OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER

Good Shepherd Sunday **26 April 2026**

That You May Have Life

Henry David Thoreau was an American writer and philosopher. At one point in his life, he decided to take time out. He went to live for two years in a shack in the woods in Maine. In his book, *Walden*, he tells us why. He says, 'I went into the woods to confront the essential facts of life, lest when I come to die I should discover that I had never lived.'

Thoreau wrote about the many lessons he learned from relying on himself for everything from food to emotional comfort. Since he lived with almost no belongings or technology, he found himself having to live a simple life which shaped the novel's theme.

We should live in such a way that we won't look back and regret that we have wasted our life. Life is generous to those who seize it with both hands. Those who live fully and intensely will not feel cheated at death. Thoreau says, '*Fear not that your life will end; fear, rather, that it may never have begun*.'

In the past the Christian religion tended to be identified with restrictions and prohibitions. This present life is viewed as nothing more than a time of trial.

Life has been regarded as something to be survived rather than lived. That kind of spirituality discourage the enjoyment of life.

But the message of today's Gospel is this: God wants us to have a full and fruitful life here on earth and eternal life in the hereafter. To live fully is not the same as to live it up like grabbing all the pleasures for oneself. It is possible to enjoy life to the full while being devout and religious at the same time.

Story

There is a delightful Spanish legend that goes like this. When people arrive at the gate of heaven seeking to enter, St Peter asks them a strange question. He says to each one, 'Tell me this. Have you taken advantage of all the earthly joys which God in his goodness made available to you while you were on earth?'

If a person replies, 'No, I have not,' St Peter shakes his head sadly and says, 'Alas, my friend, I can't let you in - not yet anyway. How can you expect to be ready for the heavenly joys if you have not prepared yourself for them through the medium of earthly ones? I shall be obliged to send you back down to earth until you learn better.'

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.

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 (church foyer).
Applications close **Thurs 07 May**.

Parish Bookshop

The bookshop has many new items on sale including prints of the Divine Mercy from $5 (framed $28), Holy Water bottles, assorted rosaries, prayer cards, medals (Miraculous Medal of Our Blessed Lady) and so much more. Come and see us.
We are open **Sundays 10am-10.30am**.

DIOCESE NEWS

Divine Mercy Devotion

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass **Fri 01 May 7pm** at St Mary's Parish,Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass, followed by veneration of St Faustina's relic. *All welcome*.

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship

All men are warmly invited to a meeting **Wed 29 Apr 7pm** St Thomas More Church, Glenfield.
Join us for an evening of fellowship and praise to our Lord, as we learn how we can become closer to him in our daily lives. The topic of the evening will be "*The Universal Call to Holiness*" presented by Dr John Evangelista, Director of Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College.

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 - $1,548.80
Parish - $3,155.50

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 27 Apr: Acts 11:1-18
Jn 10:11-18 Ps 41:2-3; 42:3-4
Tue 28 Apr: Acts 11:19-26
Jn 10:22-30 Ps 86:1-7
Wed 29 Apr: Acts 12:24 - 13:5
Jn 12:44-50 Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8
Thu 30 Apr: Acts 13:13-25
Jn 13:16-20 Ps 88:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27
Fri 01 May: Acts 13:26-33
Jn 14:1-6 Ps 2:6-11
Sat 02 May: Acts 13:44-52
Jn 14:7-14 Ps 97:1-4
Sun 03 May: Acts 6:1-7
Jn 14:1-12 Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
1 Pet 2:4-9

St Mary's Catholic School (Avondale)

Years 1 to 8

Is your child turning five this year?

We provide a nurturing, faith-filled education where each child is known by name and our classes have low numbers. We would love to welcome you and your child into our wonderful school.

We have limited new entrant places available for 2026, and we invite you to experience the St Mary's difference. There are also some places available at other year levels. *We look forward to meeting you!*

Email: stmarysoffice@stmarysavondale.school.nz

Visit us at the school office: 2136 Gt North Rd, Avondale for a chat

Call us: 09 828 5599

Learn more: Read our latest newsletter:

stmarysavondale.school.nz/newsletters

Minimarket Sun 26 April after 9am & 10.30am masses and every 4th Sunday of the month

Parish Morning Tea Fri 01 May after 9am mass and every 1st Friday of the month

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*