

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

SATURDAY 6 PM

SUNDAY 9.30AM
(with children's liturgy)

SUNDAY 5.30PM

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE (see below)



WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Wednesday - Friday: Mass 12.10pm

ETHNIC MASS TIMES

Spanish: 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month
12:00 Noon

Tongan: 3rd Sunday of the month
12:00 Noon

Indonesian: 4th Sunday of the month
1:30 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.15pm - 5.45pm

Weekdays at the Cathedral
11.30am– 12.10pm

ALSO AT ST BENEDICT'S PARISH

First Friday of the month

Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction
6.30pm then Mass in devotion to the
Sacred Heart of Jesus at 7.30 pm

Third Friday of the month

Rosary 6.45pm followed by Novena &
Mass in devotion to the Holy Child Jesus,
Senor Santo Niño at 7.30pm.

Every Wednesday

Novena & Mass to Our Mother of
Perpetual Help 6.45pm

Saturdays

Rosary 10am - 20 Decade Rosary
held downstairs in meeting room, access
through parish carpark at back of church.

BAPTISMS & MARRIAGES

Contact the Parish Office
Phone: (09) 379 0624

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH OFFICE

Tuesday to Friday 9.30 am - 2.30 pm
Contact Details: Phone (09) 379 0624
Email: office@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz
Website: www.stbenedictsauckland.org.nz

St Benedict's Parish Priest

Monsignor Paul Farmer
paul@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz

Parish Secretary

Catherine van Veen
catherine@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz

CATHOLIC STUDENT CHAPLAIN

Fr Chris Denham phone 303 3852
www.actc.net.nz

ST VINCENT DE PAUL & FOODBANK

Ph 815 6122

PARKING FOR ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH

Free parking is available from Saturday
midday to Sunday evening in the Wilson
carpark on corner of St Benedict's & Alex
Evans Street.

**Please note: A few parks are marked
reserved for tenant parking and are 24
hour tow away.** These parks are allocated
to nearby residents not the Church!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 20 DECEMBER 2020

We all know that there are three great figures in the Advent Scriptures; Isaiah, John the Baptist and Mary of Nazareth. On this final Sunday of Advent we focus on Mary. For most of us Advent will come and go without us getting much of a chance to focus on the Christ who is at its centre. So how can I break into all of the feverish activity that occupies us so much at this time? I shall try in a practical way, not in some monastic way or in some weird and wonderful religious way. After all, the incarnation is at the heart of Christmas. This Sunday our liturgy focus' on that first Christmas mother. Today the liturgy puts us in touch with that third great figure of Advent – Mary of Nazareth. To activate your Advent I want to draw your attention to a simple gospel phrase. "Mary was much perplexed" In other words Mary was puzzled. For all of her great faith she was puzzled. She believed profoundly but she was perplexed and puzzled.

She had to ask herself what it all meant: conceiving a child without the benefit of man, giving birth "to the Son of the most high." Luke: 1:32. She had to confront her baby in a feeding trough for animals and later had to flee like a refugee to Egypt. Later, she would have to sit on the side line and watch her son move ever closer to the death he predicted. Mary had to wrestle with all of that and much more. Mary was perplexed. Mary was puzzled.

Well now my practical advent advice: Take a few conscious minutes each day of this week and "toss over", puzzle over, and wrestle with what God has told you about His-Son-in-flesh. Give a reverent mulling over each day that is left of Advent to contemplate the miracle that took place in a hidden corner of the world 2000 years ago. Mull over in your mind that most known of all biblical affirmations: "God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." John:3:16.

Ask the question – who is this child – what does it all mean to you? In the days to come let the image of Jesus Son of God in swaddling clothes trigger your thinking. Let the image of Jesus trigger your thinking about him, about yourself and about all the others who people your days. Don't analyse it all – feel it! Let Christ simply BE! Just look and love. I challenge you to spend a few minutes each day on the episode that changed history forever.

With Advent blessings and Christmas joy.

Monsignor Paul Farmer

Pastor – St Benedict's Church

LITURGY OF THE WORD ~ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading (2 Sam 7:1-5.8-11.16) David wants to build a house for God. But instead God promises to build an everlasting dynasty for him.

Second Reading (Rom 16:25-27) God's plan of salvation for Jews and Gentiles has come to fulfilment in Christ.

Gospel (Lk 1:26-28) God's promise to David was fulfilled in Jesus.

For Sunday /weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.com

Important message for Parishioners at St Benedict's

The Covid Lockdowns have reinforced the need for an easy way of communicating with our parishioners. Parish data bases relying on email are very difficult to keep updated, particularly in an inner city parish such as ours where demographics are constantly changing. The introduction last year of the "St Benedict's App" has been revolutionary, offering such features as General Communications, Selective messaging and Pushpay. Many parishioners have already downloaded the App, but it has become clear, that under lockdown conditions, the parish office can be much more effective if we are all using this modern electronic method of communication. We are now urging all parishioners to download the St Benedict's App from the App store on your mobile phone or tablet.

Install "St Benedicts Auckland" App Keeping our Parish Community informed

Christmas at St Benedict's:

Thursday 24 December - Christmas Eve

3.00pm Spanish Mass

6pm Mass (with Luke's Christmas story presented by the children of the parish)

9.30pm Night Mass (Christmas Carols from 9.00pm)

Friday 25 December - Christmas Day 9.30am Mass

Friday 1 January 2021 - New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God 9.30am Mass

No Weekday Mass on Thursday 24 December

Weekday Mass timetable resumes Wednesday 6 January 2021



..and Mary said
*I am the Lord's servant
may it be done to me
according to your
word*
LUKE 1:38

MISSION MAP

Wherever and however God may speak to us,
may we like Mary, be able to give our yes.

**PRAY CHRISTMAS
MASS**

Christmas Day @ 1.50pm
SHINE TV

Free-to-air TV Channel 25
SKY TV Channel 201

Christmas blessings and gratitude from the Caring Foundation Your support for families and communities in need during 2020 has helped the foundation support over 60 agencies working with the poor and the vulnerable. Thank you for your compassion and care. Please keep the Foundation in your prayers, and if able please support our Christmas Appeal. www.caringfoundation.org.nz

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

Online Session (Retreat Day): Who am I? – Reflecting on our Identity in God with Eamon Butler. Saturday, 30 January, 10.30am-4pm. Fee: \$60, ZOOM

For more information and registration: info@studyjoy.nz

Social Justice Retreat 9am-4pm Saturday 6 March 2021 at St Francis Retreat Centre 50 Hillsborough Rd led by Fr Merv Duffy SM. It will focus on some Social Justice aspects of Mark's Gospel and *Fratelli Tutti*. \$20 including lunch. Places are limited so please contact Peter Garrick peterg@cda.org.nz asap if you are interested in attending.

Please pray for those who are sick, recovering from surgery or needing our prayers, especially:

Alice Swann, Teresa Rajaratnam,
Peter Courtney, Jason Oxenham, Rus Quinn.

We remember those who have died

and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Philomena Wong, Monsignor Paul Cronin, John Corboy, Jill Coleman, Father Paddy Collins.
Eternal rest grant to them O Lord