

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: 4th Sunday of the month
1:30pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.00pm - 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 6.15pm, Novena at 6.45pm
Mass at 7.15pm

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

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH OFFICE

Monday to Thursday 10am—4pm
Friday 10am—3pm

Contact Details: Phone (09) 379 0624
Email: office@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz
Website: www.stbenedictsauckland.org.nz

St Benedict's Parish Priest

Father Gilbert Ramos
frgilbert@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz

Parish Office Staff

Catherine van Veen
catherine@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz

Miranda Wagg

miranda@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz

CATHOLIC STUDENT CHAPLAIN

Email: thechaplains@cda.org.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

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 10 MARCH 2024

John's Gospel illustrates the depth of God's love for humanity and the radical nature of divine mercy. This passage, which includes the well-known verse, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life", emphasizes that it is not humanity's love for God, our good deeds, or even our belief in God that is the foundation of our salvation, but rather, it is God's immense love for us. This love is so profound that it led to the ultimate act of mercy: the giving of His only Son for the salvation of the world.

In reflecting on this, a critical question arises, especially for church leaders: What are the implications of understanding and embodying this kind of radical divine mercy in their ministries? This passage challenges traditional notions of merit and worthiness in the context of divine love and grace. It presents a God who loves unconditionally and who extends mercy not as a reward for good behaviour, but as a free gift borne out of profound love.

For leaders in the Church, this underscores the call to be agents of this same indiscriminate and unconditional mercy. It challenges them to look beyond the confines of law, doctrine, and tradition, and to embrace a more inclusive and compassionate approach that mirrors God's love for all people. This approach can sometimes seem at odds with established norms or expectations within the Church, leading to the provocative question:

"Can a Pope (and a God) be too merciful?" (*Taken from a headline in La Croix International*)

This question touches on a fundamental tension within Christian theology and ecclesiology. On one hand, there is the recognition of God's boundless mercy, a mercy that transcends human understanding and conventions. On the other hand, there is the human endeavour to interpret and institutionalize this mercy within the structures and doctrines of the Church. This tension can sometimes create discomfort or even conflict within the Church, especially when the expressions of mercy challenge longstanding practices or beliefs.

In contemplating whether a Pope or any church leader can be "too merciful," it is essential to revisit the core message of the Gospel – that God's love and mercy are not constrained by human standards. This radical mercy was exemplified in the life and teachings of Jesus, who consistently reached out to those on the margins of society, challenged societal norms, and offered forgiveness and inclusion where others preached condemnation and exclusion.

Church leaders, in striving to be true to the Gospel, are called to emulate this radical mercy. This may require courageously re-examining and, where necessary, reinterpreting traditional teachings and practices in light of the fundamental Gospel message of unconditional love and grace. It challenges them and us to be bearers of hope, especially to those who feel excluded or marginalized by the Church.

The Gospel of John reminds us that God's love and mercy are at the heart of the Christian faith. For Church leaders and communities, this means being open to the movement of the Spirit, which may call for a merciful approach that transcends conventional boundaries and expectations, reflecting the boundless nature of God's love and mercy.

Fr Stephen Berecz

LITURGY OF THE WORD ~ 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading (2 Chron 36:14-16.19-23) Because of their sins God allowed his people to be exiled to Babylon. But his mercy is seen in their home-coming.

Second Reading (Eph 2:4-10) It is not through our own efforts that we are saved, but through the love and mercy of God.

Gospel (Jn 3:14-21) In his love for us, God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn us, but to save us.

Next weeks readings: Jer 31:31-34, Heb 5:7-9, Jn 12:20-33.



Divine Mercy Feast here at St Benedict's Parish Sunday 7th April 5:30pm. Blessing of Images, Benediction, Holy Mass, Veneration of St Faustina's relic. You are warmly invited to attend this Feast Day Celebration. Bring your Divine Mercy images & artefacts to be blessed. Jesus told St Faustina "My Heart rejoices on this Feast Day."

Framed Divine Mercy Images are available to purchase from the parish office. Only \$20 each. Three different images to choose from with option of black or white frame. Please contact Miranda in the parish office for further information miranda@stbenedictsaukland.org.nz or (09)3790624

March Prayer for New Martyrs

Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

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](#)

Training session for Children's Sacramental Programme Catechists Wednesday 3 April 6pm – 7.30pm Crypt or meeting room, depending on numbers. For anyone interested in being a part of this ministry. No cost, but please register with the office.

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

Alice Swann, Teresa Rajaratnam, Phil Bawden, David Master, Rus Quinn, Gladys Borgueta, Margie Newman, Jason Oxenham, Judi Oxenham, Mary Jacobson.

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

Fr Mario Dorado OFM Cap, Agnes Jones, Maria Santiano-Laxamana, Phyllis Mitchell, Deborah Taurao, Patrick Monaghan, John Davis, Eva Anderson, Milisi Lava, Joseph Davis, Joy McBeam, Una Retemeyer, Zella Rankin, Kit Cavanagh, Andrea Cook, Arthur Wishart, Arthur Albertson, Luke Webb, Aloisi Bourke, Cecelia Owsley, William Swann, Frances Perkin, Maree Bonnar, Fr Matthew Brady.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord

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.

St Benedicts has the following options for planned giving and donations to our Parish:

- Collection at Sunday Mass
- Automatic bank payment
- St Benedicts App
- Tap and Go

Our new bank account number is 02 0108 0706611 000

If you need assistance or require more information, please contact the parish office on 09 379 0624

Reconciliation Rite I is available before Mass on Saturday evenings from 5pm-5.45pm.

Lent and Holy Week at St Benedict's:

Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm every Friday during Lent

Anniversary Mass for Fr Mario Dorado on Thursday 14th March at 7pm

Mass for St Joseph at 12.10pm on Tuesday 19 March

Palm Sunday 24th March

Parish Mass at 9.30am and Filipino Mass at 11.30am

Holy Thursday 28th March. Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.00pm
The Altar of Repose will be open until 10.30pm

Good Friday 29th March. Stations of the Cross at 10.30am
The Passion of Our Lord Liturgy at 3pm

Holy Saturday 30th March
Easter Vigil Mass at 8.00pm

The Resurrection of the Lord Easter Sunday 31st March
Parish Mass at 9.30am and Filipino Mass at 11.30am

All are welcome to morning tea in the crypt every week after 9.30am mass. Please check the notice boards in the foyer for upcoming events. Remember to park in the spaces available for public use only.