



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

SUNDAY~ MAY 11 2025 ~ THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Good Shepherd Sunday also Mother's Day – “The Risk of Love”

Happy Mother's Day!

Today, on Good Shepherd Sunday, we hear Jesus say: “My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me”.

I was asked this question about what being a priest 'being a Shepherd' was like and I responded with this: "It's a vocation of Love we are called to be instruments of peace and guide people." But it's not always nice and fluffy... ACTUALLY IF WE ARE REAL SHEPHERD'S we are called to take risks like any genuine vocation! A real shepherd is willing to risk everything for his sheep but knowing we don't walk alone! We have a head shepherd that has shown us the way. (Gone to places where one rather not go) In biblical times, shepherding was a dangerous job. A Good Shepherd had to face thieves, wild animals, harsh weather, and long nights. To be a good shepherd is to risk your life for the sake of the vulnerable - To act with courage. AN ACT OF FAITH!

Jesus does exactly that... He risks rejection, persecution, even death—for us.

And today he calls us not just to be sheep who follow passively, but to be shepherds too.

To be people willing to take risks for love.

Today is Mothers Day if we think seriously about motherhood it is a living image of shepherding love.

Isn't that the kind of love we see in so many mothers?

MOTHERS... risk their comfort, time, sleep, and energy — without expecting applause.

MOTHERS... face pain, sacrifice, and often silence — with fierce devotion. (Sometimes like a German Shepherd – but with good intentions)

MOTHERS... carry not just children, but burdens, worries, prayers, and hopes — quietly, daily.

Whether by birth, adoption, spiritual motherhood... Mothers model the courageous love of the Good Shepherd.

Jesus doesn't call us just to admire his courage. He calls us to imitate it. Mothers don't want their child to just see the love without responding to that love.

Jesus ask us:

Will you love even when it hurts? Will you protect others, even when it costs? Will you speak up, give, forgive, and shepherd (care) for others—even if you're tired, overlooked, or afraid?

This is not just a mother's call — it's the true call of a Christian.

To all the mothers, grandmothers, and mother-figures:

Thank you for being Good Shepherds in your own homes, in your quiet sacrifices, in your daily risks for love.

And to all of us: may we hear his voice, follow with courage, and love like the Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep.

Blessings on the week ahead- Good Shepherds!

Fr Martin

GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK GROUP

Now on! Thursdays at 7pm. Reading: Falling Upwards by Richard Rohr. All welcome!
Contact: marygriffinmt1952@gmail.com

PLANNED GIVING

Tax receipts are now issued and can be collected from the basket in the foyer.

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.

NEW WAYS TO GIVE TO THE CHURCH

No loose change for the weekly collection? You can now contribute via direct debit on our new EFTPOS machine in the foyer.

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

CHILDREN'S CHOIR OPPORTUNITY

We have an opening for a Good Shepherd Children's Choir to lead our singing up the front accompanied by Sandra the organist, or any other musicians keen to join too. If your child would like to join the choir please email office@balmoralcatholic.org.nz

We will arrange an after school singing lesson once per week to get this group started.

MOTHERS GROUP

St Gianna's Mothers & Children's Group. Second and Fourth Tuesdays of the month from 10am –

1pm. Starts Tuesday 29 April. Enjoy Mass & a free lunch, safe area for children to play!

Contact Annie for the address 027 350 8227

BISHOP'S APPEAL 2025 TODAY

Supporting Auckland Seminarians

With 11 men discerning the priesthood for the Diocese of Auckland we are blessed with our largest intake in many years. Please keep them in your prayers and, if you can, support their formation via donation envelopes in the basket in foyer or online

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/donate

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS TIME CHANGE

After a period of consultation from a cross section of the parish (Sat & Sun mass goers) with prayer and discernment there was a clear and strong consensus for the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening to change to 5pm.

Positive reasons to support this was that during winter times 6pm was:

- Dark and cold for many young at heart's
- Eden Park sports traffic congestion
- Rugby game times
- Young families (Dinner and kids bedtimes).

With these considerations in mind the mass time will change to 5pm (on an initial trial basis starting from 7th June 2025).

MOTHER'S DAY SURPRISE!

Fr Martin has a special surprise planned after Mass today to show appreciation to all the mother's and mother figures in our midst!

MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets!

Fr Martin will draw the winner after Mass!

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2025

Resumes at the next Parents Meeting: Wednesday 14 May, 6.30pm - 8.00pm 'Confirmation Session'

AN EVENING WITH TONY ALFONSO

A Grammy nominated composer of sacred music.

Concert: Saturday 31 May, 6.30pm.

Baradene College Auditorium. Tickets \$10

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz

READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST READING - Acts 13:14. 43-52

Paul and Barnabas preach first in the synagogue and then to the whole town
– including the pagans.

SECOND READING - Revelation 7:9. 14-17

To those who went through the great persecution, God has offered solace:
they will never hunger or go thirsty again.

GOSPEL - John 10:27-30

The Lord is the shepherd: he knows his sheep and they know him. They listen to his voice

PRAY FOR OUR NEWLY ELECTED POPE

Cardinal Robert Prevost, takes the name

Pope Leo XIV



Robert Francis Prevost, the first US pope, has a history of missionary work in Peru. He is known for his pastoral approach, global view and ability to navigate the Church's bureaucracy. Following

Francis' death, Prevost said there was "still so much to do" in the work of the Church. "We can't stop, we can't turn back. We have to see how the Holy Spirit wants the Church to be today and tomorrow, because today's world, in which the Church lives, is not the same as the world of ten or 20 years ago," he told Vatican News last month.

"The message is always the same: proclaim Jesus Christ, proclaim the Gospel, but the way to reach today's people, young people, the poor, politicians, is different," he said.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW POPE

God, eternal shepherd, who govern your flock with unending care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church, who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care.

EXCERPT FROM OUR NEW POPE'S SPEECH

"Peace be with you. Dearest brothers and sisters, this was the first greeting of the risen Christ, the good shepherd who gave his life for the flock of God. I, too, would like this greeting of peace to enter your hearts, to reach your families and all people, wherever they are; and all the peoples, and all the earth: Peace be with you.

This is the peace of the Risen Christ, a disarming and humble and preserving peace. It comes from God. God, who loves all of us, without any limits or conditions. Let us keep in our ears the weak but always brave voice of Pope Francis, who blessed Rome - the Pope who blessed Rome and the world that day on the morning of Easter.

Allow me to continue that same blessing. God loves us, all of us, evil will not prevail. We are all in the hands of God. Without fear, united, hand in hand with God and among ourselves, we will go forward. We are disciples of Christ, Christ goes before us, and the world needs his light. Humanity needs him like a bridge to reach God and his love. You help us to build bridges with dialogue and encounter so we can all be one people always in peace.

Our blessed mother Mary always wants to walk with us, be close to us, she always wants to help us with her intercession and her love. So let us pray together for this mission, and for all of the Church, and for peace in the world.

Let us hope that he's preserved for a long time and ensure peace to the church throughout the world."



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 janehahnz@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

THE CATHOLIC CARTOON by *Jessica Masterson*



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

***Time change to 5pm from 1st June**

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—stay home if sick

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

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@stvincies.co.nz

Food Bank email foodbank@svdpak.org.nz

**Thank you for your food donations
in the foyer basket**