

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

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

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 22 DECEMBER 2024**

As Advent draws us into the anticipation of Christ's birth, the Gospel this week offers a profound glimpse into the joy and faith surrounding this sacred event. Mary, having received the angel's message of her miraculous pregnancy, sets out with haste to visit her relative Elizabeth. This moment is more than a family reunion; it is a meeting filled with divine significance. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, recognizes Mary's blessedness—not only because of her faith but because of the child she bears. The blessing comes from the presence of Jesus, the promised Messiah, growing within her.

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb”, Elizabeth proclaims later in the passage. This blessing is not about Mary's worthiness alone but about the transformative power of Christ. Mary is blessed because she believed in God's promise, and the One she carries is the source of that blessing.

Advent reminds us that this same blessing is offered to us. To be blessed, as shown in this Gospel, is to welcome Jesus into our lives, to believe in His promises, and to live in the hope of His coming. It's not about external circumstances or worldly achievements but about a heart open to the transformative presence of Christ. Just as Elizabeth and her unborn child leapt for joy in the presence of the Saviour, we too are invited to experience that joy and blessing when we encounter Jesus.

As we prepare to celebrate His birth, let us reflect on our faith. Do we, like Mary, trust in the promises of God? Do we, like Elizabeth, recognize the presence of Christ in our lives and in those around us? Advent is a time to rekindle our belief in the One who blesses us with peace, hope, and eternal life. May we approach Christmas with hearts ready to embrace the same blessedness that Mary and Elizabeth knew—blessedness that comes from knowing and believing in Jesus, the child born to save the world.

Fr Stephen Berez



**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

## LITURGY OF THE WORD ~ 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*First Reading* (Mic 5:1-4) The prophet Micah announces to the beleaguered inhabitants of Jerusalem that a Ruler will come from Bethlehem who will bring them peace.

*Second Reading* (Heb 10:5-10) Jesus came, not to offer the sacrifices of the old law, but to do the will of God. His one perfect sacrifice replaced all the former sacrifices.

*Gospel* (Lk 1:39-45) Elizabeth praises Mary, and, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, hints at the uniqueness of the child she has conceived.

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

**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:**

Anne Seta, Michael Atkinson, Phyllis Gall, David Grant, Justin Williams, Francis Nixon, James Treacy, Jill Coleman, Annie Fernandez, Francis O'Connor, Tony Parker, Fr Paddy Collins, Bernice Randell, Hugh Foley, Verona Edwards, Eulalie Purdom, Margaret Betz, Tim Rodgers, Luisa Jara, Margaret Douglas, Thomas Fox, Patrick McNamara, Jamima Cotter, Mary Murphy, Lena Swann, Mary Leggert, Bridget Treacy, Temple Cobbald, Milciades Martinez.

### JANUARY

Tony Van Veen, David Grant, Justin Williams, Francis Nixon, James Treacy, Jill Coleman, Annie Fernandez, Francis O'Connor, Tony Parker, Fr Paddy Collins, Bernice Randell, Hugh Foley, Verona Edwards, Eulalie Purdom, Margaret Betz, Tim Rodgers, Luisa Jara, Margaret Douglas, Patrick McNamara, Jamima Cotter, Mary Murphy, Lena Swann, Mary Leggert, Bridget Treacy, Milciades Martinez, Timothy Shannahan, Antony Rodriguez, Palepa Laueie, Thomas Blaskovich, Dorothy Straka, Paul Mercer, Ron Parslow, Margaret McCarthy, Teresa McQuoid, Arnold Moverly, Cyril Spelman, Clement Pereira, Walter Gower, Lucy Dougherty, Danilo Samontina, Paul Parkinson, Kisione Cocker-Valu, Elizabeth Treacy, Maude Treacy, Henry Hill, Arthur Berryman, Margaret Turner, Esme Purdom, Albert Walmsley, Karara Iiti, Bill Turner, Catherine Kearin, Coralie Purdom, Dudley Bannister, Jack O'Neil, Lillian Ryan, Lady Margie Kelliher, Beatrice Ewart, Walter Peri, Lydia Shanly, Ron Gower, Alexander Sinkovich, Michael Melia, Judith Kenny, Annie Rolfe, Thomas Kenrick, Maileyn White, Donna Kerr, Charles Louissea, Fr Michael Shore, James Blake, Ada Applegrew, Mary Bird, Iese Henry, Hec Turner, Norberto Saliba, Tom Keating, Desmond Connolly, Giovanna Guzzo, Peg Baker, Tessa Foley, Bill McCafferty, Rev Warren Fowler, Fr Humphrey Kearin, John McKnight, Ramati Rairoa, Marnoe Pouri, Louisa Murphy, Kathleen Pain, Paddy Shine, Peter Allen, Luke Nola, George Baker, Fr Raymond George, Ila Hallworth, Eugenia Karink, Bishop John Mackey, Archibald Delargey, Patrick Downey, Nellie O'Callaghan, Edna Webb, Alma Anderson, Josie Morgan, Madge Kearin, Mina Foley, Naomi Firebrace, Agnes Cousins, James and Julia Tipping, Dylan Taitte, Bridget Crimmins, Arma Schaumkell, Amy Coe, Frank Crimmins, Russell Barry, Mariano Reyes, Dorothy McAuley, Mary Carroll, Robert Monaghan, Herbert Bransby-Browne, Mate Martinovich, Catherine Johansen, James Farrell, Francis Windleburn, Maura Duncan, Mavis Doyle, Jim Wilson, Kate Bergin, Wendy Horne, Leo Coleman, Jack Reidy, Sr Agneta R.S.J, Marie Tianero, Sarah Gordon, Desmond Giblin, Bill Tyree, Edna Crimmins, Selwyn Knuckey, Lilian Yates, Anne Murphy, Ruby Davis, Ernest O'Brien, Luis Antonio Ruiz Alba, Joseph Hayes, Clarence Taylor, John Wyatt, Fr John Moss I.C, Connie Ryan, Neil Santos, Bruce Whye, Fr Ruben Elago, Julia Sheehan, Clarence Webb, Renato Batucan, Margaret Stevens, Gary Nausbaum, Fr George Gillan (2nd parish priest of St Benedict's), Joseph O'Keefe, Veronica Ayers, Monica Dennehy, Allan Lynne, Phyllis Floyd, Alfredo Caguicla.

**Eternal rest grant to them O Lord**

**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: [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. 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

The parish office will close at 2pm on Friday 20 December 2024 and re-open at 10am on Monday 20 January 2025.

Fr Gilbert, Catherine and Miranda wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas!

## Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

### LOVE

Heavenly Father, You sent your gift of pure love to us that first Christmas. Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meagre barn in Bethlehem. All of your love was robed in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes. This final week of Advent, help us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus. Father, fill our hearts and minds with the significance of that truth. Thank you for loving us enough to send Jesus. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen.