

Liturgy of the Word ~ 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading (Is 55:1-3) This contains an invitation, addressed to the exiles in Babylon, to come to a banquet. The banquet stands for the life of love and friendship God wishes to share with his people.

Second Reading (Rom 8:35.37-39) No matter what bad times we may have to go through, we remain undaunted, because we are certain that Christ loves us.

Gospel (Mt 14:13-21) Jesus shows his compassion for the people by healing their sick, and giving them food to eat.

Next week's readings: 1 Kgs 19:9.11-13, Rom 9:1-5, Mt 14:22-33.

For Sunday /weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.com

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass on Friday 7th August 7:00pm at St Mary's Parish, 20 Kitenui Ave, Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass, followed by veneration of St Faustina's relic. All Welcome.

John Pridmore Coming to Auckland

International Catholic speaker and evangelist John Pridmore is coming to Auckland this August for a series of inspiring parish missions. Once involved in London's criminal underworld, John's life was dramatically transformed through an encounter with Jesus Christ. For more than 30 years, he has travelled the world sharing his powerful story of conversion, hope and God's mercy, inspiring thousands to rediscover their faith. Mission Dates: Takapuna: 17-19 August/Ponsonby: 24-26 August/Manurewa: 31 August – 2 September. All sessions begin at 7:00 pm. Everyone is warmly invited to attend. For more details [visit our website](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz) (www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz)

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."

Resources for families from the Auckland Diocese

Open this newsletter in the St Benedict's website or app and follow the links...

Kids Korner: [Click here](#) Parent Ponderings: [Click here](#)

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.

- Eucharistic Adoration every first Friday of the month at St Benedicts from 11am-12pm (followed by mass at 12.10pm).

- 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:
Phil Bawden, David Master, Margie Newman, John Shaw, Eva Mitchell, Dave Harrop.

We remember those who have died recently: Bryan Murphy.

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

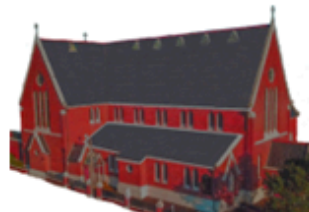
William Klimick, Leon Coad, Marie Williams, Maria Willig, Jean Newlands, Teresa Van Dam, Bishop Stuart O'Connell, Tony Pereppadan, William Leggett, Fr Francis Sheerin, Charles Jamieson, George Whitaker, Matthew Doran, Matthew McArdle, Peggy Scanlan, Michael Reardon, Raymond Willey, Mary Stanish, Peter Paardekoooper, Peter Lyons, Monsignor Cahill, Francis Pilling, Jean Hook, Margaret Maher, Kevin Schdroski, Desmond Leith, Roy Reid, Makere Hurley, George Turner, Mara Nuimata, Stella Macdonald, Terry Hayman.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY 6 PM
SUNDAY 9.30AM

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Wednesday - Friday: Mass 12.10pm

ETHNIC MASS TIMES

Filipino: Every Sunday at 11.30am

Tongan: 3rd Sunday of the month at 1.30pm

Indonesian: 4th Sunday of the month at 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

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 AT 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

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ 2 August 2026

The account of the feeding of the five thousand in Matthew's Gospel this week is one of the most beloved miracles in the Gospels. At first glance, it reveals the compassion of Jesus, who sees the needs of the crowd and refuses to send them away hungry. Yet this passage is much more than a story about physical nourishment. It points beyond itself to the mystery of the Eucharist and the life of the Church.

The evangelist tells us that Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples for distribution. These actions are strikingly familiar. The language is heavily influenced by the ritual language of the celebration of the Eucharist in the early Church. "Taking the bread," "raising the eyes to heaven," "saying the blessing," "breaking," and distributing the bread all describe the eucharistic ritual. The early Christian community therefore understood this miracle not simply as a wondrous feeding but as a sign that prefigured the Eucharist.

In the Eucharist, Christ continues to feed his people. Just as the crowd gathered around Jesus in a deserted place, so the Church gathers around the altar seeking nourishment for the journey of faith. The disciples were asked to offer what little they had, and Jesus transformed it into an abundance. Likewise, we bring our limited gifts, strengths, and resources to the Lord, trusting that he can multiply them for the good of others.

The twelve baskets left over remind us that God's generosity exceeds all human expectations. There is always more than enough grace, mercy, and love in Christ. The Eucharist is not a sign of scarcity but of divine abundance.

This Gospel challenges us to trust in God's providence and to participate in Christ's mission of feeding the hungry, both physically and spiritually. As we gather at the Eucharistic table, we remember that the same Lord who fed the multitude continues to nourish his Church and sends us forth to share his blessings with the world.

Fr Stephen Berecz