OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER

Palm Sunday **29 March 2026**

Palm Sunday

As Jesus enters into his final week, he takes humanity with him and continues to do so every Easter. We are not just remembering an historical event that happened over two thousand years ago. We are celebrating and taking part in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus as it happens today to us and for us.

His entry into the city begins on a huge wave of optimism, joy and hope. The people line the streets; they wave palms, they put their cloaks and garments on the ground and they shout out his name. This was an ancient Roman tradition used to welcome soldiers and armies home after their success in battle. The crowd welcomes Jesus in a similar way as they shout out: *Hosanna, Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

By the end of next week he will share a meal with his family and friends. He will offer himself to them through bread and wine. He will wash the feet of those who are at the table with him. There will be betrayal from Judas and denials from Peter. Then Pilate will condemn him to death. The soldiers will beat him and make him carry his own cross. On the way to Calvary, Simon will be forced to help him carry his cross. Veronica will push her way through the crowd and wipe his face with compassion. We hear this story ever year and we become used to it and perhaps a bit overly familiar with it and what it means to us.

The invitation and question that Palm Sunday puts before us is: ***where am I as Jesus is going through all of this?***

At the beginning of Lent Jesus said to each of us '*Take up your cross and follow me.'* Am I still walking with him or am I hiding safely at the back of the crowd keeping my distance? Where am I as Jesus carries his cross?

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is a great disciple of the Holy Week. She followed him and stayed with him every step of the way. She has the courage, strength and faith to stand with the other women as he died. As we begin our own journey through the dramatic events of the Holy Week can we stand with Mary?

Can we be inspired by her and withdraw courage and strength from her so we too can stay with Jesus?

The journey of Holy Week doesn't begin nor end at Calvary. But before we can stand at the empty tomb with Mary Magdalene we have to travel with Jesus as he carries his cross and stands on the Hill of Calvary.

(continued on the back page)

PARISH NEWS

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

Daylight Saving

Please note that *daylight saving* ends **Easter Sunday 05 Apr**. A reminder to put your clock **back 1 hour** before bed Sat 04 Apr.

RCIA Catechumens & Candidates

Holy Father, bless these catechumens and candidates who will receive the sacraments this season of Easter. We pray that they feel God's love, joy and peace as they enter full communion with the Church. Amen.
Vanessa, ***Matthew***, ***Blake***, ***Nathan***, ***Phillip***, ***Joel***, ***Christina***, ***Jessica***, ***Kristian***.

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

DIOCESE NEWS

Diocesan Youth Mass (Mar-Nov)

Last Sunday of each month
4.30pm St Patrick's Cathedral

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

Holy Week & Easter Mass Times

Holy Thursday

7pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration at Altar of Repose until 11pm (classroom)

Good Friday

9am: Stations of the Cross
10.30am: Stations of the Cross
3pm: The Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday

7pm: Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday

9am & **10.30am**

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 - $1,605.50
Parish - $2,815.90

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 30 Mar:	Is 42:1-7
Jn 12:1-11	Ps 26:1-3, 13-14
Tue 31 Mar:	Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Is 49:1-6	Ps 70:1-6, 15, 17
Wed 01 Apr:	Is 50:4-9
Mt 26:14-25	Ps 68:8-10,21-22,31,33
Thu 02 Apr:	Ex 12:1-8, 11-14
Jn 13:1-15	Ps 115:12-13, 15-18
	1 Cor 11:23-26
Fri 03 Apr:	Ps 30:2,6,12-13,15-17
	Jn 18:1 - 19:42
	Is 52:13-53:12
Sat 04 Apr:	7 Easter Vigil Readings
Sun 05 Apr:	Acts 10:34, 37-43
1 Cor 5:6-8	Jn 20:1-9

(continued)

There is no resurrection without crucifixion. We are not asked to stay at the cross, but we are asked to experience the cross. Then and only then can we share and experience the joy and new life that God freely offers to each of us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

"*If we have died with him, we shall live with him. If we endure we will also reign with him*" (2 Timothy 2:11).

Source: Michael Moore
Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Joshua 40-Year Celebration Weekend

The Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship is turning 40!
Join us for a retreat in Rotorua as we celebrate this special event. Bookings are now open, however, spaces are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.

When: Fri 14 Aug to Sun 16 Aug
Venue: Keswick Christian Camp, 5 Cooper Avenue, Holden's Bay, Rotorua
Cost: $247 pp includes accommodation and meals
Key Speaker: Robert Falzon, Leader of Australia's MenALIVE and Author of "*Importance of a Present Dad*"
To register: Scan the QR Code OR contact Mike Lobo 021 280 9285/Greg Sullivan 021 437 747 OR go to our website: **www.menforchrist.wufoo.com/forms/joshua-40th-anniversary-celebration-rotorua**

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*