



# GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

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09 620 9515 office@balmoralcatholic.org.nz  
www.balmoralcatholic.org.nz



Good Shepherd Catholic  
Church Balmoral

15 FEBRUARY 2026 ~ THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## *Happy Lunar New Year 2026!*

This coming Wednesday we begin Lent — not simply another season in the Church calendar, but a sacred invitation to examine our lives. For forty days, through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we are called to return to the heart of the Gospel and prepare for the joy of Easter. Lent asks more of us than external observance; it asks for interior conversion. It asks whether our lives truly reflect the death and resurrection of Christ. Hence, culturally I celebrate the Lunar New Year and the culture aspects of the animal of the year, but not the zodiac, but rather the gift of the culture but our culture is always Jesus - This is not for us as church the Year of the Horse 2026. But always...The Year of our Lord 2026 (✝)

For parents, grandparents, teachers, and leaders, this season carries a deeper responsibility. The young do not learn faith primarily from what we say, but from what we live. They watch how we pray, how we forgive, how we speak, how we handle disappointment, how we treat the poor, and how we respond when we fail. Our example quietly shapes their understanding of God.

In this Year dedicated to Saint Francis, we are reminded that holiness is concrete. Francis did not preach complexity; he lived simplicity. He did not chase status; he embraced humility. In a world driven by consumerism and noise, our children need to see adults who value “being” more than “having,” who choose integrity over convenience, reconciliation over resentment, and truth over image.

The Gospel challenges us to move beyond “I have done nothing wrong” to “Have I loved well?” Lent invites us to ask: What example am I setting? What kind of heart am I passing on to the next generation?

If we desire courageous, compassionate, faith-filled young people, we must become those people ourselves. Lent is our opportunity to allow Christ to give us a new heart — one that loves deeply, lives authentically, and quietly inspires the future.

*Blessings - Fr Martin*

### ASH WEDNESDAY

A basket are available at the back of the church to place your palms from last year in. These palms will be used in the preparation of ashes for use on Ash Wednesday on 18 February.

Our Ash Wednesday Masses are  
9.30am & 7pm.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR LENT

#### AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Every Friday of Lent at 7 pm.  
in the Church  
beginning 21st February.



## PLANNED GIVING

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

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

*Our bank account details for all donations is Good Shepherd Balmoral Ecclesiastical Goods Trust*

*BNZ Account: 02-0108-0708836-000*

*Thank you for your generosity.*

## LEGION OF MARY

“Our Lady of Good Shepherd Praesidium” meets every Tuesday evening from 5.30pm – 7pm in the GS church.

For further information contact:

Jackson Gonzales : [Jacxz\\_jam@yahoo.com](mailto:Jacxz_jam@yahoo.com)

## GOOD SHEPHERD CHILDREN'S CHURCH CHOIR

If your child would like to join the choir email: [office@balmoralcatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@balmoralcatholic.org.nz)  
Choir Practice is during the school term only on Mondays 3.15pm—3.45pm in the hall with Nishanthi from the NZ Modern School of Music. The choir has resumed resumes practices and their next Mass will be Palm Sunday, 29 March.

All school aged children are welcome to join!

## AED DEFIBRILLATOR

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

## COLUMBAN CALENDARS ON SALE

Calendars are still available on sale in the foyer after mass for \$20. Funds can be transferred to

Good Shepherd Balmoral Ecclesiastical Goods Trust

BNZ Account: 02-0108-0708836-000

Please use reference: “Calendar”

Cash payments are also available.



## LENT! PREPARE, PRAY, PONDER

Ash Wednesday on 18 February begins our six weeks of Lent to prepare for Easter. Join these Zoom sessions throughout Lent.

**Wake and pray, daily meditation:**

Every day at 6.15 am.

**Reading Pope Leo's “Dilexi Te”:**

Pope Leo's teaching on compassion for the poor, Wednesdays 7-7.40 pm.

**Reflecting on the Sunday Gospels of Lent.**

Saturdays 7-7.40 pm.

For the Zoom links email

[diannaf@cda.org.nz](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)

## LENTEN TALKS BY BISHOP PETER BROWN

St Michael's Parish is hosting a series of four weekly talks by Bishop Peter Brown during the lead up to Lent, guiding us to reunite ourselves to Christ through His gift of Reconciliation.

Tuesday evenings beginning 3rd March 2026 Time: 7pm – 8:30pm at St Michael's Parish, Mary MacKillop Hall, 6 Beatrice Rd, Remuera.

## WINGS.NGA PARIRAU THIS LENT

First Year Programme of ‘Wings’, Modules One and Two—on Zoom, 7pm—7.40pm, all Thursdays in Lent'. Reflecting on the Catholic Faith and our personal Faith journey.

For Zoom links and further information contact Dianna Fouhy: [diannaf@cda.org.nz](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)

## READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### FIRST READING - Sirach 15:15-20

God has given us the freedom to choose to do good or evil, to choose life or death.

### PSALM 119

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord.

### SECOND READING - 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

True wisdom comes from God, and reveals the wonderful things God has prepared for those who love him.

### GOSPEL - Matthew 5:17-37

Jesus proposes new standards of goodness for his disciples.

### 2026 AQUINAS CONFERENCE

The Dominican Friars of the Province of the Assumption invite you to the 2026 Aquinas Conference at Holy Family Parish, Te Atatu on 21st February.

It will begin with Mass at 9am followed by four talks exploring the life and teachings of St Thomas Aquinas. Open to all ages and free of charge but donations will be greatly appreciated!

Visit <https://www.givenow.com.au/stdominicspriority> to donate.

### YOUNG LEADERS MASTERCLASS

1pm Sunday 22nd February at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New Street, Ponsonby

If you're a youth ministry leader or young adult ministry leader, you're invited to a quarterly event designed to equip, empower, and energize you for ministry. Masterclass will feature relevant workshops led by experienced guest speakers. Topics and speakers to be announced soon!

Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/masterclass2026>

### LENT 2026 with FOOD FOR FAITH

Visit [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz) and sign up to receive daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor. Prepared especially for those seeking greater maturity of faith.

### YOUNG LEADERS

### COMMISSIONING MASS

4:30pm, Sunday 22nd February  
at St Patricks Cathedral.

An invitation to youth ministry leaders or young adult ministry leaders, as you begin your ministry year. All welcome.

For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/share/1BAdQEMwXL/>

### CATHNEWS

CathNews New Zealand shares the big news from the Catholic Church and stories of relevance to Catholics every Tuesday and Friday. Sign up for the free digital newsletter and read the latest stories at [cath-newsnz.com](http://cath-news.nz.com)

### WYD 2027 WEBINARS

In preparation for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul Korea, Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College invites young people and everyone to grow in their faith, hope and missionary discipleship, with this year's webinar series, "Take Courage! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

For more information please visit [www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinars-2026](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinars-2026)

### PILGRIMAGE - FATIMA TO ROME

25 September to 17 October 2026  
Fatima – Salamanca – Burgos – Lourdes – Paris – Venice – Padua – Assisi – Rome  
Chaplain: Monsignor David Tonks  
For more information email Laura Yap  
[laura.yap@travelmanagers.co.nz](mailto:laura.yap@travelmanagers.co.nz)  
or phone 021 390 055





## **SAFEGUARDING MATTERS**

### **What is Safeguarding?**

The Catholic Church believes that every person has a value and dignity which derives directly from their creation in the image and likeness of God.

This implies a duty to value all people and therefore to protect them from harm.

The gospel values of love, dignity and justice as demonstrated by Jesus remind us that safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is an integral part of the life and ministry of the church.

We are called to create a culture which cherishes, nurtures and safeguards children and vulnerable adults. Developing a safeguarding culture where we do will pose the question is this safe for the people of our diocese?

Pope Leo has made it clear he expects the Church, on entry level, to implement whatever steps are necessary to ensure the protection of minors and vulnerable adults and to respond to their needs with fairness and mercy.

**Safeguarding Contact:**

CDA Safeguarding Coordinator :  
[lisam@cda.org.nz](mailto:lisam@cda.org.nz)

### **MONTE CECELIA HOUSING TRUST**

Providing short term housing for families in need. Contact us on 0800 624 848

### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL**

The work the Vinnies do in New Zealand to help those who are facing great hardship has never been more important. They are there at the grass-roots to support people who are really struggling.

Visit [www.svdpak.org.nz](http://www.svdpak.org.nz)  
if you are able to help with a donation.

### **Sunday Masses**

**Saturday Vigil: 5pm**

**Sunday: 9.30am**

### **Weekday Masses**

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

### **Saturday**

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

### **Reconciliation**

Saturday 9am before the 9.30am Mass

**Wellness reminder—please stay home**  
**if you feel unwell**

### **GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH**

**Parish Priest: Rev Martin Wu**

**PARISH OFFICE - 09 620-9515**

**Parish Secretary:**

Rebecca Knibb (Temporary)

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 see

[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@stvinnies.co.nz](mailto:auckland@stvinnies.co.nz)

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

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