

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY 6 PM
SUNDAY 9.30AM

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT **14 DECEMBER 2025**

In this Sunday's Gospel, we find John the Baptist in prison, burdened with uncertainty. From his confinement, he sends his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" It is a moment of deep humanity — even the great prophet who prepared the way for the Messiah now struggles with doubt. Many people could identify with John. We are anxious to know if the efforts we make have any meaning. We can experience moments of darkness, doubt, and despair as events, perhaps in our own lives, perhaps in the life of a child, do not work out the way we intended.

John's question echoes in the hearts of all who have tried to live faithfully yet find themselves wondering if it has been worth it. In response, Jesus does not offer words of theory or comfort; instead, he points to what is happening: "The blind see again, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor." In other words, Jesus' works speak for themselves. The Kingdom is already breaking into the world, quietly but powerfully, in acts of healing, mercy, and renewal.

As Jesus invited John to trust in him, so too he calls on us to put our trust in him and be faithful to our life's work. Even when we cannot see the results or understand the path ahead, faith means continuing to believe that God is at work — that the seeds we plant in love and goodness will bear fruit in God's time.

This third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, calls us to rejoice — not because all our questions are answered, but because we trust in the One who is faithful. The joy of Advent is not naïve happiness; it is the deep assurance that even in our uncertainty, Christ is near.

Like John, we are invited to look beyond our doubts and recognise in Jesus the signs of life and hope that reveal God's unchanging love.

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: 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 9.30am—2.30pm

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 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 ~ THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading (Is 35:1-6.10) God is the hope of his people who are crushed by misfortune.

Second Reading (Jam 5:7-10) St James urges us to be patient with one another, and patient regarding the Lord's final coming.

Gospel (Mt 11:2-11) We see Jesus at work, and hear his words of praise for his imprisoned cousin John. Next weeks readings: Is 7:10-14, Rom 1:1-7, Mt 1:18-25.

For Sunday /weekday readings see: 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. 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. 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!

JOY

Heavenly Father, this third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus' birth has the power to bring us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy comes from You. That joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of heaven, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing. Flood our heart with joy this Advent season as we reflect on the good news of Jesus' birth. In Jesus precious name 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.
- Shine TV Christmas Mass is being filmed at St Benedict's in the side chapel. Bishop Steve presiding. Tuesday 16 December at 1pm. Numbers are limited, please email office if attending office@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz.
- Please check the notice boards in the foyer for upcoming events.
- When visiting St Benedicts please DO NOT park illegally or block cars in.

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:
Joseph Hancock, Kathleen Ryan, Richard Petricevich, John Hills, Joe Benson, Mimi Livingstone, Ksanita Bell-Booth, Andrew Master, Shirley Nausbaum, Theresa Stowers, Wenzl Schollum, Michael O'Niell, Matilda Davis, James Davis, Mary Davis, Kenneth Mahoney, Philomena Wong, Monsignor Paul Cronin, James Maher, Christopher Hopkins, John Johnson, John Johansen, Annie Shields, Arthur Main, Fr McKendry, Mary Maruura, John Corboy.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord