

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY 6 PM
SUNDAY 9.30AM

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT **21 DECEMBER 2025**

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

As Advent draws to its close, Matthew's Gospel invites us to contemplate the story of Joseph — a quiet, faithful man whose obedience allowed God's plan of salvation to unfold. In this passage, we hear how Joseph discovers that Mary, his betrothed, is with child. His initial reaction is one of deep distress; he is torn between the law and his love for Mary. Yet even in his confusion, Joseph acts with compassion. He resolves to do what is right without exposing Mary to shame. It is then, in the midst of his uncertainty, that God speaks to him through a dream.

The angel's message — “Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit” — changes everything. Joseph is invited to see beyond appearances and to trust in something far greater than his understanding. In faith, he accepts his role in God's mystery, becoming the earthly guardian of the Christ Child. Through his quiet courage, God's Word takes flesh in our world.

Joseph's story is a powerful reminder that God often works in hidden and unexpected ways. Like Joseph, we can face moments when life does not make sense, when plans collapse, and the future feels uncertain. In those times, faith means listening for the whisper of God's voice — often in the silence of prayer — and finding the courage to respond with trust.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent invites us to enter into that same faith-filled waiting. As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, we are called to let go of fear and to make room in our hearts for Emmanuel — “God with us.” Joseph's obedience shows us that holiness is found not in grand gestures, but in quiet fidelity to God's will.

When we, like Joseph, open ourselves to the mystery of God's presence in our ordinary lives, the promise of Advent is fulfilled: God comes to dwell among us, and through our trust, His love takes flesh once again in the world.

Fr Stephen Berecz

LITURGY OF THE WORD ~ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading (Is 7:10-14) This reading foretells the birth of a very special child—a child who will be called Emmanuel, that is, God-with-us.

Second Reading (Rom 1:1-7) These opening lines from Paul's letter to the Romans draw attention to the human and divine 'roots' of Jesus.

Gospel (Mt 1:18-25) This shows how the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled in Jesus.

For Sunday /weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.com

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 and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Patrick Downey, Leo O'Neill, Winifred Keenan, Lilian Mitchell, Anne Seta, Michael Atkinson, Phyllis Gall, David Grant, Justin Williams, Francis Nixon, James Treacy, Jill Coleman, Annie Fernandez, Francis O'Connor, Tony Parker, Fr Paddy Collins, Bernice Randell, Hugh Foley, Verona Edwards, Eulalie Purdom, Margaret Betz, Jim Rodgers, Luisa Jara, Margaret Douglas, Thomas Fox, Patrick McNamara, Jamima Cotter, Mary Murphy, Lena Swann, Mary Leggett, Bridget Treacy, Temple Cobold, Milciades Martinez. Tony Van Veen, Timothy Shannahan, Antony Rodriguez, Palepa Laeie, Thomas Blaskovich, Dorothy Straka, Paul Mercer, Ron Parslow, Margaret McCarthy, Teresa McQuoid, Arnold Moverly, Cyril Spelman, Clement Pereira, Walter Gower, Lucy Dougherty, Danilo Samontina, Paul Parkinson, Kisione Cocker-Valu, Elizabeth Treacy, Maude Treacy, Henry Hill, Arthur Berryman, Margaret Turner, Esme Purdom, Albert Walmsley, Karara Iti, Bill Turner, Catherine Kearin, Coralie Purdom, Dudley Bannister, Jack O'Neil, Lillian Ryan, Lady Margie Kelliher, Beatrice Ewart, Walter Peri, Lydia Shanly, Ron Gower, Alexander Sinkovich, Michael Melia, Judith Kenny, Annie Rolfe, Thomas Kenrick, Maileyn White, Donna Kerr, Charles Louissea, Fr Michael Shore, James Blake, Ada Applegrew, Mary Bird, Iese Henry, Hec Turner, Norberto Saliba, Tom Keating, Desmond Connolly, Giovanna Guzzo, Peg Baker, Tessa Foley, Bill McCafferty, Rev Warren Fowler, Fr Humphrey Kearin, John McKnight, Ramati Rairoa, Marnoe Pouri, Louisa Murphy, Kathleen Pain, Paddy Shine, Peter Allen, Luke Nola, George Baker, Fr Raymond George, Ila Hallworth, Eugenia Karink, Bishop John Mackey, Archibald Delargey, Patrick Downey, Nellie O'Callaghan, Edna Webb, Alma Anderson, Josie Morgan, Madge Kearin, Mina Foley, Naomi Firebrace, Agnes Cousins, James and Julia Tipping, Dylan Taite, Bridget Crimmins, Arma Schaumkell, Amy Coe, Frank Crimmins, Russell Barry, Mariano Reyes, Dorothy McAuley, Mary Carroll, Robert Monaghan, Herbert Bransby-Browne, Mate Martinovich, Catherine Johansen, James Farrell, Francis Windleburn, Maura Duncan, Mavis Doyle, Jim Wilson, Kate Bergin, Wendy Horne, Leo Coleman, Jack Reidy, Sr Agneta R.S.J, Marie Tianero, Sarah Gordon, Desmond Giblin, Bill Tyree, Edna Crimmins, Selwyn Knuckey, Lilian Yates, Anne Murphy, Ruby Davis, Ernest O'Brien, Luis Antonio Ruiz Alba, Joseph Hayes, Clarence Taylor, John Wyatt, Fr John Moss I.C, Connie Ryan, Neil Santos, Bruce Whye, Fr Ruben Elago, Julia Sheehan, Clarence Webb, Renato Batucan, Margaret Stevens, Gary Nausbaum, Fr George Gillan (2nd parish priest of St Benedicts), Joseph O'Keeffe, Veronica Ayers, Monica Dennehy, Allan Lynne, Phyllis Floyd, Alfredo Caguicla.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord

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.
- 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.

The parish office will close at 2.30pm on Friday 19 December 2025 and re-open at 10am on Monday 12 January 2026

Fr Gilbert, Catherine and Miranda wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas, and a relaxing and rejuvenating summer break!

Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

LOVE

Heavenly Father, You sent your gift of pure love to us that first Christmas.

Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meager barn in Bethlehem. All of your love was robed in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes. This final week of Advent, help us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus. Father, fill our hearts and minds with the significance of that truth. Thank you for loving us enough to send Jesus.

In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen