

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@stbenedictsaukland.org.nz
Website: www.stbenedictsaukland.org.nz

St Benedict's Parish Priest

Monsignor Paul Farmer
paul@stbenedictsaukland.org.nz

Parish Secretary

Catherine van Veen
catherine@stbenedictsaukland.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!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 13 DECEMBER 2020

It's one of our defining characteristics in the Church that we aren't good at extended solemnity. Even in those more reflective seasons of Lent and Advent, we can't help but let the joy at the end break through. And rightly so! While it is true that it is proper to keep our minds on the job, on our daily tasks, those troubles of each day which are quite sufficient in themselves, it is also true that there should always be an awareness of what it is that we are moving towards.

In a sense, that is what the season of Advent is all about – looking forward in hope and expectation. On this, the third Sunday of Advent, traditionally called “Gaudete”, that is “Rejoice”, Sunday, that call to joyfully look forward speaks commandingly from our readings. In all three readings, and in the psalm, there is a call to look beyond the here and now, to what is to come. Even those around us have a hint of this call. We may well roll our eyes at the commercialisation, and indeed banality, of so much of the secular celebration of Christmas. But even so there is among our brothers and sisters a sense of looking forward to something good. Almost all children feel this, but many adults as well, and it is not just a desire for presents. It speaks in fact of the need for hope that is an essential part of being human. We need to believe that there is something worthwhile in the future.

Perhaps especially as we end this year, which has been so filled with disruption and difficulty, we all need that belief that there is something better to come. A secular Christmas doesn't really have the power to support that, though. But what we proclaim and look forward to, or rather, who we proclaim, does. The coming of the Lord, which John the Baptist foretells to the people of Israel is to be the cause of exultation, as Isaiah proclaims. Isaiah sees liberty, healing, and the renewal of all things. St Paul tells the Thessalonians to look for the remaking of everything, and ourselves in particular, into perfection and holiness.

Christ's coming into the world, which we celebrate at Christmas, was above all to make it possible for us, for the world, to experience that transformation. As we look back at the ashes of 2020, and recall all its problems, there should still be a current of joy running through us. Because, no more than any other solemnity or sorrow will this last. Joy is coming into the world, that all may rejoice. So let us look forward in hope.

Father Chris Denham

LITURGY OF THE WORD ~ THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading (Is 61:1-2.10-11) The writer declares that he has been sent by God to usher in the age of salvation. Jesus used this prophecy to announce the programme of his own ministry.

Second Reading (1 Thess 5:16-24) St Paul tells the Thessalonians how they ought to live as they await the second coming of Christ.

Gospel (Jn 1:6-8.19-28) John the Baptist declares that he is not the Saviour. His task is to prepare the way for the Saviour, who is already among the people, though they do not recognise him.

Next Week's readings: 2 Sam 7:1-5.8-11.16, Rom 16:25-27, Lk 1:26-28.

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

Rite of Reconciliation: Tuesday 15th December, 7pm at St Patrick's Cathedral

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



Heading North this summer? A reminder and encouragement to visit the places of important Catholic history in our diocese, particular Motuti, where Bishop Pompallier remains are interred in St Mary's Church, and Tōtara Point, where the first official Mass was celebrated on 13 January 1838. All are invited to Mass at Tōtara Point Sunday, 10 January 2021 at 11am to commemorate the first Mass in Aotearoa.

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

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:

Julian Sargon, Pat Langdon, Kathleen Ryan, Richard Petricevich, John Hills,
Kasanita Bell-Booth, Theresa Stowers, Bob Courtney.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord