

**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 5.00pm - 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz)  
Website: [www.stbenedictsauckland.org.nz](http://www.stbenedictsauckland.org.nz)

**St Benedict's Parish Priest**

Father Gilbert Ramos  
[frgilbert@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz](mailto:frgilbert@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz)

**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**

Email: [thechaplains@cda.org.nz](mailto: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

**23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 8 SEPTEMBER 2024**

The miracle of healing that is at the centre of this Sunday's Gospel makes clear that Christ is the longed-for Messiah, who brings in a new age, a time of deliverance, of freedom from bondage, a time of restoration. The healing of the deaf and dumb man points us to the prophecies of Isaiah, from which we heard in our first reading, which proclaim a return of God's people from Exile, a time of healing and restoration, of plenty and of a new life with God and with each other. So, Christ's healing of the deaf and dumb man is a sign that in Christ and in what Christ does this new age is coming to be a reality. Through Christ human beings can have deliverance and a restored life.

The news is truly good, and yet its demonstration is a little unexpected. There are no dramatic gestures and signs from heaven. No rolling thunder, no flashes of lightning, to accompany such works of power. Instead Christ puts his fingers into his ears and puts his spittle onto his tongue, before commanding him to be healed. It's all very up close and personal. And very earthly.

By its sheer physicality this healing makes very real for us the fact of the bodily Incarnation of the Son of God. Christ is God made present for the people of his time as a human being, a man very much of flesh and blood, and he interacted with other human beings of flesh and blood in very physical ways. The graphic details of the healing of the deaf and dumb man emphasize and make very evident that the incarnate Son of God is a real physical human being. We even have recorded the very words Christ spoke, the Aramaic word, 'Ephphatha' 'Be opened,' preserved across all the centuries for us.

Fingers in the ears and spittle on the tongue aren't glorious or romantic, but they are a sign that what is humble and very earthly can become the means by which God's grace is given to us. In the same way water, oil, bread, and wine, can become the reality of God's presence with us. The very ordinary, physical, actions of Our Lord are a foreshadowing of the sacraments he was to give to his Church. But it is also a reminder that God usually comes to us, not in a voice like thunder from heaven, or a shining vision of light, dazzling our eyes. But in the apparently mundane events of our daily lives, in the everyday beauty of the world around us, and in the words and touch of those images of his with which we are surrounded.

Fr Chris Denham

## LITURGY OF THE WORD ~ 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*First Reading* (Is 35:4-7) The prophet urges the people to take courage, because God is coming to save his people.

*Second Reading* (Jam 2:1-5) Class distinction should have no place among Christians.

*Gospel* (Mk 7:31-37) Jesus cures a Gentile man who is deaf and has a speech impediment.

Next weeks readings: Is 50:5-9, Jam 2:14-18, Mk 8:27-35.

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

St Mary's College Past Pupils Association Sunday 22nd September 2024. Mass will be celebrated by Fr Peter Tipene in Old SMC Chapel, New St, Ponsonby at 2pm. Followed by afternoon tea and AGM. Please RSVP to [cathieharrop@gmail.com](mailto:cathieharrop@gmail.com)

NZ Catholic Medical Association Networking Event with Dr Mary English on 20 September. The event will be for healthcare students and professionals and is an opportunity to connect with each other, learn and be inspired. [Register here](#)

**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 the young and not so young. Includes puzzles, colouring in pages, links to other activities and yummy recipes! Open this newsletter in the St Benedict's website or app and follow the links...

Kids Korner: [Click here](#) Parent Ponderings is printed below:

### The Centre of The Bible

Q: What is the shortest chapter in the Bible? A: Psalms 117.

Q: What is the longest chapter in the Bible? A: Psalms 119.

Q: Which chapter is in the centre of the Bible? A: Psalms 118.

Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118.

Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118. Add these numbers up and you get 1188.

Q: What is the centre verse in the Bible? A: Psalms 118:8

Q: Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives?

The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the centre of His will, just send them to the centre of His Word!

Psalms 118:8 "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."

Now isn't that odd how this worked out (or was God in the centre of it)?

When things get tough, always remember... Faith doesn't get you around trouble, it gets you through it !!

-Author Unknown

## 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. Like and follow "St Benedict's Church, Auckland" on Facebook for regular updates and links to the newsletters.

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 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.

- 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.
- When visiting St Benedicts please DO NOT park illegally or block cars in. Please see over page for free parking details

### September Prayer for Fathers

God our Father, we give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old. We pray for young fathers newly embracing their vocation; may they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice. We pray for fathers whose children are lost or suffering; may they know that the God of compassion walks with them in sorrow. We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice. We remember fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. In all this we ask through Christ our Lord, Amen.

### 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, Anne Brent.

**We remember those who have died recently:** Bishop Denis Browne

### and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Luigi Landerigo, Nukuhia Palmer, Frank Kirkham, Denis Murphy, Anna Prescott, Erin Lister, Maimoa Garren, Desmond O'Donohue, Lawrence Netto, Manel Ambiptyaia, Gertrude Newton, Nicola Stanaway, Sr Margaret Heath OP, Siulua Kisina, Trevor Watts, Rita Holland, David Lewis, Elizabeth Morris, Fr William Ormond, 4th parish priest of St Benedicts, Kathryn Jennings, Joseph Kwok Cheung Huie, Frederick Sayegh, Fr Bidieux, Dick Slatter, Margaret Leetberg.

**Eternal rest grant to them O Lord**