

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY 6 PM
SUNDAY 9.30AM

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 22 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 John's Gospel today, the raising of Lazarus, stands at the threshold of Jesus' own Passion. It is the final and greatest of the "signs" in John's Gospel, and it reveals not only Jesus' power over death but the deeper mystery of who he is. At the tomb of his friend, Jesus does not stand distant and unmoved. He weeps. The Word made flesh shares our grief and enters fully into the sorrow of human loss. Yet in that very place of darkness he proclaims, "I am the resurrection and the life."

The delay in Jesus' arrival is striking. "This illness does not lead to death; it is for the glory of God." Glory in John's Gospel is inseparable from the cross. The raising of Lazarus points forward to the greater hour when the Father will glorify the Son in the passion, death, and exaltation of Jesus. As Lazarus is called from the tomb, so too will Christ pass through death into life - but not as a return to mortal existence. His resurrection will inaugurate a new and eternal life.

Martha's confession is central: "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God." Faith here is not merely assent to a miracle; it is trust in the person of Jesus. To accept Jesus is to open oneself to that transforming experience wherein the Father glorifies the Son through the cross and resurrection. The believer is drawn into that mystery. Eternal life is not only a future promise; it begins now through communion with the One who is Life itself.

When Jesus cries, "Lazarus, come out," it is more than a command to a dead man. It is a call addressed to each of us. We all know the tombs that bind us - fear, sin, despair, grief. Faith means allowing Christ to speak into those sealed places and to trust that his voice has power to free us. The unbinding of Lazarus by the community also reminds us that new life unfolds within the Church, where we help one another live in the freedom Christ gives.

To believe in Jesus is to stand, even now, in the light of resurrection - and to share in the eternal life that flows from his glorified love.

Fr Stephen Berecz

LITURGY OF THE WORD ~ FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading (Ezek 37:12-14) The exile of the people to Babylon is described in terms of death. And their return home is described in terms of resurrection and spiritual renewal.

Second Reading (Rom 8:8-11) It was the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead.
Now this same Spirit lives in us.

Gospel (Jn 11:1-45) By raising Lazarus from the dead,
Jesus shows that he is Lord of life and death.

Next weeks readings: Mt 21:1-11, Is 50:4-7, Phil 2:6-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66.

For Sunday /weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.com

Coming up at St. Francis Retreat Centre Ph: 09 625 6651 (Office Hours 8am – 3pm)

50 Hillsborough Rd, Hillsborough, Auckland 1042, Email: admin@sfrc.org.nz

Time Out Days – For those who seek a day retreat from 9:30am to 2:30pm

(\$35 includes lunch). Wed 1 Apr | Thu 7 May

24-Hour Quietude – Begins on Friday at 7:00pm with prayer and rest, and continues until Saturday at 7:00pm with a full day dedicated to reflection, contemplation, and prayer. Apr 17-18

Prayer & the Interior Life Women's Retreat - A reflective weekend in the Catholic tradition for women seeking deeper intimacy with God. The retreat includes Holy Mass, adoration, worship, fellowship, and inspiring talks on prayer and worship.
Fri 17 Apr 6:00pm to Sun 19 Apr 3:00pm

Pilgrimage of Mercy Women's Retreat - A semi-silent weekend retreat that invites women to receive mercy at the places of deepest thirst. Come and be led by grace to the river of mercy. Fri 29 May 5:00pm to Sun 31 May 1:30pm.

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 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.

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 every week before Mass on Saturday evenings from 5pm-5.45pm.
- **Reconciliation Rite II** at The Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph, 43 Wyndham St, Auckland Central on Tuesday 24 March at 7pm.
- **Stations of the Cross** every Friday evening during Lent at 6.30pm

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.

- 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.

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: Rhonda Mercer.

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Arthur Beatram, Aileen Markey, Nora Beveridge, Joseph Auva'a, Julia Roden, Margaret McCormick, Michael Benson, Katie Matijasevich, Bernard McGrath, Annie Radich, Johanna Kearney, Andrew Worthington, Steve Walker, Vincent Ahkia, Loretta Desa, Rita Frank, Hilda Howard, Sarah McGinley, Cecily Kenrick, Thomas Craney, Hilda Church, Michael Hughes, Fr Norbert Berridge, Jean Patillo, Bertha Noonan, Blair Rankin, Win McNamara, William Hynes, Terry Welch, Anne O'Sullivan.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord