



**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

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 8 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

In this week's Gospel, Jesus moves from the interior attitudes of the Beatitudes to their outward expression in the world. His images of salt and light make it clear that discipleship is never meant to be hidden or self-contained. Faith that does not engage with life, with people and with society, risks losing its very purpose.

The image of salt is arresting in its simplicity. Salt exists to season, to preserve, to bring out flavour. On its own it is insignificant, but mixed into food it transforms the whole dish. Jesus' warning is sharp: salt that has lost its taste is useless. Christianity, then, cannot be an inward-turning, self-regarding asceticism. The believer who has no effect on the world around them becomes insipid. There is no such thing as a closet-Christian. Faith that never leaves the safety of private devotion or comfortable circles contradicts the very nature of the gospel, which is meant to penetrate and influence the ordinary realities of life.

The second image reinforces this call to visible discipleship. Light is meant to be seen. A lamp hidden under a bowl is not merely pointless; it denies its identity. In the same way, following Christ cannot remain invisible. Jesus does not ask his disciples to draw attention to themselves, but he does insist that their lives be luminous with goodness. Their actions, choices and relationships should reflect something of God's own light breaking into the world.

Importantly, Jesus clarifies the purpose of this visibility: "that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." The goal is not admiration but revelation. Through lives shaped by mercy, integrity and courage, others are drawn toward God.

Salt and light remind us that Christian faith is inherently relational and outward-facing. It exists not only for personal salvation but for the transformation of the world. To follow Christ is to live in such a way that the world tastes and sees something of God's reign made real in everyday life.

Fr Stephen Berecz

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

**First Reading** (Is 58:7-10) Genuine worship of God is shown forth in the practice of justice and in concern for the poor and the needy.

**Second Reading** (1 Cor 2:1-5) The success of the Gospel doesn't depend on human cleverness but on the power of God.

**Gospel** (Mt 5:13-16) Christ's disciples are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Next weeks readings: Eccles 15:15-20, 1 Cor 2:6-10, Mt 5:17-37.

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

## COLLEGE OPEN DAYS 2026

Baradene College Open Day Tours – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. BOOKINGS online REQUIRED (bookings open 9.00am Monday 23 February) Tour times: 9am and 10am each day. Book at [www.baradene.school.nz](http://www.baradene.school.nz)

St Pauls College Open Day Tours—Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am or 1.45pm  
183 Richmond Road Ponsonby.

Marist College Open Day Tours—Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February  
or Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 9am.

St Mary's College Open Day Tours—Thursday 26 March at 2pm or 6pm.  
11 New Street, Ponsonby.

St Peter's College Open Day Tours—Tuesday 17 February at 9.30am or 1pm.

Please refer to the individual school websites for school specific enrolment information.

Ash Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February, begins the six weeks of Lent to prepare for Easter; to “turn to the Lord your God again, for he is all tenderness and compassion” (Joel 2:12 from Ash Wednesday). Join in short Zoom sessions through Lent: wake and pray, daily meditation 6.15am; Wednesdays 7-7.40 pm reading Pope Leo's “Dilexi Te” – his teaching on compassion for the poor; Saturdays 7-7.40pm reflecting on the Sunday Gospels of Lent. Dianna Fouhy looks forward to sharing this Lenten journey with you. Please contact [diannaf@cda.org.nz](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)

**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:**  
Mary O'Shannasey, Mabel Jackson, Daphne Yin, Dorothy Wakim, Bob Cotterall, Nonie Kiely,  
Esparanza Lopez-Cisneros, Edna Mercer, Fesola I Lavea, Bonnie Martin, Terry D'Souza,  
Joaquin Barretto, Mary Jacobson, Michael Maher, Ama Tawiah, Elizabeth Connolly,  
Fr Charlie Murray, John Foley, Olive McGrath, Joseph O'Keeffe, Muelin D'Silva, Cecil Gallagher,  
J.B. Gallagher, Leo Creedon, Patrick Connolly, Elizabeth O'Driscoll, Iese Henry, Cecilia Navera,  
Rosa de Egusquiza, Fr John Flanagan.

**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.

- Shrove Tuesday Mass Tuesday 17 February at St Benedicts at 7pm.
- Ash Wednesday Mass Wednesday 18 February at St Benedicts at 12.10pm and 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.

## 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](#)

## 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.