sauces**, **flour**, **cereals**, **grains** (all types), **soups** (tins or packets) and **coconut milk/cream**. Anything you can donate is a special gift. *In God's love, thank you, Anne*.

DIOCESE NEWS

Mass of the Neophytes

Bishop Steve invites all those who were initiated into the Church at Easter, their families and friends to the *Mass of Welcome* **Sun 24 May 4.30pm** at St Patrick's Cathedral. This is an opportunity to give thanks for the gift of faith and share with the Bishop in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship

All men are warmly invited to an evening of fellowship, praise and worship **Wed 27 May 7pm** St Thomas More Church, Glenfield.
Fr Robert Steele (Parish Priest at St Patrick's, Pukekohe) will talk about *Combating Pornography on the Internet.*

Rise Up and Shine Festival

Taste the World, Celebrate the Culture!

Join us at the Migrant Chaplaincy Festival **Sat 30 May 10am-3pm** at Malaeola Community Centre, 16 Waokauri Place, Mangere. Thanksgiving Mass starts at 10am followed by social entertainment until 3pm. Music, Zumba, food stalls and cultural shows are on the agenda. *Keep our spirits up and celebrate our oneness in Christ*.

St Francis Retreat Centre

Time Out Days ~ For those who seek to take a day off **Tues 09 Jun and Thurs 13 Aug** 9.30am - 2.30pm ($35 incl lunch).

Franciscan Vocation Dinner ~ Join the Franciscan Friars for a night of prayer, food and faith **Wed 27 May 6pm**. It will be an opportunity for men (18 to 40) to ask questions about the Franciscan religious life. For more info please contact **Br Philip OFM 021 041 4642** or **Br Yornes OFM 022 525 9931**

The Mystery of Love ~ Designed for young adults (18-35) where we will explore the book written by Pope John Paul II *Love and Responsibility* **every Wednesday** (last 17 Jun) 6.30pm-9pm.

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

Ars Celebrandi Workshop

The NZ Catholic Bishops Conference warmly invites clergy, parish liturgy teams, and all involved in the preparation of the sacred liturgy to this special workshop with international liturgist *Fr Paul Turner* **Sat 25 July 10am-2.30pm** at Christ the King Church, Owairaka. Mass is at 9am, all welcome. Morning tea provided, please bring your own lunch. Koha welcomed. This workshop will explore the *ars celebrandi* - the art of celebrating the liturgy with reverence, understanding, and fidelity to the mind and heart of the Church. Register now.

Poster on the noticeboards

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 - $1,475.30
Parish - $2,415.70

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 25 May: 1 Cor 1:18-25
Jn 19:25-27 Ps 112:1-8
Tue 26 May: 1 Pet 1:10-16
Mk 10:28-31 Ps 97:1-4
Wed 27 May: 1 Pet 1:18-25
Mk 10:32-45 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20
Thu 28 May: 1 Pet 2:2-5, 9-12
Mk 10:46-52 Ps 99:2-5
Fri 29 May: 1 Pet 4:7-13
Mk 11:11-26 Ps 95:10-13
Sat 30 May: Jude 17:20-25
Mk 11:27-33 Ps 62:2-6
Sun 31 May: Ex 34:4-6, 8-9
Jn 3:16-18 2 Cor 13:11-13
Dan 3:52-56

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The Holy Spirit is the most wonderful facilitator of all.
St Paul says that the Holy Spirit is '*not a spirit of fear or timidity*' (2 Tim 1:7).
The Holy Spirit can awaken us and breathe new life into us.

Flor McCarthy SDB

May - Month of Mary

May is traditionally dedicated as the *Month of Mary.*
A time to honour her as the mother of Jesus.
Pope Francis has emphasized Mary as a model of fidelity, obedience and a "mother who prays for us".

Prayer for Pentecost Sunday

Gracious God,
on this day of Pentecost,
bestow upon us the gifts of your Spirit.
Empower us to live out our faith boldly.
Fill us with your grace and peace so
that we remain one in spirit and purpose. Amen.

Engaged? or know of someone who is thinking of marriage? Did you know the Diocese of Auckland runs a superb pre-marriage course.

CONTACT: **Gerry Smith phone: 09 360 3025**

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Priests Contacts:

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