

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY 6 PM
SUNDAY 9.30AM

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 8 MARCH 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

In our Gospel this week John presents one of the most disarming encounters in the Gospel: Jesus at Jacob's well. He is tired, thirsty, and alone. Yet it is here, in apparent weakness, that divine grace overflows. Jesus quenches our thirst in a way that defies all conventional logic. He turns the world on its head.

He speaks to a Samaritan - which Jews never did. He speaks to an unaccompanied woman - which men were not supposed to do. Every boundary of religion, ethnicity, gender, and moral history is crossed. While she comes seeking ordinary water, Jesus reveals a deeper thirst within her: the longing for living water that becomes a spring welling up to eternal life.

At first, it seems that Jesus is the one in need: "Give me a drink." But as St Augustine observed, God thirsts after our thirst for him; he desires to be desired. Christ's request awakens her hidden longing. The further the human being distances himself from God, the more closely God pursues him with his merciful love. Jesus gently uncovers her life story, not to condemn but to restore. Her broken relationships do not repel him; they draw forth his compassion.

In this Lenten season, the liturgy invites us to stand beside that well and review our relationship with Jesus. What are our deepest thirsts? Success, approval, distraction, control? Or communion, mercy, and truth? Christ still waits at the wells of our daily routines, asking for our attention so that he may give us himself.

The woman leaves her jar behind - a sign that something greater has satisfied her. Having encountered the One who knows her completely and loves her still, she becomes a witness. So too are we called to tirelessly seek his Face, naming our thirst honestly, and allowing him to quench it with living water.

Fr Stephen Berecz

LITURGY OF THE WORD ~ THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading (Ex 17:3-7) Despite their ingratitude, God shows his care for his people by providing water for them in the desert.

Second Reading (Rom 5:1-2.5-8) God has proved his extraordinary love for us by the fact that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel (Jn 4:5-42) This tells the story of Jesus' touching encounter with a Samaritan woman.

Next weeks readings: 1 Sam 16:1. 6-7.10-13, Eph 5:8-14, Jn 9:1-41.

The Upper Room | Wednesday 18 March 2026 at Good George Mission Bay

The Upper Room is a night of formation and fellowship for young adults. Guest speaker James Bergin will be presenting on the topic of 'Digital Integrity', where we will delve into how one can be authentically Catholic in an artificial digital world. \$10 tickets. Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/the-upper-room-march-2026>

LENT 2026 with FOOD FOR FAITH

Visit www.foodforfaith.org.nz and sign up to receive daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor. Prepared especially for those seeking greater maturity of faith.

St Joseph's Church Parish Hall, Takapuna

"You Are Chosen": Life In the Spirit Seminar - Saturday March 14 - Sunday March 15, at St Joseph's Church Parish Hall, Takapuna; Deepen your relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. All are welcome! There will be time for teaching, worship, prayer, fellowship and activities. Please register at bit.ly/ur-chosen.

Lent Reflection at St John's Church, Mairangi Bay

Tuesday, 24 March, Lenten Reflection with Dianna Fouhy

Tuesday, 28 April, Bible Society with CEO Neels Janse van Rensburg

Prayer for Children

Heavenly Father, hold our children in your loving arms and protect them from all danger and evil. Let them know right from wrong. May they show forgiveness and compassion for all living things. Fill their hearts with peace, love and happiness. When their days have passed take them with you to your everlasting kingdom.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Divine Mercy Feast Sunday 12th April 5:30pm at St Benedict's Parish

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, Blessing of Images, Holy Mass, Veneration of St Faustina's relic. You are warmly invited to attend this Feast Day Celebration. Bring your Divine Mercy images & artefacts to be blessed. Jesus told St Faustina "My Heart rejoices on this Feast Day". Free parking is available at Wilson Carpark, including free street parking on Sundays.

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.

Children's Sacramental Programme 2026

Our parish programme will commence on Sunday 22 March after 9.30am mass. Please collect an enrolment form from the church foyer or email the office to be emailed a form. Note you need to be able to attend all sessions.

If you wish to enrol your child please complete and return the form to the parish office as soon as possible. Please note that due to demand we will prioritise children from St Benedicts Parish. One parent must be a baptised Catholic in order to enrol their child.

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 Kelly, Josephine Morris, Helena Johnston, William Duggan, Heather Kearns, Dianne Hill, Agnes Jones, Maria Santiano-Laxamana, Phyllis Mitchell, Deborah Taurao, Patrick Monaghan, John Davis, Eva Anderson, Milisi Lava, Joseph Davis, Joy McBeam, Una Retemeyer, Zella Rankin, Kit Cavanagh, Andrea Cook, Fr Mario Dorado OFMCap.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord