

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY 6 PM
SUNDAY 9.30AM

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 22 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: 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

This Sunday's Gospel begins Jesus' public ministry not with success or affirmation, but with testing. Led by the Spirit into the desert, Jesus confronts hunger, vulnerability, and the subtle temptation to misuse power. In Matthew, the desert becomes a place of clarity where Jesus reveals what truly sustains human life and what kind of Messiah he will be.

Each temptation strikes at a deeply human desire. The call to turn stones into bread appeals to immediate need and self-reliance. The invitation to throw himself from the Temple seeks to force God's protection and turn faith into spectacle. The promise of worldly power offers a shortcut, control without obedience. In each case, Jesus refuses. He responds not with clever argument or displays of strength, but with Scripture and trust. His answers reveal that life is more than satisfaction, faith more than proof, and authority more than domination.

In following Jesus through Lent, we are invited to let go of the power of sin over our goals in life and to learn another strength by which we might live. This strength will be nothing less than reliance on God's saving love and the presence of the Spirit of Jesus in all our decisions. Lent exposes how easily we can be drawn toward comfort, control, or recognition, even when these pull us away from God's deeper purposes.

The desert reminds us that temptation is not simply about wrongdoing; it is about direction. Whose voice shapes our choices? What do we rely on when we feel empty or afraid? Jesus shows that true freedom is found not in self-assertion but in surrender to God's will. His refusal of the temptations is not an escape from humanity but a faithful embrace of it.

As we journey through Lent, this Gospel invites us into honest self-examination. We do not conquer temptation by our own strength, but by learning, as Jesus did, to trust God completely. The same Spirit who led Jesus into the desert walks with us now, teaching us how to live not by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Fr Stephen Berecz

LITURGY OF THE WORD ~ FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading (Gen 2:7-9;3:1-7) Adam and Eve succumb to temptation and cause a rift between themselves and God.

Second Reading (Rom 5:12-19) By his obedience to God, Christ won back for us the gifts lost through the disobedience of Adam.

Gospel (Mt 4:1-11) Jesus was tempted by the devil, but unlike Adam and Eve, he did not succumb.

Next weeks readings: Gen 12:1-4, 2 Tim 1:8-10, Mt 17:1-9.

CATHNEWS NEW ZEALAND: CathNews New Zealand shares the big news from the Catholic Church and stories of relevance to Catholics every Tuesday and Friday. Sign up for the free digital newsletter and read the latest stories at cathnewsnz.com

Wings.Nga Parirau this Lent – an invitation to know your faith and grow your relationship with Jesus. Are you interested but cannot make face-to-face meetings? Try Zoom! First Year Programme of 'Wings', Modules One and Two -on Zoom, 7-7.40pm, all Thursdays in Lent'. We will be reflecting on the Catholic Faith and our personal Faith journey. Sunday Gospels of Lent provide a framework for our Scripture reflection, on Zoom, all Saturdays in Lent 7-7.40pm Church Teaching through the writings of Pope Leo XIV, reflect together, all Wednesdays in Lent, on Zoom, 7-7.40pm Come and pray silently with others, be present with Jesus each morning, on Zoom, 6.15 – 6.45am. Is Meditation new for you? 'Come and See!' Contact Dianna Fouhy: diannaf@cda.org.nz

Lenten Talks by Bishop Peter Brown. St Michael's Parish is hosting a series of four weekly talks by Bishop Peter Brown during the lead up to Lent, guiding us to reunite ourselves to Christ through His gift of Reconciliation. When: 4x Tuesday evenings beginning 3rd March 2026 Time: 7:00pm – 8:30pm Where: St Michael's Parish, Mary MacKillop Hall, 6 Beatrice Rd, Remuera

Life Teen Aotearoa Leadership Convention | 13-15 March 2026 at Sacred Heart College Auckland THE BEST place to be trained, renewed and inspired for Catholic Youth Ministry. Whether you are new to ministry, or looking for the best practices to continue your ministry, this event is designed for you. Expect incredible keynotes from the Catholic speakers, practical breakout sessions, and in addition to practical, comprehensive training, you will experience community and personal spiritual renewal. Whether you are a priest, in parish leadership, youth minister, DRS, teacher, youth leader, college chaplain, or an interested parent, we are ready to serve and train you this year at Life Teen Aotearoa's 2026 Leadership Convention. Register NOW! Earlybird prices available until 9th March: <https://www.eventbookings.com/b/event/life-teen-aotearoa-leadership-convention>

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.
- **Stations of the Cross** every Friday evening during Lent at 6.30pm
- 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.

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.

Please pray for those who are sick, recovering from surgery or needing our prayers, especially:
Teresa Rajaratnam, Phil Bawden, David Master, Rus Quinn, Gladys Borgueta,
Margie Newman, Jason Oxenham.

We remember those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
William Kemble, Jean Spelman, Agnes Kennedy, Caitlin Rajwer, Beatrice Johnson, Metui Latu,
John Higgins, John McIvor, LilyKutty Thomas, Heather Ryan, Joan Bannister, Bernard Kelly,
Patricia Daley, Charlotte Willis, Emmanuel Ntarmah, Daniel Prendergast, Rita Graham.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord