

## WEEKEND MASS TIMES

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

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



## **24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS** **14 SEPTEMBER 2025**

John's Gospel offers one of the most profound summaries of the Christian faith. Jesus speaks to Nicodemus about the mystery of his mission and reveals the purpose of his coming: "that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16). This verse is often quoted, and rightly so, for it encapsulates the extraordinary love of God — a love that gives, that sacrifices, and that redeems.

Jesus draws a powerful parallel between his coming crucifixion and the story of Moses lifting the bronze serpent in the wilderness (Numbers 21:9). Just as the Israelites who looked upon the serpent were healed, so too those who "look upon" Jesus lifted on the cross will be healed and saved. This is not magic, but mystery — the mystery of divine love poured out in suffering and self-giving.

We often associate salvation with strength, success, and moral purity. But John's Gospel confronts us with a different truth: that salvation comes through vulnerability, surrender, and divine mercy. The Son of Man is not a triumphant conqueror, but one who is "lifted up" in pain and shame — so that through him, the world might be saved. And it is not condemnation, but love, that is the motive of God's action.

This vision of salvation, centred on the Cross, is deeply countercultural. It challenges the logic of power and dominance that rules our world. The Cross may seem an odd icon of hope. It seems to be always on a collision course with what we call 'the real world'. But at stake is the manner we answer a radical question: is the Church to allow itself to be swallowed up by the spiritless routines of the world as it is? Or are present and future generations of Christians to see themselves as agents of a new beginning? Dare they defy the hatred, greed, violence and lust for power that are taken for granted as the way things are, and must ever be? The Cross of Jesus is the enduring, God-given icon of the end of an old world, and of the beginning of a world forever new.

Fr Stephen Berecz

## 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 9am to Sunday 7pm** 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 ~ 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

*First Reading* (Numbers 21:4-9) The exodus from slavery in Egypt is the defining event in the Old Testament. As for Israelites who looked upon the bronze serpent, so too, all who look upon Christ lifted up on the cross will be saved and receive eternal life.

*Second Reading* (Philippians 2:6-11) We last heard this reading on Palm Sunday. It is likely an early Christian hymn which expresses the whole of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection

*Gospel* (John 3:13-17) The Exaltation of the Cross is a return to the celebration of the Easter Triduum. It unfolds the reality of the Eucharist which we celebrate each Sunday throughout the year.

Next weeks readings: Amos 8:4-7; 1 Tim 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13.

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

Diocesan News the latest edition of the CDA diocesan news is now available <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/NZ-Catholic-September25.pdf>. It can be accessed from the front page of the website



**Holy Cross Seminary would like to invite all parishioners to the Diaconate Ordination of  
Ryan Sy, Emilio Capin, Linh Cao.**

Friday, 26 September 2025, 6:00pm, Sacred Heart Church, 16 Vermont Street, Ponsonby.  
Bishop Michael Gielen will be presiding.

### 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

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 "St Benedicts Parish"

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 UPDATED free parking details

### Taste the World, Celebrate the Culture! 20 – 21 Sept 2025

Saturday 20th Food stalls, discover dishes from around the globe. Concert from 9am concert begins 1.30pm @ Sancta Maria College

Sunday 21st Sept Mass 1 pm @ St Luke Church Flatbush with Bishop Steve

Join us at the Migrant Chaplaincy *Rise Up & Shine Jubilee Festival*, where every bite tells a story and every dance sparks joy.

Want to hold a stall – contact [louisar@cda.org.nz](mailto:louisar@cda.org.nz)

### 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, Arleen Canlas.

### We remember those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Frederick Sayegh, Joseph McGecvor, Fr Bidieux, Dick Slatter, Margaret Leetberg, Alphonso Hynes, Pauline Young, Socorro Gallego, Mons Brian Arahill, Martin Dempsey, Benjamin Monaghan, Hilary Shackleton, Mary Netto, Camillo Lopez, Alexander Hurley, Monica Cann, James Treacy, David Saifiti, Harry Burton-Bradley, Alice Gordon, Bert Grinter, Cherie Simeti, Anthony Murray, Elizabeth Hynes, James Mitchell, Thomas Flanagan, Francis Lambert, Violet Coppell, Fr Eugene O'Connor, Inez Turner, Mons Moore, Merlyn Mount-Earle, Gwen Murnane, Mark Gleeson, Bill O'Connor, Henrietta Schaumkell, Ernie Leano.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord