

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY 6 PM
SUNDAY 9.30AM

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 9 MARCH 2025

In the Desert – The Triumph of LOVE

Man's sojourn began with his choice to sin and being expelled from the Garden of Eden to a barren land. But God did not give up on man. The desert was a biblical place of extremes: of encounter and exile, of Divine promise and human deceit, of covenant-making and of covenant-breaking too!

God worked out a plan through the saving action of Jesus Christ to restore us to our original innocence. Paradise was our birthright, and Calvary was the womb to bring us back. To reach Calvary, Jesus had to first get back to the 'Desert' to confirm his true identity as the 'Beloved of the Father', to usher in the 'Kingdom of God' and to align his life's mission with his Father's Will to 'seek and to save the lost'.

Satan targets Jesus' identity by setting up three traps to discredit his Father's identity of Jesus as the 'beloved one' and to perform spectacular acts. This temptation will return on Mount Calvary to abandon the cross.

Satan uses 'hunger' as this human trap to deflect Jesus' attention and to gratify his hunger pangs. Do the spectacular and live for the moment! Jesus proposes *love of self* as a benchmark to live fruitfully. Jesus overcomes the trap by affirming that the 'Eternal Word' is truly life-giving food.

Jesus' ministry was to be the 'Servant of all' and Satan couldn't digest it for sure. Once again, do the spectacular and live for the moment! But Jesus, who would propose that *love of neighbour* is inseparable from the Love of God, could never think of dominating over the forsaken. Jesus' mission was to empower the weak and captives and be the servant of all.

Jesus was the true lamb that was to be sacrificed for the sanctification of the world, and Satan wanted nothing of it. Jesus ushered in that *Love of God* revolves around true worship—adoration and praise, even amid suffering in our lives. Satan is devoid of love! Jesus is Love personified. Jesus finally wins the desert storm!!!

Fr Glenford Lowe

Bishop Steve Speaks tune into the diocesan YouTube channel playlist *Bishop Steve Speaks* to hear him reflecting on the readings of Sunday and other moments of conversation. [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1234567890)

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Wednesday - Friday: Mass 12.10pm

ETHNIC CHAPLAINCY 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 ~ 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Deut 26:4-10; Through the ceremony of offering the first fruits, the Israelites recognised all that God had done for them in the past, especially in the Exodus. Our worship of God is also a recognition of his favours to us.

Rom 10:8-13; The core of the Christian credo is that Jesus is our risen Saviour. Anyone who can say that and live by it, will be saved.

Lk 4:1-13; Jesus was tempted like we are, but did not sin. Through his grace we too can resist temptation and overcome sin.

Next weeks readings: Gen 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1; Luke 9:28-36

“Lenten opportunities for prayer and pondering during Lent”

Pope Francis’ Letter to us all on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Wednesday Evenings 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th March 7-7.30pm on Zoom. Contact Dianna Fouhy, Faith Formation Team @ diannaf@cda.org.nz

Wake Up and Pray. Meditation Mornings in Lent through Easter 5th March – 20th of April, 6.15 – 6.45am on Zoom. Contact Dianna Fouhy, Faith Formation Team @ diannaf@cda.org.nz

Prepare Ponder Pray with the Gospels. Saturdays in Lent 7 – 7:30pm on Zoom. Contact Dianna Fouhy, Faith Formation Team @ diannaf@cda.org.nz

Wings.Nga Parirau this Lent – an invitation to grow your relationship with Jesus. Presentation of the First Year Programme of ‘Wings’ during Lent’. We will be reflecting on faith, and our own faith journey; grace and spirituality, and experiences of prayer; and introduced to the Old Testament and New Testament Scriptures.

The **Sunday Gospels of Lent** provide a particular framework for our reflection.

When: **Saturdays in Lent: 2-4pm** 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th March 5th, 12th April 2025

Where: **Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New St, St Mary’s Bay, Ponsonby.**

Are you interested but cannot make the face-to-face meetings? An online presentation on Zoom may be offered if there is interest. Dates and times to be arranged.

Contact Dianna Fouhy diannaf@cda.org.nz

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](#)

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

We remember those who have died recently

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

William Duggan, Heather Kearns, Dianne Hill, Agnes Jones, Maria Santiano-Laxamana, Phyllis Mitchell, Deborah Taurao, Patrick Monaghan, John Davis, Eva Anderson, Milisi Lava, Zella Rankin, Andrew Cook, Andrea Cook, Luke Webb, Cecilia Owsley.

Fr Mario Dorado OFMCap.

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. 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.

Stations of the Cross Fridays in Lent 6.30pm

- 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 JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of love enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, **Pilgrims of Hope**, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise forever. Amen