



GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

27 Telford Avenue, Balmoral, Auckland 1041

09 620 9515 office@balmoralcatholic.org.nz

www.balmoralcatholic.org.nz



Good Shepherd Catholic
Church Balmoral

~ 22 DECEMBER 2024 ~ THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~

Kia ora koutou katoa

**Welcome to visitors and newcomers as
we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent.**

Well here we are, the fourth and final Sunday
of Advent. Christmas is just days away!

Today's Gospel centres on two great women of
salvation history, Elizabeth and Mary.

Two pregnant women greeting each other,
one wise with years, the other young and full of
hope and expectation...

St Ambrose reflecting on this encounter,
the Visitation as we call it, notes:

“Elizabeth was the first to hear the voice,
but John was the first to experience the grace.

She heard according to the law of nature;
he leaped because of the mystery.

She recognised the arrival of Mary;
he the arrival of the Lord.

The women recognised the woman's arrival,
the child, that of the child.

With Elizabeth, we too recognise Mary's place
in salvation history, we too are invited to
pray the great pray of our faith tradition,
based on today's scripture...

**Blessed are you among women, and blessed is
the fruit of your womb, Jesus**

WITH THANKS.....

As we approach the end of this year,
my heart overflows with gratitude for
the many blessings God has poured upon
our parish community.

This year has been a testament to the strength,
faith, and love that define us as a family in
Christ. I am deeply thankful for your presence

at Mass, your commitment to our ministries,
and your willingness to serve one another.

Whether you offered a prayer, volunteered
your time, or simply shared a kind word with
someone in need, we are presence of Christ.

To all involved in parish ministry, those
faithful volunteers.... I acknowledge your dedi-
cation and care of our community. It has been
inspiring..... and we must all be grateful to
those who have set up and cleaned up,
participated in music ministry, organized
programmes, cared for our finances, buildings
and grounds, visited the sick, taught and
encouraged our children and young people and
brought comfort to those in need.

We are constantly reminded that the Church is
alive and active, reaching out to all
with the love of God.

**The gathering for Sunday Eucharist is the
heart of our parish. Eucharist, the source &
summit of our lives as Catholics. Each week
we celebrate a vibrant tapestry of faith!**

Above all, I thank God for His presence in our
journey. In times of challenge and joy,
He has been our constant guide, reminding us
that we are never alone.

As we look to the new year, I pray that we
continue to grow in faith, hope, and love.

Let us remain united, supporting one
another as we seek to build His Kingdom here.
Thank you for allowing me to serve you as your
priest. It is truly a privilege and a blessing.

**May God bless Good Shepherd Parish as we
journey into 2025, blessings, Bernard**



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

Christmas Eve ~ December 24

5pm FAMILY MASS

Children are welcome to come dressed as
angels, shepherds, magi...

(NZ Sign Interpreters will be present)

11.30pm CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

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Christmas Day ~ December 25

Parish Mass 9.30am

Maronite Christmas Mass 11.30am

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New Years Day ~ January 1

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Mass at 9.30am



YEAR OF JUBILEE 2025

Pope Francis has proclaimed 2025 as a Year of Jubilee – Pilgrims of Hope. For Jubilee Events.

Explore www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/jubilee2025/jubilee-calendar/

PARISH OFFICE HOURS IN JANUARY

The office will be closed until January 14
The best way to make contact over the next
few weeks is by email

office@balmoralcatholic.org.nz

This will be the last newsletter until late January.

ADVENT REFUGE

A holy hour of song and silence tonight, Sunday, at 7.30pm, led by Rachel and Niamh.

Preparing the way!

END OF YEAR MORNING TEA

This Sunday morning after the 9.30am Mass

2025 COLUMBAN CALENDARS

A staple for many Catholic homes for decades!
Beautiful religious art for each month and the liturgical calendar and saints days are included
\$20 in the foyer (see below for payment).

2025 BIBLE DIARIES

A wonderful opportunity to enrich your faith by reflecting on the daily scriptures, especially as a part of the Jubilee Year of Hope.
\$20 in the foyer (see below for payment).

Available now! Both on sale after Mass in the foyer \$20 each. Please place payment in the collection box or pay on line at 02 -0108- 0708836- 000 with "Calendar" or "Diary" as reference.

GOOD SHEPHERD YOUTH RAFFLE

Please support our tamariki who are raising funds for youth activities for 2025

There are some great prizes including
A Toasted Sandwich maker, a slow Cooker
and an impressive Electric Tool kit!
Donations and tickets for sale after Mass.

FOYER DEFIBRILLATOR

The parish has a defibrillator in the foyer.
Please check out its location, especially those who are familiar with its functioning.

**THE DEFIBRILLATOR CABINET
ACCESS CODE IS C2017**

FIRST MASS CELEBRATION

Celebrating the anniversary of the first Mass by Bishop Pompallier in 1838. Coach day trip \$15 on January 12, 2025. Enq at stephenf@cda.org.nz

2025 SACRED PILGRIMAGE

From Lyon to Rome in the Holy Year.
Led by Bishop Steve Lowe. See the Notice board

READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

FIRST READING - Micah 5:1-4

When God's power raises up a King even in improbable circumstances, the people experience peace and security.

SECOND READING - Hebrews 10:5-10

Christ came into the world to fulfil God's will which is that he should make us holy.

GOSPEL - Luke 1:39-44

Mary helps and supports Elizabeth as she awaits the birth of John the Baptist, and is recognised as Mother of the Lord.

Last Sunday I announced that my time as parish priest at Good Shepherd is coming to an end. I've had eight incredibly enriching and happy years here. Your enthusiasm, faith and good humour is inspirational.

While my strong preference would be to remain here, in the parish I love, I'm aware that one of the things I signed up for as a priest is to be available to serve wherever and whenever I am called! And the time has come...

I've been appointed to the eastern bays area residing at St Ignatius St Heliers with responsibility for Glendowie, and beyond, as we re-vision how a cluster of small parishes might move forward into the future.

My final Sunday at Good Shepherd will be the last weekend of January.

Happily I'm able to share with you that

Fr Martin Wu will be your new parish priest.

Many of you will remember him as our seminarian here in 2017.

I know you'll make him welcome! BK

Time to Say Goodbye...

Msgr Bernard's

Farewell Morning Tea

On Sunday 26th January, after Mass we will gather on the school turf to bid farewell to our beloved parish priest Msgr Bernard.

Please bring a plate for morning tea.

Thank you.

A welcome for Fr Martin Wu will also be arranged.

His first weekend here will be the first weekend of February.

We remember those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur in December...

Eternal rest grant unto them...

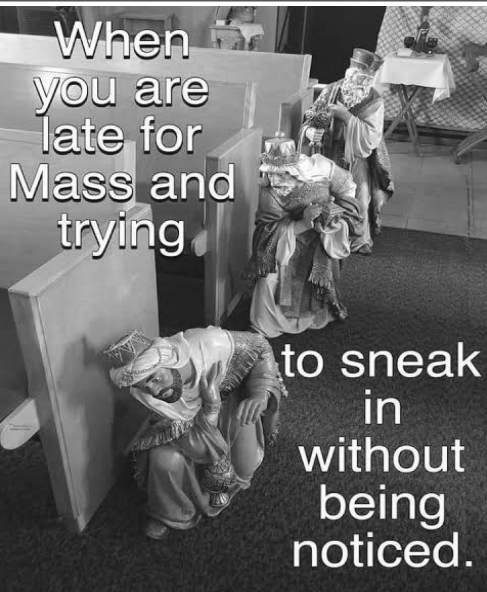
Maree Allison, Fr Don Cowan, Fr Geoff Gray, Fila Zencic, Cardinal Thomas Stafford Williams, Zelma Farnsworth, Gloria Maria Petica, Paddy Mulrennan, Brian Walsh, Kristie Larsen, Wilfreda Aguila, Clementina Sanchez, Sr Rosello rsm, Maria Belcher, Eileen Prendiville, Des Clarke, Patrick Mullin, Jennifer Spicer, Patrick Gillespie, Richard Mihaljevich, Vincent Santos, Leonarda Edge, Rosanne Brennan, Edward Murphy, Sr Marcella rsm, Tony Shanly, Carmel Henderson, Maria Henrys, Felix Antunovich, Margaret Mathieson, Joe Moodabe, Olga Wolk, Margaret Doran, Grace Millane, Fay Hudner, Ken Osborne, Angela Ruth Kwok, Angela Rosser, Charlie & Pat Langdon, Louise Perkins, Nellie Cheyne, Jim Turner, Matt Murphy, Michael Tipene, Michael Shanahan, Nanette Peterson, Jesse Main, Dorothy Calder, Gabrielle Kjellberg, Anaui Muavae, Quintin Montelara, Norma Millares, Verona Edwards, Ana Pome'e, Gavin Michie, Gwendoline Henwood, Thomas Stitt, Gerard Stockman, Margaret Bebbington, Wilhelmina Helminck, Vera Henry, John Murray, Enid Naylor, Joseph Benson, Tui Hayter, Olive Domini-kovich, Thomas Hoy, Anthony Parker, Sandra McQuarrie, Ellen Rae, John Brennan, George Pohl, Susan Koroly, Richard Dunwoodie, Edna Walker, Ivan Perich, Michael Aherne, Lois Charlesworth, Justine Murphy, Christina Coxon, Charles Nicholas, Keith enahan, Clifford Gubb, Margaret Cook, Visko Gilich, Nathaniel Flynn, Fuiava Sagote, Edwin Hay, Dawn Parker, Tony Lunjevich, Dorothy Cotter, John Haylock, Eric Waters, Marie McGann, Julius Dobaj, Jessie Rushton.



SAFEGUARDING MATTERS

As a parish it is important that we foster an environment which is welcoming and safe for all. While WE ARE ALL CALLED to be mindful of safe environments for children, those who minister directly with children and vulnerable adults are required to complete diocesan safeguarding courses and to be police vetted. Thank you to Jane Hahn who is our parish Safeguarding coordinator and is overseeing the implementation of Church policies and protocols within GS Parish. Her contact email is janehahnnz@gmail.com.

Safeguarding information is available via the parish website and on our notice boards. The Catholic Church's overseeing Safeguarding Agency is NOPS the National Office for Professional Standards - Tel 0800114662 www.safeguarding.catholic.org.nz



When
you are
late for
Mass and
trying

to sneak
in
without
being
noticed.

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Saturday: Mass: 9.30am
(including Public Holidays)

Saturday

Saturday: Exposition & Rosary from 8am
followed by Mass at 9.30am

Reconciliation

Saturday 9am before the 9.30am Mass

Wellness reminder—if you are sick
please stay home

GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

Parish Priest: Msgr Bernard Kiely

Seminarian: Ryan Sy

(on compassionate leave in the Philippines)

PARISH OFFICE - 096209515

Parish Secretary:

Kristelle Thomsen

Office Hours Closed until 14 January 2025

office@balmoralcatholic.org.nz

CHURCH & HALL BOOKINGS

office@balmoralcatholic.org.nz

GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH SCHOOL

admin@goodshepherd.school.nz

Principal: Ben Fahey

principal@goodshepherd.school.nz

For enrolments please phone the school office

on 09 620 4962 for further

information or download the forms from the school website

www.goodshepherd.school.nz School visits welcome.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL & FOODBANK

6A Henderson Place, Onehunga

If you, or someone you know, need assistance

Contact Phone (09) 815 6122 or 0800 680 090

email auckland@stvinnies.co.nz

Food Bank email foodbank@svdpak.org.nz

Thank you for your food donations

left in the foyer basket