

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

**SATURDAY 6 PM**  
**SUNDAY 9.30AM**

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES**

Wednesday - Friday: Mass 12.10pm

**ETHNIC MASS TIMES**

**Filipino:** Every Sunday at 11.30am

**Tongan:** 3rd Sunday of the month  
1.30pm

**Indonesian:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month  
1:30pm

**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**

Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Rosary at 6.40pm, Novena at 7pm  
Mass at 7.30pm-8.30pm

**Third Friday of the month**

Holy Child Jesus, Senor Santo Niño  
Rosary at 6.40pm, Novena at 7pm  
Mass at 7.30pm-8.30pm

**Every Wednesday**

Mother of Perpetual Help  
Rosary at 6.40pm, Novena at 7pm  
Mass at 7.30pm-8.30pm

**Saturdays**

Rosary 10am - 20 Decade Rosary  
Temporarily moved online  
<https://www.facebook.com/20decaderosary>

**BAPTISMS & MARRIAGES**

Contact the Parish Office  
Phone: (09) 379 0624

Email: [office@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz](mailto:office@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz)

**ST BENEDICT'S PARISH OFFICE**

Monday to Friday 10am—4pm

Contact Details: Phone (09) 379 0624

Email: [office@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz](mailto:office@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz)

Website: [www.stbenedictsauckland.org.nz](http://www.stbenedictsauckland.org.nz)

**St Benedict's Acting Parish Priest**

Father Ranjit Ekka OFMCap  
022 470 4978

**Parish Office Staff**

Catherine van Veen  
[catherine@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz](mailto:catherine@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz)

Miranda Wagg

[miranda@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz](mailto:miranda@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz)

**CATHOLIC STUDENT CHAPLAIN**

Fr Andrew Matthew  
[www.actc.net.nz](http://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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 26 FEBRUARY 2023**

Chat with the devil

In today's episode of the 3 temptations of Jesus, we see the chat between Jesus and the Devil. We chat [speak] with God in prayer. Sometimes, situations we encounter will also similarly lead us to chat with the devil as Jesus did. Our chat should not be that of a soothing or a pleasing tone, rather our chat should be an affirmation of the Love GOD has anchored within our hearts. It is a definitive Love. This means if we have allowed GOD to anchor within us, we will have no hesitation in spontaneously denouncing or rejecting the devil.

As Christians, all of us by now, no doubt know a lot about Jesus through the canonical Gospels we have heard read during Mass of the various deeds Jesus performed. Still, it is also necessary that we know about the devil. Why? How else would we know what is good, if we have not experienced what is bad? Because in life we face both God and the devil. If we do not know who the devil is, how could we know who GOD is? If we observe carefully, it is just prior to the beginning of Jesus's goodwill ministry, that He is led away by the Spirit into the wilderness. What does this tell us? It tells us, that in order to know GOD better, it is essentially important to know who the devil is and how he works and can trick us through his works. Then, more certainly we can be aware of how he could use our ignorance or innocence to trap us. Or to put it another way, it would help us to fortify ourselves against the craftiness of the devil, to better position ourselves to resist his empty works and temptations. Failure to do this would only end up in our own destruction.

The strategy Jesus followed is simple. He allowed GOD to remain within him as His anchor right through. This enabled Jesus to remain strong not only in the midst of temptation, when He was physically exhausted of his human strength after fasting for 40 days. During this entire time, this is how Jesus survived. Jesus continually remained within GOD's Salvific Grace, from where He received Divine Strength to endure the discomfort His physical body experienced.

Thus, the church encourages us to personal fasting and prayer during this 40-day period of Lent to better prepare ourselves as Christians to enable us to better understand and encounter the mystery of His Resurrection.

This fortification Jesus Receives of the Spirit enables Him to rebuke the devil easily. That is why in all His 3 replies to the devil His response without any ambiguity is clear and concise. It no longer is the person Jesus who spoke, instead His Father's Spirit who was rebuking the devil, and at other times later on we see His marvellous deeds.

Therefore, during this 40-days of Grace the church has enabled us with the opportunity to fortify ourselves with the same Spirit of GOD, Jesus entrusted himself to. Let us also similarly give ear to his invitation to prepare ourselves to adore GOD more meaningfully.

Fortified with the Spirit of GOD, Jesus always quoted Scripture in all his 3 replies to the devil. As Jesus our Lord and Master did, be kind to your own heart first, by cultivating the habit to cherish and nurture the bible more, to allow our hearts to be rooted with the Heart of JESUS.

Fr. Ranjit Ekka OFM Cap

## LITURGY OF THE WORD ~ 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

*First Reading* (Gen 2:7-9;3:1-7) Adam and Eve succumb to temptation and cause a rift between themselves and God.

*Second Reading* (Rom 5:12-19) By his obedience to God, Christ won back for us the gifts lost through the disobedience of Adam.

*Gospel* (Mt 4:1-11) Jesus was tempted by the devil, but unlike Adam and Eve, he did not succumb.

Next weeks readings: Gen 12:1-4, 2 Tim 1:8-10, Mt 17:1-9.

*For Sunday /weekday readings see: [mobilegabriel.com](http://mobilegabriel.com)*

**Training & Formation for Lay Leaders of Liturgical Prayer** offered by the Diocesan Liturgy Centre, to prepare people to lead the Liturgy of the Word in the absence of a priest. It will take place over five Saturdays... Day 1: 18th March | Day 2: 29th April | Day 3: 27th May | Day 4: 24th June | Day 5: 29th July

\*Day 1 will be held at Pompallier Diocesan Centre (30 New Street, St Mary's Bay)\*

Lunch is going to be provided – please bring a one-off koha of \$10 on the 1st Day session. Participants need to be present at all sessions. To register or for more information, please follow the link:[www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/layleaders-prayer](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/layleaders-prayer) or contact us: [liturgycentre@cda.org.nz](mailto:liturgycentre@cda.org.nz)

Holy Cross Seminary, Ponsonby warmly invites you to the  **blessing of the remediated Seminary Buildings** on Saturday, 11 March 2023, starting with Mass at 11:00 am. Cardinal John Dew has kindly accepted our invitation to preside over the celebrations. A special invitation is extended to all those who may be interested in vocation and religious life to priesthood. All are welcome!

The National Liturgy Office has prepared substantial parish and personal **Lent resources**, as well as a link to the important Caritas Lenten Appeal. Go here for the resources: <https://www.nlo.org.nz/news-and-events/media-releases/lent-week-one-2023/>

### Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass on Friday 3rd March 7:00pm

St Mary's Church, 20 Kitenui Ave, Mt Albert.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,  
Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass,  
followed by general blessing of St Faustina's relic.

**Resources for families from the Auckland Diocese**  
Video clips and activities are updated weekly to follow the liturgical year and enrich the learning experience and enhance understanding for young and old. Open this newsletter in the St Benedict's website or app and follow the links...

Kids Korner: [Click here](#)

Parent Ponderings: [Click here](#)



## Welcome to St Benedict's

Keep up to date with parish news and download the "St Benedict's Auckland" App from the App store on your mobile device.

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent in the church at 6.30pm and followed by mass.

The Tap and Go machine is currently in Australia being repaired. We hope to have this facility up and running again as soon as possible

Please join us as we pray for Fr Mario who is in hospital receiving treatment for cancer. And our grateful thanks to Fr Ranjit who will be acting parish priest until Fr Mario returns.

Bishop Steve has launched an **emergency cyclone relief appeal** to support the **dioceses of Palmerston North and Hamilton** and the communities so badly affected by Cyclone Gabrielle in Gisborne and the Hawkes Bay region. The Caring Foundation will be accepting donations for this appeal. If you are able to make a donation, please visit our website [www.caringfoundation.org.nz](http://www.caringfoundation.org.nz) OR online to BNZ 02-0100-0242648-00 (Particulars: your surname and initials, reference CYCLONE.) Please email [info@caringfoundation.org.nz](mailto:info@caringfoundation.org.nz) for a tax receipt. Or phone: (09) 360 3045 To read Bishop Steve's emergency appeal letter: [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz)

### Monthly Intention and Prayer for February

*For all the sick*

*Father God, we lift up those who are facing illness today.  
We ask that You would bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies.  
Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of Your love.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen*

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

Alice Swann, Teresa Rajaratnam, Phil Bawden, David Master,  
Jason Oxenham, Rus Quinn, Gladys Borgueta, Fr Mario Dorado.

**We remember those who have died recently  
And those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

Heather Ryan, Joan Bannister, Bernard Kelly, Patricia Daley, Charlotte Willis, Emmanuel Ntarmah, Daniel Prendergast, Rita Graham, Emily Rushworth, Quentin Kelly, Bernardo Flores, Bernard Hunt, Margaret Santos, Annie Sparks, M Murphy, Peter Chappell, Pat Gye, Dellwyn Whiteford, Margaret Petricevich, Ane Lisala, Monsignor Michael Browne, Georgina Ntarmah, Nellie McLean, Sara Murphy, Katherine McKnight, James Cannon, James Monaghan, Ellen McLean, Raymond Connolly, Michael Magnussen, Br John Prendergast, Roy Cho.

**Eternal rest grant to them O Lord**