



**St Benedict's**  
PARISH OF NEWTON-AUCKLAND

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

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

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



**St Benedict's**  
PARISH OF NEWTON-AUCKLAND

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 1 FEBRUARY 2026**

**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

Matthew's Gospel opens Jesus' Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes, a teaching that at first sounds upside-down. Blessed are the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted — those the world often overlooks or pities. Yet Jesus is not romanticising suffering. He is revealing a deeper truth about God's reign and who truly belongs within it.

The Beatitudes sketch a portrait of life lived under God's kingship. They describe not abstract ideals but concrete ways of being: humility instead of self-assertion, mercy instead of vengeance, hunger for justice rather than comfort with injustice. These attitudes do not arise from weakness but from trust — trust that God's way leads to life, even when it contradicts the logic of power and success.

“The promise of the Kingdom permeates the Beatitudes, not only in the first and last promises but also in others, having the earth for heritage or being called children of God. This promise is at the heart of Jesus' message: he came to establish on earth the rule or reign of God. This he did both by fearlessly and uncompromisingly proclaiming God's demands of human behaviour, explaining how one must behave if one is to be part of God's kingship, and by abolishing evil and sorrow in all its forms.”

The Beatitudes therefore are not simply consolation for the future. They announce that the Kingdom of God is already breaking into the present. To inherit the earth, to be called children of God, to be comforted and filled — these are signs that God's reign is active here and now, wherever hearts and lives are aligned with God's purposes.

This alignment is costly. To live the Beatitudes means choosing mercy when retaliation seems easier, peace-making when division feels justified, integrity when compromise would be simpler. Yet Jesus assures us that such lives are blessed, not because they escape suffering, but because they are held within God's promise.

Ultimately, the Beatitudes invite us to look again at what we consider success, happiness, and fulfilment. In Jesus' vision, true blessing flows not from what we possess but from who we become under the gentle, demanding, and life-giving reign of God.

Fr Stephen Berecz

## LITURGY OF THE WORD ~ FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading** (Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13) The prophet holds out hope of salvation for those who seek God, and who practice integrity and humility.

**Second Reading** (1 Cor 1:26-31) God chooses the poor, the weak, and the lowly, people who are conscious of their limitations, and who therefore rely on God rather than on themselves.

**Gospel** (Mt 5:1-12) We see the values Christ preached and lived—values he wishes to see in his followers.

Next weeks readings: Is 58:7-10, 1 Cor 2:1-5, Mt 5:13-16.

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

### Praise in the Park

All are welcome to join Auckland Catholic and Christian believers at our outdoor event, which will include music, Gospel proclamation, personal stories, and Eucharistic Adoration. There will be prayer ministry and information stalls.

**Date:** 15 February 2026

**Where:** Selwyn Domain, along Mission Bay.

**4:00 pm – 5:30 pm** - Praise and Worship, including a mix of contemporary and well-known Christian music, interwoven with personal stories and the gospel message.

**5:30 pm – 6:00 pm** - A time of Adoration, accompanied by traditional Catholic hymns, offering space for reflection and encounter with Christ.

For more details and parking information visit [praisinthepark.nz](http://praisinthepark.nz)

or contact Engelbert on [engelbert.dsouza@yahoo.com](mailto:engelbert.dsouza@yahoo.com)

### CALLING ALL TERTIARY STUDENTS!

There is a LARGE, VIBRANT and RAPIDLY growing Catholic STUDENT COMMUNITY present across University of Auckland and AUT campuses. JOIN US in 2026!

To find out more please contact Daniel Story at [dans@cda.org.nz](mailto:dans@cda.org.nz) and/or check out the Auckland Catholic Tertiary Chaplaincy (ACTC) socials.

Search “aucklandcatholicchaplaincy”

The Dominican Friars of the Province of the Assumption invite you to the 2026 Aquinas Conference in Auckland held at Holy Family Parish, Te Atatu on 21st February.

It will begin with the Holy Mass at 9AM followed by four talks exploring the life and teachings of St Thomas Aquinas. It is open to all ages so please invite your family and friends. The Conference will be FREE of charge but donations to

(<https://www.givenow.com.au/stdominicspriory>) will be greatly appreciated!

### Please pray for those who are sick, recovering from surgery or needing our prayers, especially:

Teresa Rajaratnam, Phil Bawden, David Master, Rus Quinn, Gladys Borqueta,  
Margie Newman, Jason Oxenham.

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

Margaret Stevens, Gary Nausbaum, Alexander Hattie, Fr George Gillan (2nd parish priest of St Benedicts), Joseph O’Keeffe, Veronica Ayers, Monica Dennehy, Allan Lynne, Phyllis Floyd, Alfredo Caguicla, John Sealy, Paul Andermatt, Bishop Gerard Loft, Marina Valero, Robert Franghetti-Amos, Evan Pattillo, Colleen Reardon, Losa Auva’a, Madeline Pickering, Elizabeth Dome, Francis Micallef, Sadie Adams.

**Eternal rest grant to them O Lord**

## 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.
- **Waitangi Day Mass** Friday 6 February at St Benedicts at 9am (please note there will be no Holy Hour or 12.10pm mass on Waitangi Day).
- 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.

### Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass on Friday 6th February 7:00pm

at St Mary’s Parish, 20 Kitenui Ave, Mt Albert.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy, Sung Benediction, Mass, followed by Veneration of St Faustina’s relic. All Welcome.

### Prayer for Students

Lord our God, in your wisdom and love you surround us with the mysteries of the universe.

Send your spirit upon these students and fill them with your wisdom and blessings.

Grant that they may devote themselves to their studies and draw ever closer to you, the source of all knowledge.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.