

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY 6 PM
SUNDAY 9.30AM

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD ~ 29 MARCH 2026

Matthew's Gospel draws us into the heart of the Passion, where every illusion about Messiahship is stripped away. From Judas' betrayal to the sealed tomb, we witness a dramatic clash between two logics: the logic of the world and the logic of God. Those who conspired against Jesus wanted a messiah who fit their expectations—one aligned with strength, control, influence, and visible triumph. They wanted power that dominates. But Jesus reveals a radically different kingship. He stands silent before false witnesses, refuses the sword in Gethsemane, and reigns from a cross. He is a Messiah who fits not the logic of worldly power, but the logic of self-sacrificing love. And because that love exposes the emptiness of violent and political ambition, he "has to die."

In the garden, we see the depth of this obedience. "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will, but as you will." Jesus does not embrace suffering abstractly; he feels its weight. He tastes fear, anguish, and loneliness. The disciples sleep. One betrays him with a kiss. Another denies even knowing him. The crowds who once shouted "Hosanna" now cry "Crucify him." Jesus enters fully into human instability and rejection.

On the cross the abandonment becomes stark: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" In that cry we hear the echo of every human desolation. Jesus experienced all our desolation in order to be ever close to us. He descended into the abyss of our most bitter sufferings—betrayal, injustice, humiliation, and apparent God-forsakenness. There is no darkness we enter that he has not already inhabited. There is no loneliness we endure that he has not transformed from within.

The centurion's confession - "Truly this was the Son of God" - reveals the paradox. Divine glory shines not in domination but in total self-giving. The Passion teaches us that God's power is love poured out to the end. To follow this Messiah is to renounce the world's logic of control and to entrust ourselves instead to the quiet, costly, and victorious power of the cross.

Fr Stephen Berecz

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD ~ PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Gospel for procession (Mt 21:1-11) Jesus enters Jerusalem, not as an all-conquering warrior, but as a gentle, humble bearer of Good News.

First Reading (Is 50:4-7) The prophet suffers in carrying out his mission, but is sustained by the firm belief that God will not abandon him.

Second Reading (Phil 2:6-11) Because Jesus took on himself our human condition, and accepted death on a cross, the Father has raised him up and made him Lord of heaven and earth.

Gospel (Matthew 26:14-27:66) St Matthew shows the passion as fulfilling the prophecies of Scripture, and portrays Jesus, because of his foreknowledge and free decision, as being in complete control of the situation.

Next weeks readings: Acts 10:34,37-43, Col 3:1-4, Jn 20:1-9.

For Sunday /weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.com

Good Friday Stations Of The Cross

9am-11am 3 April 2026 | Gathering at Albert Park rotunda & concluding at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Join us for the 18th Annual Stations of the Cross Procession through Auckland CBD this Good Friday! Experience a powerful and moving journey through the heart of the city as we walk together in prayer, remembering Christ's passion. Each year, hundreds of people from across the Auckland come together for public witness of faith. We invite you, your family, and your faith community to be part of this sacred tradition.

For more details and event updates please see our Facebook page: @AKCYM

Diocesan Youth Mass

Last Sunday of each month 4:30pm February – November At St Patrick's Cathedral
For more info contact the Auckland Catholic Youth Ministry Team:
youthmin@cda.org.nz graphics attached

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.
- Stations of the Cross every Friday evening during Lent at 6.30pm
- Washing of the feet please contact the office if you wish to be included in the washing of the feet during mass at 7pm on Holy Thursday.

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 Borgueta, Margie Newman, Jason Oxenham.

We remember those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Ivan Resetar, Leo Bell, Peter Tieng, Jacob O'Grady, Charles Walsh, Fr McMahon, Wilfred Hancox, Roman Bonderenko, Sr Marie Anne Arnulphy, Nellie Tobin, Henry Wilson, Elsie Bryant, Max Turner, Valerie Wells, Thomas Cotter, Eva Goodwin, Marie Bryer, Robert Wilson, Jacob Perepaddan, Francis Simmons, Hazel Bish, Joseph Straka, Margaret Ussher, Hendrika Draaijer, Pa Henry Tate, Lily Casey, Robert Cochrane, Myrtle Hutton, Henry Ussher, Maurice Taylor, Ben Swann Snr, Daniel Riordan, Jean Kronfeld, Michael Clarkin, Toma Latu.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord