

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY 6 PM
SUNDAY 9.30AM

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 15 DECEMBER 2024

The Third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of rejoicing. It came from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon in the Latin Missal that says, "Gaudete in Domino semper," translated as "Rejoice in the Lord always." As we draw closer to Christmas, the liturgy invites us to cry out to God with joy and gladness. We should rejoice because our salvation is at hand. As we make time for external preparations, we do also our best to be spiritually prepared.

The first reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah clearly sets the mood and theme of our celebration. "Shout for joy, O daughter of Sion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem." Joy and gladness come from knowing that God is in their midst. The Lord has forgiven their sins. He has come to save His people. And He is happy to renew His love for them.

St Paul spoke similarly in his letter to the Philippians, assuring them of God's nearness. He encouraged them to intensify their kindness and to approach God with great confidence when they pray. He wrote this while he was in prison undergoing hardships. He testified to the fact that Christian life is not without trials and hardships. But all these will lead to true peace.

In the gospel, John the Baptist became like a concierge or a customer service representative, answering the people's queries and giving them direction where to go and what to do. His response is practical but very challenging. It is a call to simplicity and contentment, to be just and to love our neighbour. Easier said than done, but not impossible.

This Advent season, we heed John the Baptist's challenge of translating renewal into concrete deeds. We strive to be kind, honest, and truthful in our day-to-day living. Let us do it intentionally and wholeheartedly and not as an obligation. When we do it freely, it will never be a burden but a source of joy. Let us light the third candle in our wreath, the candle of joy, and let its light permeate our hearts and the whole world.

Blessings!
Fr Gilbert



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

LITURGY OF THE WORD ~ 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading (Zeph 3:14-18) Jerusalem is urged to rejoice because God stands in her midst. We too can take heart from this message of hope.

Second Reading (Phil 4:4-7) Paul urges us to rejoice in the Lord, and to let go of anxiety by living in the spirit of prayer and thanksgiving.

Gospel (Lk 3:10-18) John the Baptist tells the people what they must do to prepare for the Lord's coming and to escape his searching judgement.

Next weeks readings: Mic 5:1-4; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45.

For Sunday /weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.com

Calling families with young children!

There will be a children's nativity play commencing at 5.45pm (before 6pm mass) on Christmas Eve. All children are welcome to join in.

There will be a rehearsal at a date closer to the time.

See the Need. Be the Hope! Catholic Caring Foundation's Christmas Appeal Please support the Caring Foundation's Christmas appeal through your donations and prayers. Your donation will have double the impact!. Please feel free to take home our Christmas newsletter and see where your donations are making a difference.
www.caringfoundation.org.nz or call (09) 360 3012

Christmas and New Year Mass Timetable at St Benedicts

Tuesday 24 December - Christmas Eve

Mass at 6pm (with children's nativity play at 5.45pm),

9pm (with Christmas Carols from 8.45pm)

and Filipino Chaplaincy Mass 11pm

Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Day

Mass at 9.30am, and Filipino Chaplaincy Mass 11.30am

Monday 1 January - New Years Day

Mass at 9.30am and Filipino Chaplaincy Mass 11.30am

Last weekday mass on 27 December 2024 - Weekday mass resumes on 8 January 2025



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

Prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent

JOY

Heavenly Father, this third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus' birth has the power to bring us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy comes from you. The joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of heaven, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing. Flood our hearts with joy this Advent season as we reflect on the good news of Jesus' birth. In Jesus' precious 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, Rus Quinn, Gladys Borqueta, Margie Newman, Jason Oxenham, Judi Oxenham, Mary Jacobson.

We remember those who have died recently: Anne Brent.

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Joe Benson, Mimi Livingstone, Ksanita Bell-Booth, Andrew Master, Shirley Nausbaum, Theresa Stowers, Wenzl Schollum, Michael O'Neill, Matilda Davis, James Davis, Mary Davis, Kenneth Mahoney, Philomena Wong, Monsignor Paul Cronin, James Maher, Christopher Hopkins, John Johnson, John Johansen, Annie Shields, Arthur Main, Fr McKendry, Mary Maruura, John Corboy, Patrick Downey, Leo O'Neill, Winifred Keenan, Lilian Mitchell.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord