

Remember, no matter what you face in Life, don't let go of God's Hand

It has been wonderful to see our Pilgrims are coming back to visit Our Lady at the Grotto, let us pray that is pandemic will be over soon.

A Prayer for Persons Suffering from the Coronavirus

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus.

May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence.

May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the onslaught of the virus.

Give solace to those who grieve the loss of loved ones.

Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health.

Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, and in the name of your Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen. *One God, forever and ever, Amen*

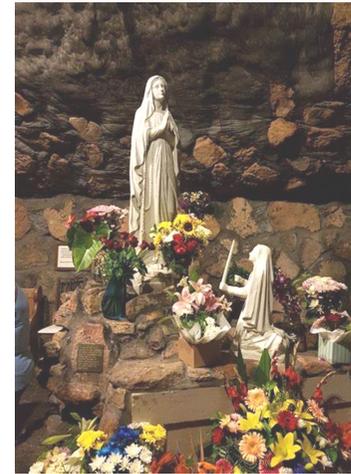
DATES TO REMEMBER

The Rosary is recited every Monday & Friday at 10.00am

PLEASE NOTE each month first Friday Mass is celebrated at 10.30am.

We continue to pray for the end of this pandemic.

Our Lady of Lourdes Pray for US



The Society of Our Lady of Lourdes

Newsletter No 61 October 2020

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The Mass & Blessing of the Sick scheduled for 11th October 2020 will not be held this year.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

It most certainly has not been a smooth start to my time as chaplain to the Society of Our Lady of Lourdes. With activities at the Grotto not running as normal due to the COVID-19 restrictions and many other challenges, I have not yet experienced “normal operating mode” for the Society and the Grotto. Nevertheless, I feel honoured and excited to take up this role. I see in this ministry an opportunity to serve and honour our Blessed Mother and to support you, the members of the Society as well as all those you come into contact with, grow in your love and devotion to her.

The Grotto at Earlwood has been a place of pilgrimage in our Archdiocese for so many years. So many thousands of people have found it a place of refuge and a place to approach Our Lady of Lourdes and seek her intercession and protection. This has been the case in my own family as my grandmother often used to bring my dad and his brothers and sisters to the Grotto to pray to Mary. I would like to acknowledge the outstanding work of our dedicated volunteers who have done so much to ensure the Grotto has remained that place of pilgrimage and refuge whilst also complying with all the government’s regulations to keep our community safe. In a time when the world and the human family is so vulnerable to physical sickness, this mission to promote and foster devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes, Health of the Sick, is so sorely needed.

As we continue follow Our Lord with our Blessed Mother in this difficult time the words of Pope Saint John Paul II on the First World Day of the Sick seem so appropriate and timely for us:

“On the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes, whose shrine at the foot of the Pyrenees has become a temple of human suffering, we approach — as she did on Calvary, where the cross of her Son rose up — the crosses of pain and solitude of so many brothers and sisters to bring them comfort, to share their suffering and present it to the Lord of life, in spiritual communion with the whole Church.

May the Blessed Virgin, "Health of the Sick" and "Mother of the Living", be our support and our hope and, may she increase our sensitivity and dedication to those being tested, along with the trusting expectation of the luminous day of our salvation, when every tear will be dried forever (cf. Is 25:8). May it be granted to us to enjoy the first fruits of that day from now on in the superabundant joy — though in the midst of all tribulations (cf. 2 Cor 7:4) — promised by Christ which no one can take from us (Jn 16:22).”

Rev Fr Ronnie Maree

Volunteers Needed

The Society has around 1000 members, comprising both Life Members and Ordinary Members. To cater for the needs of the members, the Information Centre was built in the grounds of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Earlwood. Each week many visitors come to the Grotto and the Information Centre as well as its shop.

The Centre is staffed by volunteer workers from 9am – 1pm on Monday & Friday, who:

- Set up and keep up to data records of members (on computer and cards)
- Keep the Society’s financial records (on computer)
- Deal with the correspondence to and from members and others,
- Arrange the Mass and Blessing of the Sick (twice a year February and October)
- Distribute Lourdes water as requested.
- Recite the Rosary every Monday & Friday at 10am in the Grotto
- Organise First Friday Mass each month at 10.30am
- Keep the Grotto and its surrounds clean and tidy.

If you have ever visited the Society’s Information Centre, you may have noticed that the usual volunteers working there are elderly retirees that have been doing this work for many years. It should be noted that we are not having trouble coping with the work at present, but prudence suggests that we should be preparing for the time when the current volunteers decide to call it a day. When that time comes, we hope to have organised for an orderly hand-over so that the Society will continue to run smoothly. With this in mind, we would like to hear from Members, retirees or otherwise, who have a strong devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes and who may be interested and have some Office, Accounting or Computer skills. Please contact the Information Centre on (02) 9557 2171.

News from the Grotto

The AGM for the Society of Our Lady of Lourdes was held on Friday 3rd July 2020.

Those in attendance were; Fr Ron Maree, Barbara & Rudi Martin, Habib & Hassiba Kayrous, Paulette Mardini, Theresa Sleiman, Kathy Doumit, Garry Harker. John Palliparambil and Mary Houterman.

The following positions were allocated and voted on at the meeting to:

Mrs Mary Houterman, Chairperson/Treasurer
Mrs Paulette Mardini Office Assistant
Mrs Theresa Sleiman Secretary

Quality not Quantity

Each day each one of us receives twenty four hours of life. In this we are equal; we can neither add to nor subtract from the QUANTITY of living moments in a day. But we can do something about the QUALITY of those living moments.

There is only one way to improve the QUALITY of life: by deepening our faith in God and becoming more conscious of His Spirit at work in us. Our faith in God deepens as we claim it. This declaration will help:

‘I HAVE A DEEP AND GROWING FAITH IN GOD.
MY MIND IS OPEN TO HIS PRESENCE.
I AM RESPONSIVE TO HIS GUIDANCE
IN ALL THAT I DO”

The quantity of your life each day is set: the quality is up to you.