

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY 6 PM
SUNDAY 9.30AM

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD ~ 2 FEBRUARY 2025

The Presentation: An encounter of 'Hope and Fulfilment'
We often live our lives dominated by the past! Our yesterdays are more important than our tomorrows. Memories are our only treasure. The older we grow the stronger our attachment for our memories. Today's gospel presents us with Simeon and Anna, who oddly prefer the future. They cling on to the 'hope and fulfilment' of the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah. The young parents Mary and Joseph with the child Jesus encounter the old spirit-filled venerables Simeon (= one who hears) and Anna, daughter of Phanuel (= face of God) in the Temple. Luke testifies on five occasions that Mary and Joseph did everything that the Law of Moses required. They fulfil two specific regulations of the Torah: the 'purification' of the mother forty days after the birth of a child (Lev 12:1-8) and the dedication of the firstborn to God (Ex 13:2, 12-16). The child Jesus is the fulfilment of the promises of the Old Testament. Simeon represents ancient Israel who patiently awaits the coming of the Messiah. Anna, on the other hand, represents a lifetime of service to God.

The infancy narratives in the gospel of Luke are filled with the songs of Zachariah, and Mary. Today, Simeon holding the infant Jesus in his arms, sings his Nunc Dimittis: "Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised..." He foretells who Jesus would be - the glory of the people of Israel and revelation to the Gentiles. His joyful song now adds a pinch of pain and sorrow! Jesus would also be a 'sign of contradiction', and with a gaze of caution he addresses Mary that a 'sword will pierce her soul'. Surely, where there is great love, there is great pain too. Joy and sorrow, acceptance and rejection, birth and death are part of the milestones between Bethlehem and Calvary. Mary had to ponder these things in her heart.

Anna, a daughter of the 'face of God' has made the Temple her dwelling for seven decades with daily fasting and prayer. Addressing the crowds in the Temple she praises God for the person of Jesus in who all ancient promises are fulfilled. Simeon and Anna stay back in the Temple. Mary and Joseph take the child back to Nazareth. The HOME is the locus where the parents will now enable the child Jesus to mature, to be filled with wisdom, and to grow in favour with God and with people.

Like Simeon and Anna we are all called to WAIT on the Lord, and like Mary and Joseph we are all invited to MATURE like Jesus in stature, wisdom, and favour with God and people.

Fr Glenford Lowe

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 ~ THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

First Reading (Malachi 3:1-4) God is the refiner and purifier who is described in the second half of the reading and who will “purify the sons of Levi” so that they might offer right worship.

Second Reading (Hebrews 2:14-18) God’s Son is shown to have a common origin with all humankind, whom he views as brothers and sisters.

Gospel (Luke 2:22-40) Mary and Joseph’s act of presenting Jesus reflects our need to offer our lives to God. Just as they dedicated Jesus in the temple, we should dedicate ourselves to His purpose.

Next weeks readings: Isaiah 6.1-2a, 3-8; 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; Luke 5.1-11.

Jubilee of Song Pope Francis has called us to celebrate a Year of Jubilee in 2025. Join Tony Alonso, a Grammy nominated composer of sacred music and a scholar whose work responds to the diverse realities of contemporary culture. The following events are taking place to celebrate the Jubilee of Song:

Evening with Tony Alonso, Thursday 29 May 6.30pm, St Francis Xavier Church, Park Ave, Whangarei. Suggested Koha \$10.00 per person. Please visit the following link for registration: [An Evening with Tony Alonso - Catholic Diocese of Auckland](#)

Conversation with Tony with drinks and nibbles, Friday 30 May 6.30pm, Pompallier Diocesan Centre \$20.00. Please visit the following link for registration: [A Conversation with Tony Alonso - Catholic Diocese of Auckland](#)

Retreat Workshop with Tony, Saturday 31 May 1.30 - 4.00pm, Baradene College Auditorium, Victoria St. Koha. Please visit the following link for registration: [Retreat Workshop with Tony Alonso - Catholic Diocese of Auckland](#).

Concert with Tony Alonso, Saturday 31 May 6.30pm, Baradene College Auditorium, Victoria St., \$10.00 per person. Please visit the following link for registration: [Concert with Tony Alonso - Catholic Diocese of Auckland](#).

Sale now on for Annual Resources from the Liturgy Centre. Cost Price Sale. Be quick as limited numbers. Jubilee Prayer cards also available 10c each plus postage. Please order via: Annual <https://form.jotform.com/liturgycentre/annuals> or Resource Catalogue <https://form.jotform.com/liturgycentre/resources>

The Diocese is seeking a talented and creative **Multimedia Journalist** (part time – 20 hrs per week) to create engaging digital multimedia content (stories, photos, videos) that shares the news of the Diocese, Bishop, Parish, Schools and Agencies. These stories will also contribute to supporting the national CathNews platform which delivers news, analysis, and commentary of interest to the Catholic Church community. For full details, please visit our website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz – Diocesan Services – Staff Vacancies.

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.
- **Waitangi Day Mass** on 6 February will be at 9am. There will be no 12.10pm mass that day.
- **Eucharistic Adoration** Friday 7 February at St Benedicts from 11am-12pm (followed by mass at 12.10pm).
- 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

February Prayer for Students

Lord our God, in your wisdom and love you surround us with the mysteries of the universe. Send your spirit upon these students and fill them with your wisdom and blessings. Grant that they may devote themselves to their studies and draw ever closer to you, the source of all knowledge. We ask this 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.

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

Fr George Gillan (2nd parish priest of St Benedicts), Joseph O’Keeffe, Veronica Ayers, Monica Dennehy, Allan Lynne, Phyllis Floyd, Alfredo Caguicla, John Sealy, Paul Andermatt, Bishop Gerard Loft, Marina Valero, Robert Franghetti-Amos, Evan Pattillo, Colleen Reardon, Losa Auva’a, Madeline Pickering, Elizabeth Dome, Francis Micallef, Sadie Adams.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord