

## WEEKEND MASS TIMES

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

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



## **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT** **7 DECEMBER 2025**

In this week's Gospel, we meet John the Baptist — a striking and unsettling figure whose message still echoes powerfully across the centuries: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." John's call to repentance is not simply about sorrow for sin; it is an invitation to a new way of seeing — a transformation of heart and mind that opens us to God's presence and purpose. Advent is a season of preparation, and John's voice reminds us that genuine preparation begins within.

The people who came to John in the wilderness were being asked to change their perspective. They had grown used to seeing life through narrow lenses of habit, self-interest, and expectation. John challenges them — and us — to step back and see the fuller picture of what God is doing. An image might be that of a person looking at a picture and seeing only a small section of it. If that individual can alter their perspective, they will see more of the picture and get a truer view of the artist's work. So too with us: when we change the way we look at life, we begin to see God's design more clearly, to recognise that even in the rough strokes and darker tones, there is divine artistry at work.

John's message prepares the way for Christ, who will baptise not only with water but "with the Holy Spirit and fire." The fire of the Spirit burns away what is false and refines what is good. Advent, then, is not merely a time of waiting but of allowing that refining to take place — to let go of what limits our vision and embrace the hope that comes with Christ's nearness.

As we journey through this second week of Advent, John's call urges us to lift our eyes, widen our hearts, and renew our perspective. In doing so, we begin to see the fuller picture of God's mercy and truth — and to prepare a clear path for the Lord to enter our lives.

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 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

## LITURGY OF THE WORD ~ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**First Reading** (Is 11:1-10) We hear about the coming of the Messiah, and the kind of justice and peace he would bring.

**Second Reading** (Rom 15:4-9) This talks about the importance of hope, and how we should treat others in the same friendly way Christ has treated us.

**Gospel** (Mt 3:1-12) We hear once again the voice of John the Baptist, saying to us what he said to his contemporaries: 'Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.'  
Next weeks readings: Is 35:1-6.10, Jam 5:7-10, Mt 11:2-11.

*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@stbenedictsaukland.org.nz](mailto:miranda@stbenedictsaukland.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@stbenedictsaukland.org.nz](mailto:miranda@stbenedictsaukland.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!

## PEACE

Heavenly Father, You are the God who gives peace. This second week of Advent, cause us to remember that because of Jesus we can experience a Christmas free from turmoil and chaos. Regardless of our circumstances or our situations, You offer us peace that surpasses understanding. Father keep us in perfect peace as we reflect on the truth of Your powerful love. Thank You for Your mighty, sovereign hand. Help us to trust fully in You and rest in the peace that You offer. It's in the precious name of Jesus we pray.

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.
- Mass for The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Monday 8 December at St Benedicts at 7pm.
- Rite II at The Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph on Wednesday 10 December 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.

9-days Novena Masses to Señor Santo Niño Jan 9 - 17, 2026 at St Benedict's Church  
Rosary at 6:30pm; Novena at 7:00pm; Mass at 7:30pm or straight after the Novena.  
On-street parking is FREE after 6:00pm along Alex Evans St and St Benedict's St. Wilson Carpark is free during 9-days novena masses only from 6pm to 10pm. Keep an eye on Tenant Only Parking spaces. They are tow-away spaces.

Santo Niño Fiesta is on 18 January 2026 Venue: EventFindA Stadium  
Procession: 10:00AM; Mass: 11:00AM; Cultural Programme: 2:00pm  
For further details, please call Tito Oscar Batucan 027-570-1139 or send message.

**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:**  
Ivan Brady, Reginald Luck, Mollie Baird, David Shackleton, John Wishart, Isabel McGrath, Bob Courtney, Doriene McSorley, Steven Van Veen, Thomas Minshall, Kevin McMurray, Mary Jamieson, Frederick Smith, Natividad dela Vina Bautista, Edith Wade, Betty Fodermayer, William Wikitera, Brian Gulson, Catherine Belcher, Mary Coleman, Cissie Mason, Patrick McGill, Julian Sargon, Pat Langdon.

**Eternal rest grant to them O Lord**