



# 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

## ~ APRIL 13 2025 ~ PASSION SUNDAY

### Living the Mystery of the Triduum

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Peace be with you all on this Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday) the readings today remind us the depth of God's love and the cost of our salvation. As we begin Holy Week starting with Palm Sunday and continuing with Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil in this Jubilee year of 2025 Jesus wants us to recognise the Hope of the Christian life that should transform us, to live in the fullness of Christ's love and sacrifice.

In this Holy Week in this year of Jubilee: Jesus invites us into the mystery of his life, death, and resurrection.

This is not a mere commemoration; it is an invitation for us to be transformed. We are called to live as

People of the Eucharist, People of the Cross, People of the Resurrection

which = To be People of Hope!

On Holy Thursday, we gather to commemorate the institution of the Eucharist and the Priesthood. Jesus washes the feet of his disciples, modelling the command of service for us all to love.

This act of humility challenges us to love without seeking glory or recognition, we are called to share the unconditional love of God in our lives. Jesus with his disciples in the Upper Room, broke bread and shared the cup, saying, 'This is my body... This is my blood...' giving himself completely, so that we might receive his grace and strength =

To be People of Hope!

On Good Friday, we remember the sacrifice that Christ made for us on the Cross. 'Behold the wood of the Cross which is hung our salvation! We are called again to stand at the Foot of the Cross, to see and experience the love of God poured out for us in the most painful and humiliating way. Christ's crucifixion, showing us the agony and the tenderness of Jesus' final moments. As he hung on the cross, he prayed for his enemies, saying,

'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.'

We are called to reflect on our response when encountering suffering. Do we find forgiveness, mercy, peace and love? or Do we find anger, bitterness and resentment?

This is the paradox of Christianity: that through suffering and death, we find life. The cross becomes not just an instrument of death, but the means of our salvation. Jesus' death is the ultimate act of love, and through it, he destroys the power of sin and death (the New Adam).

As we venerate the Cross on Good Friday, we are reminded of the great cost of our redemption.

The cross becomes the source of our healing, our hope, and our eternal life = To be People of Hope!

The great Easter Vigil (Saturday) is the pinnacle of our Christian faith. It is a night of joy, of light overcoming darkness, and of life triumphing over death.

The Paschal Candle, lit from the new fire, symbolises Christ as the Light of the World, and we process into the church with the light of Christ in our hands, sharing in the joy of the resurrection that is at the heart of our faith.

In the Easter Vigil we travel through salvation history from Creation, to the Exodus, to the Prophets, and finally to the Resurrection of Christ. Jesus' Resurrection is the foundation of our Hope as Christians. It is the promise that death is not the end, but the beginning of new life with God.

We are reminded that on this most Holy night that we are truly = 'To be People of Hope!'

The Easter Vigil is a powerful reminder of the transforming power of God's grace. It is a call for us to live as people of the resurrection, to carry the light of Christ in the world, and to share the joy of his victory over sin and death.

Hence, the core message of our Christian faith is this: 'We are Easter people and alleluia is our song!' By the waters of baptism, we are united to Christ's death and resurrection = 'To be People of Hope!'

As we enter into the great celebration of Holy Week, we are invited to walk with Jesus through his passion, death, and resurrection.

This is at the core of our faith and the most profound mystery of our salvation. to forgive as Christ forgave, and to hope as Christ hoped.

We are called to serve as Christ served, to forgive as Christ forgave, and to hope as Christ hoped.

As we journey through these sacred days, let us invite God to enter our hearts, to renew our spirits, and to fill us with a deep and abiding joy. May the great mysteries of the Triduum lead us ever closer to the heart of Christ, and may the grace of his passion and resurrection inspire us to live lives of love, service, and faithfulness.

So we can journey as Pilgrims of Hope. - 'People of Hope!'

Have a blessed Holy Week 2025.

Fr Martin

### Jubilee 2025 Prayer

Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your son, *Jesus Christ*, our brother,  
and the flame of *love* enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators  
of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from  
within both humanity  
and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of

Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace  
of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.-

### GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK GROUP

From Easter Sunday, Thursdays at 7pm. Reading: *Falling Upwards* by Richard Rohr. All welcome!

Contact: marygriffinmt1952@gmail.com

### PLANNED GIVING

New envelopes have arrived for our registered Planned Givers. Please collect your next batch of envelopes from the table in the foyer of church. If you wish to change from envelopes to automatic payments you can do so by contacting the parish office. Tax receipts will be issued shortly. If you are new to the Parish and wish to register for Planned Giving you are welcome! Benefits mean no loose cash required and contributions are recorded and tax receipts are issued. The Catholic Church is a registered charity and there is no limit on the amount you can claim for tax purposes.

To register for Planned Giving contact  
office@balmoralcatholic.org.nz

This programme allows for the care of our Priest, the Bishop and the upkeep of our church itself.

### CONVERSATION WITH BISHOP STEVE

Tune into the diocesan YouTube channel playlist *Bishop Steve Speaks* to hear him reflecting on the readings of Sunday and other moments of conversation.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1234567890)

### HALL BOOKINGS

Bookings are currently on hold due to upgrades.

### AED DEFIBRILLATOR

The parish has a defibrillator in the foyer.  
THE CABINET ACCESS CODE IS C2017

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We need more Eucharistic Ministers to join our Good Shepherd Team. Please join up and serve your parish community!

Contact: office@balmoralcatholic.org.nz

### MUSIC OPPORTUNITY

We have an opportunity for musicians to join our music roster. If you are a confident singer or play an instrument please reach out!

### CATHOLIC SINGLES

10 May, 7.15pm at Stardome

Tickets available via [www.stardome.org.nz](http://www.stardome.org.nz)

## READINGS FOR PASSION SUNDAY

### PROCESSION GOSPEL - Luke 19:28-40

The procession with palms draws the congregation into an experience of continuity with those who accompanied Jesus into Jerusalem.

May we learn from their fickleness and find in Christ the grace of perseverance.

### FIRST READING - Isaiah 50:4-7

The teacher becomes a servant by listening daily to God's word. In spite of persecution he thus finds strength to pursue his mission.

### SECOND READING - Philippians 2:6-11

In an early hymn the Church proclaims the mystery of the Word of God who became a servant to draw all into his triumph over suffering and death.

### THE PASSION - Luke 22:14-23:56

From the Last Supper to Calvary, Luke presents the drama of redemption with special attention to Jesus' words of consolation and of prayer to the heavenly Father.



## **PALM SUNDAY**

**6pm Saturday Vigil Mass | SUN - 9:30AM**  
Mass with Palm Sunday procession.

**Tuesday & Wednesday 9:30am Mass.**

## **HOLY THURSDAY ~ 7PM**

The Mass of the Lord's Supper

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

Way of the Cross ~ **10AM**  
Passion of the Lord ~ **3PM**

## **HOLY SATURDAY ~ 7PM**

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

## **EASTER SUNDAY ~ 9:30AM**

The Resurrection of the Lord



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## 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](mailto: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](http://www.safeguarding.catholic.org.nz)



“May I have a word? ...”

### 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: Rev Martin Wu

PARISH OFFICE - 096209515

Parish Secretary:  
Kristelle Thomsen

Office Hours Tuesday, Thursday Friday  
10am to 3pm

[office@balmoralcatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@balmoralcatholic.org.nz)

### CHURCH & HALL BOOKINGS

[office@balmoralcatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@balmoralcatholic.org.nz)

### GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH SCHOOL

[admin@goodshepherd.school.nz](mailto:admin@goodshepherd.school.nz)

Principal: Ben Fahey  
[principal@goodshepherd.school.nz](mailto: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](http://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@stvincies.co.nz](mailto:auckland@stvincies.co.nz)

Food Bank email [foodbank@svdpak.org.nz](mailto:foodbank@svdpak.org.nz)

Thank you for your food donations  
in the foyer basket