



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

THE ACENSION OF THE LORD ~ 17 MAY 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

A Call to Maturity

In the concluding verses of Matthew's Gospel, we encounter a profound moment of transition. The eleven disciples gather on a mountain in Galilee, standing before the risen Christ. Here, Jesus delivers the Great Commission, instructing them to make disciples of all nations, before making a final, enduring promise: "I am with you always, to the end of the age."

As we reflect on this passage and the mystery of the Ascension, we are invited into a vital shift in our spiritual lives. The Ascension is not a departure, but a transformation. The ascension calls us to deepen our faith in Jesus's new presence among us. He is no longer bound by physical geography; instead, He permeates our reality through the Holy Spirit.

Embracing this new presence means letting go of spiritual complacency. It urges us to abandon any clinging to false expectations about the Lord immediately returning to resolve our world's problems. Jesus has entrusted the active healing of the world to us. This scripture recalls to our minds that we must work together to achieve the plans the Lord gives us. We are called to be His hands, His feet, and His voice in a fractured world.

Crucially, we do not undertake this mission in isolation. This passage stresses that it is as the Church community that we now experience the Lord's continued presence among us. When we gather in worship, serve the vulnerable, and break bread together, Christ is tangibly there.

Living out this commission is not about passively preserving the past, but actively engaging the present. It urges us to courageously interpret Jesus' teachings for our own changed societies. The Gospel must be a living, breathing word that speaks directly to the unique challenges, joys, and complexities of our modern lives.

Ultimately, the Ascension is not a conclusion, but a commencement. Today is truly the celebration of the call to maturity as Church. We are no longer waiting on the sidelines; we are empowered co-workers, guided by grace to build the Kingdom of God here and now.

Fr Stephen Berecz

LITURGY OF THE WORD ~ THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

First Reading (Acts 1:1-11) This describes the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, and his promise to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples.

Second Reading (Eph 1:17-23) Here Paul describes the meaning of the Ascension: God raised Jesus above all earthly powers, and made him Head of the Church and Lord of creation.

Gospel (Mt 28:16-20) Jesus commissions the apostles to preach the Gospel to all nations, and promises to remain with them always.

Next weeks readings: Acts 2:1-11, 1 Cor 12:3-7.12-13, Jn 20:19-23.

For Sunday /weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.com

St. Francis Retreat Centre www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz

Phone 09 625 6651 or email admin@sfrc.org.nz

We are pleased to share the retreats scheduled at the friary this year.

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

(\$35 includes lunch).

Tue 9 Jun | Thu 13 Aug | Tue 15 Sep | Wed 7 Oct

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.

Jul 3-4 | Aug 28 – 29 | Nov 20 – 21

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 9 Oct 6:00pm to Sun 11 Oct 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

Reflect & Renew Weekend Retreat – Come away for a weekend dedicated to rest, prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal.

Fri 24 Jul 7:00pm to Sun 26 Jul 3:00pm | Fri 23 Oct 7:00pm to Sun 25 Oct 3:00pm

Every Day is Holy Retreat – Led by His Eminence, John Cardinal Dew, this retreat invites us to rediscover the profound truth that each day is already holy because it is given by God.

Mon 31 Aug 5:00pm to Thu 3 Sep 1:30pm.

Living as Beloved Retreat – Take time to allow God to pervade your being with love.

This is a silent retreat based on the book by Henri Nouwen.

Thu 3 Sep 7:00pm to Sun 6 Sep 7:00pm

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.
- 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 GLOBAL PEACE

Heavenly Father, I pray for peace across the world. Soothe conflicts and heal divisions among nations. Comfort those suffering from strife and guide leaders with wisdom. Let Your love inspire unity and compassion. May Your peace prevail on earth. Thank You for Your boundless grace. Amen.

Psalm 29:11

“The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.” 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.

We remember those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Frank Gwynne, Thelma Casey, George Peculaitis, Mary Cooney, Iris Macedo, Clodagh McSwiney, Peter Pohlen, Marie Edwards, Katie Master, Sr Marie Pollard, Brian McNeil, Ann Maguire, Eileen Plunket, John Belcher, Reginald Andrewartha, Rohit de Souza, Noreen Cotterall, Fr John Downey OSB (first parish priest of St Benedicts), Teresa Camia, Margaret Maguire, Leon Ngatikao, Fr Burke, John Meehan, Fr Peter Penny, Leo O'Donohue, Henry Redmond, Fr Lyous, Kathleen Tipping, Lucy Hyde, Diana Benjamin.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord