

## WEEKEND MASS TIMES

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

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



## **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT** **30 NOVEMBER 2025**

The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year and calls us to watchfulness and hope. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus reminds his disciples to "stay awake," for they do not know the day or the hour when the Son of Man will come. Just as in the days of Noah, when people went about their daily lives unaware of what was to come, so too must we guard against complacency and spiritual sleep. Advent invites us to live in readiness — not in fear, but in faith-filled anticipation of God's coming among us.

The message of Jesus is not about predicting the future but about being alert to the presence of God in the present moment. The Gospel reminds us that the "window of opportunity for God's saving presence is the now of each person's life." God comes to us continually — in the ordinary events, relationships, and decisions of each day. Our task is to recognise these moments as sacred, as occasions where Christ meets us and invites us deeper into his Kingdom.

As other Christs, Christians are privileged to have a responsibility for the continuing growth of the Kingdom. They are responsible to watch out for opportunities to further the interests of the Lord in the events of their own lives and circumstances. This could be seen as going up to the Temple of the Lord, the place of God's mysterious presence. Every act of kindness, forgiveness, or courage becomes a step toward that Temple, a way of preparing a place for God to dwell more fully in our world.

During this season of Advent, we are called to open our eyes and hearts to God's nearness. The Gospel challenges us not to drift through life distracted or indifferent, but to be awake and ready — seeing Christ in every moment and responding with faith. In this way, we become co-workers in God's saving plan, transforming the "now" into a meeting place between heaven and earth.

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

## 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 9.30am—2.30pm

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

## 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>

### LITURGY OF THE WORD ~ FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

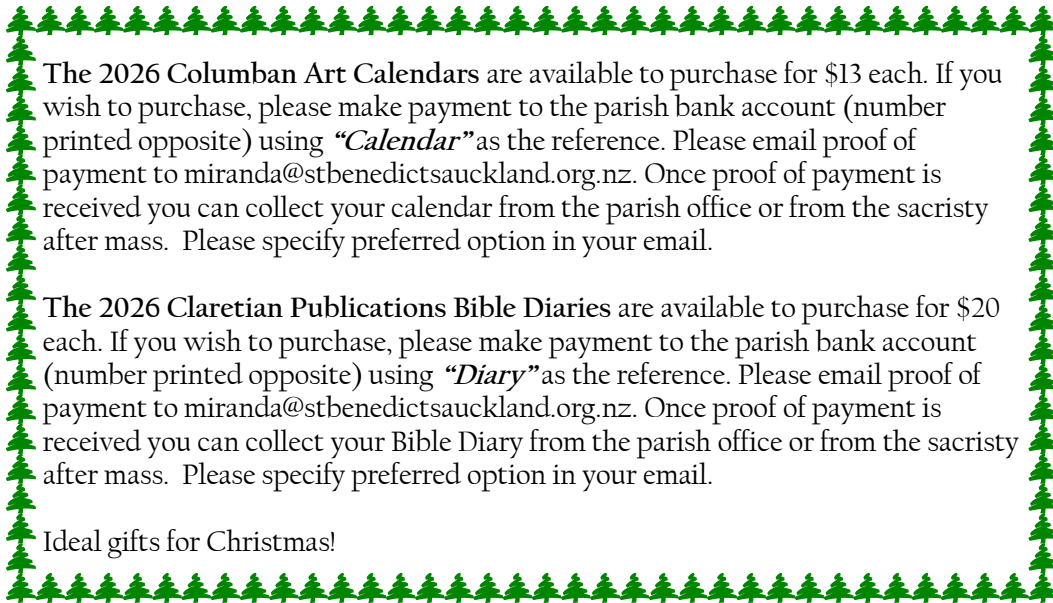
**First Reading** (Is 2:1-5) This vision of a world at peace under God challenges Christians to work for this new world which was inaugurated by Christ.

**Second Reading** (Rom 13:11-14) This contains a wake-up call, and urges us to turn away from the darkness of evil, and to walk in the light of Christ.

**Gospel** (Mt 24:37-44) This Gospel urges us to stay awake because we do not know the day or the hour when Christ will return.

Next weeks readings: Is 11:1-10, Rom 15:4-9, Mt 3:1-12.

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



The 2026 Columban Art Calendars are available to purchase for \$13 each. If you wish to purchase, please make payment to the parish bank account (number printed opposite) using *“Calendar”* as the reference. Please email proof of payment to [miranda@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz](mailto:miranda@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz). Once proof of payment is received you can collect your calendar from the parish office or from the sacristy after mass. Please specify preferred option in your email.

The 2026 Claretian Publications Bible Diaries are available to purchase for \$20 each. If you wish to purchase, please make payment to the parish bank account (number printed opposite) using *“Diary”* as the reference. Please email proof of payment to [miranda@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz](mailto:miranda@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz). Once proof of payment is received you can collect your Bible Diary from the parish office or from the sacristy after mass. Please specify preferred option in your email.

Ideal gifts for Christmas!

### 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.

Includes puzzles, colouring in pages, and links to other activities.

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.
- Eucharistic Adoration Friday 5 December at St Benedicts from 11am-12pm (followed by mass at 12.10pm).
- Mass for The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Monday 8 December at St Benedicts at 7pm.
- 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 parish weekly schedule and free parking details.

Advent – a season to prepare for the coming of Jesus. Take time to ponder His Word; to love him in the quiet of your heart.

Gospels 7pm Saturdays and Meditation daily 6.15am through Advent, on Zoom.

Contact Dianna Fouhy, [diannaf@cda.org.nz](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)

**Food For Faith for Advent 2025.** Daily reflections for those seeking greater maturity of Christian Faith in preparation for Christmas. Sign up to receive daily emails during Advent at [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.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 Borgueta, Margie Newman, Jason Oxenham, Arleen Canlas.

**We remember those who have died recently:** Baldwin Ambrose Furtado

**And those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

Augustine Smith, Patrick McRiff, Walte Peasente, Tony Blaskovich, Jacinto Gantuangco, Fa'asina Muliumu, Albert Lisala, Edward Dunne, James Ropata, BJ Nathan, Albert Reardon, Norah Regan, Fr Edward Walsh, Florence McCarthy, Fr Alfred Huia Hyde (5th parish priest of St Benedicts), Sean Webb, Fifita Ramanlal, Catherine Worthington, William Eville, Lance Loader, Irwin Hing, Sarah Coppel, Fr Dominic O'Neill, Margaret Grey, Alfred Santos, Antonio Guzzo, David Pfahlert.

**Eternal rest grant to them O Lord**