



Diocese of  
Palmerston North

# Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish

Palmerston North (1951)

Te Parihā o te mātou Wahine o Ruata

**Rev Fr Vaughan Leslie**  
Administrator  
Presbytery: 06 358 3667  
Cell: 027 385 9615  
frvjpleslie@yahoo.com

**LOL MASSES**  
5:30pm Vigil (Sat)  
8:00am & 10:00am  
Mon—Sat: 10:00am  
**RECONCILIATION**  
Sat: 10:30—11:00am or on request

**EUCCHARIST ADORATION**  
Fri: 10:30am—Noon & 7:00—9:00pm

**RONGOTEA MASSES**  
9:30am: 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
Thurs: 7:00pm



## Fifth Sunday of Lent

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017; Year A / Weekdays Year 1

**Psalm Response:** With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

**Prayers of the Faithful Response:** Whakarongo mai ra kia matou.

**RITE II RECONCILIATION** will be celebrated Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 6.30pm in our Parish Church—Please come along in preparation for Easter.

**EASTER VIGIL** we will enjoy supper together at the conclusion of the Vigil ceremonies—contributions would be appreciated.

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 4:00pm-5:50pm (Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April)** at the Diocesan Centre, 33 Amesbury St (behind the Cathedral) for year 10 students and above. Today the programme is the Second session of preparation; however it's not too late to sign up for the Sacrament. Please contact Lucy Ingle: 021 509 439 or [lingl@pndiocese.org.nz](mailto:lingl@pndiocese.org.nz) ASAP if you want to join the preparation sessions, so she can bring you up-to-speed.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** 7:00pm, Fridays during Lent, followed by Adoration.

**LENTEN GROUPS** Tuesday 2:00pm and Thursday 7:00pm in the Foyer.

**LOL GUILD** Meeting Wed, 5<sup>th</sup> April 1:30pm. Speaker—Councillor, Lew Findlay on Grey Power. Competitions—Your favourite fancy plate, plus the usual flowers Comps.

**LOL PRAYER CHAIN:** Please call Eileen O'Connor 329 1801/021 671 755 or the Parish Office. No request is too big or too small!

**MARIAN EUCCHARISTIC COMMUNITY**  
Kerala Catholic Prayer Community prayer meeting, every Monday 4:15pm-7:00pm.  
Exposition 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month.

### Short Term Position

St Mary's is in need of a housekeeper - to clean the parish house and to cook the midday meal for the priests. This is a short term paid position starting immediately and would involve 3 hours a day for 2 days a week. If you are interested, please call the office 358 5614.

### NEW LOURDES PARISH WEBSITE

Have a look around our parish website:  
[www.lourdesparish.nz](http://www.lourdesparish.nz)



### PLEASE SUPPORT THE GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Rightly, we are moved by the stories and images we see on TV and YouTube of teachers, and nurses and doctors who, notwithstanding great danger, set out daily to work in Aleppo and Mosul and other war zones. Similarly when the Ebola Virus was rampant in Liberia and Sierra Leone, I often thought the local medics, wrapped from head to foot in protective gowns, were surely the unsung heroes going about their daily duty away from the safe media zones.

For some people in our world, going to Mass is also dangerous. For a complexity of reasons, Churches and our schools and clinics can become targets of violence in parts of Iraq, Iran, Syrian, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Yemen as well as the Holy Land itself.

The ancient but fragile Christian communities in the Middle East and the Holy Land (where Br Ben Shore OFM Cap, from our Diocese, is currently serving as part of his formation with the Capuchin Friars) face oppression and harassment yet they remain courageous in their charity and their appreciation of Mass.

It is to them that our annual Good Friday collection is destined. You can support this appeal by placing a donation in an envelope marked Good Friday Collection on the Friday itself or in the usual Sunday collection basket.

Our prayers for peace in the region are also much appreciated.

### Easter Sunday Collection

This collection is a "thank you" for our priests. It is divided equally among them and used for holiday costs, books and periodicals, and the priests' own charitable donations. We are blessed with the service of our priests whose workload is far from light. This is one way to show your appreciation. Thanks everyone. Kia ora tātou.

+ Charles

**ON SALE NZ Catholic \$4; Tui Motu \$7.**

**FLOWER ARRANGERS** We urgently need new flower ladies. We only have 3 at the moment. We will teach new people or put you on with someone else, even if you are able to water the flowers a couple of times a week would be very helpful. Please phone Mary 3296816.

**LOL GUILD** will be celebrating their **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017**. Please contact former members, and give them the opportunity to join us for lunch to celebrate this milestone. For further information phone Sheila Evans 357 0172 or June Lynch 354 7686.

**ROSMINIAN** Please see notice board for dates and times of **Annual Retreat, Way of the Cross and Confession in Malayalam**

### YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS NEWS

**Set Free** Catholic Youth Festival Hamilton April 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> We are taking a group to this. Yrs 11-13 & young adults. Setfree.org.nz. Interested? Contact Lucy 021 509439; [lingl@pndiocese.org.nz](mailto:lingl@pndiocese.org.nz)

**PN PILGRIMAGE OF FAITH** Good Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Theme: "Were you there?". Full timetable on the poster in the foyer.

### Want to receive the Diocesan newsletter?

Sign up at [www.pndiocese.org.nz](http://www.pndiocese.org.nz)  
Follow [www.facebook.com/centralcatholic.nz](https://www.facebook.com/centralcatholic.nz) for updates, news and photos of what is happening around the Diocese.

**VACANCY:** The Diocese of Palmerston North has a vacancy for someone to assist in prison chaplaincy work at both the Whanganui and Manawatu Prisons. Work is varied, challenging, interesting and rewarding. This is a part time paid position of up to 20 hours per week. Interested? Please contact Tony Murphy [tmurphy@pndiocese.org.nz](mailto:tmurphy@pndiocese.org.nz); or 021 925 560.

**We Pray for the Sick:** Kerrin McManus, Liu Mingquiong, Vanessa Farrelly, Vinnie Carroll, Phillip Gleeson, Joseph Ang, Joan Lambourne, Liam Stone, Graeme Younger, Marie Wenman, Aileen Ryan, Helen Taylor, Mary Jefferies, Kevin Patterson, Ian Sutherland, Ann Fairclough, Mikulas Oros, Louis Heynen, Braxton Prentice, Anne & Bill Bethune, Katherine Denby, Toshi Sekizaki, Oliver Gillespie, Marie Hubbard, Guiseppina Dujany, Trevor Wilson.

**Died Recently**  
Fr Des Levins

**Anniversaries**

*Requiescant in Pace*

# Open Your Heart to Faith, the Doors of Heaven Will Open to You'

March 29, 2017—Deborah Castellano Lubov—  
[Zenit](#)

*This morning's General Audience was held at 9:30 in St. Peter's Square, where the Holy Father Francis met with groups of pilgrims and faithful from Italy and from all over the world.*

*In his address in Italian, the Pope focused his meditation on the theme: "Hoping against hope" (cf. Romans 4:16-25).*

## The Holy Father's Catechesis

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

The passage of Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans that we just heard, gives us a great gift. In fact, we are used to acknowledging Abraham as our Father in the faith. Today the Apostle makes us understand that Abraham is also for us Father in hope; not only Father of faith but Father in hope. And this because in his story we can already receive an announcement of the Resurrection, of the new life that overcomes evil and death itself.



The text states that Abraham believed in the God "Who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist" (Romans 4:17), and then it specifies: "He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead because he was about 100 years old, or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb" (Romans 4:19). See, this is the experience that we are also called to live. The God who reveals Himself to Abraham is the God who saves, the God who makes us come out of despair and of death, the God who calls to life. In Abraham's story every-

thing becomes a hymn to God who liberates and regenerates, everything becomes prophecy. And it becomes so for us, for us who now recognize and celebrate the fulfilment of all this in the mystery of Easter. In fact, God "raised Jesus from the dead" (Romans 4:24), so that, in Him, we can also pass from death to life. And truly Abraham can now well say of himself "Father of many nations," in as much as he shines as proclamation of a new humanity – us! –, rescued by Christ from sin and death and introduced once and for all in the embrace of God's love.

At this point, Paul helps us set on fire the very close bond between faith and hope. He affirms, in fact, that Abraham "hoped against hope" (Romans 4:18). Our hope is not governed by human reasoning, expectations and reassurances; it is manifested where there is no more hope, where there is nothing more in which to hope, precisely as it happened for Abraham, in face of his imminent death and the sterility of his wife Sarah. The end was approaching them, they could not have children and, in that situation, Abraham believed and had hope against all hope. And this is great! Great hope is rooted in faith, and precisely because of this it is able to go beyond all hope. Yes, because it is not founded on our word, but on the Word of God. So, in this sense also, we are called to follow Abraham's example who, although in face of the evidence of a reality that seemed avowed to death, trusted God, "fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised" (Romans 4:21). I would like to ask you a question: we, all of us, are we convinced of this? Are we convinced that God loves us, and that He is ready to bring to fulfilment all that He has promised us? But Father, how much does this cost? There is only one price: "open the heart." Open your hearts and this strength of God will lead you forward, He will do miraculous things and teach you what hope is. This is the only price: to open the heart to faith and He will do the rest.

This is the paradox and, at the same time, the strongest, highest element of our hope! A hope founded on a promise that, from the human point of view seems uncertain and unpredictable, but which does not fail not even in face of death, when the one who promises is the God of the Resurrection and of life. This is not promised by just anyone! He who promises is the God of the Resurrection and of life.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, today let us ask the Lord for the grace to remain founded not so much on our securities, on our capacities, but on the hope that flows from God's promise, as true children of Abraham. When God promises, He brings to fulfilment what He promises. He never fails in His word. And then our life will assume a new light, in the awareness that He who resurrected His Son will also resurrect us and render us truly one with Him, together with all our brethren in the faith. All of us believe. Today we are in the Square, we praise the Lord, we will sing the Our Father, then we will receive the Blessing . . . but this passes. But this is also a promise of hope. If our heart is open today, I assure you that we will all meet in Heaven's Square, which never ever passes. This is God's promise and this is our hope, if we open our hearts. Thank you.

## AED EMERGENCY DEFIBRILLATOR INSTALLED



Watch the short video from St John below to learn how to operate an AED

[www.stjohn.org.nz/First-Aid/AED/AED---](http://www.stjohn.org.nz/First-Aid/AED/AED---)

[Operation-Guide/](#)

**Parish First Aiders: AED training  
with St John, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May,  
7:00pm in the church foyer.**

## HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORTING AND NEW H&S OFFICER

If you are aware of any accidents, medical events, near misses or hazards that have occurred or exist on the OLOL site, please report these to the Parish office (358 3667 or [ololpn@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ololpn@xtra.co.nz)) ASAP, in order for them to be recorded in our incident or hazard registers. If you have any concerns regarding H&S in the parish please contact our new H&S Officer: **Mr Selwyn Brown** through the parish office. We are most grateful for his willingness to take on this important position and responsibility.

## PARISH OFFICE

Tuesday—Friday: 9:00am—1:00pm  
96 Shamrock Street, Palmerston North 4412  
06 358 3667; Fax 06 358 8817  
[ololpn@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ololpn@xtra.co.nz)  
[www.lourdesparish.nz](http://www.lourdesparish.nz)  
Secretary: Catherine McNamara

## Parish Pastoral Council

Chair: Leigh Basile



## Our Lady of Lourdes School

Principal: Jacinta Cousins  
06 358 9727  
[www.ololschool.nz](http://www.ololschool.nz)

## St Peter's College

Principal: David Olivier  
06 354 4198  
[www.stpeterspn.school.nz](http://www.stpeterspn.school.nz)

## NEXT WEEK

**Readings April 9th: Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14—27:66**

## ROSTERS: April

**Church Cleaning:** (Mar 27<sup>th</sup>) Judy Walker and Eileen Walsh.

**Flowers:** Roster will start again after Easter, *more people are needed please!*

**Greeters: Vigil 5:30pm** Colleen Hughes and Denise Bailey

**8am** Raymond and Julie Jones **10am** Kapatiran Group.

**Readers: Vigil 5.30pm:** TBC and Rosalie McCann **8am:** Pat Burton and Clare Cole Booth **10am:** Rhea Villocido and Maricar Dongon.

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Vigil 5.30pm** Lorraine & Dave Marriott, Hannah Brown, Martin Wall, Monica Hammond **8am** John Lynch, Raymond Jones, Kevin McKenzie **10am** Sharon Van der Plas, Julia Sissons, Eileen O'Connor, Martin Boyle, Mary Murrow.

**Altar Servers: 10am** Flynn Wilson and Leah Meehan.

**Children's Liturgy:** Madeline and Colleen McHardy.

**Hospitality: 10am** Kapatiran Group.

**Religious Goods/Library:** Diane Baucke.

**Brass:** Colleen Hughes, Pat & Maurice McDonald (**Lent**) **Linen:** Catherine Kearins.

**Lawns:** Kieran McCormack (Apr 1<sup>st</sup>)