



## 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

### ASCENSION OF OUR LORD ~ 17 MAY 2026

Today we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord—a mystery that is often misunderstood. It is not about Jesus leaving us behind, but about the fulfilment of His mission and the beginning of our hope.

Jesus, who descended to us, who walked among us and even embraced death, now ascends to the Father. But He does not go alone—He takes our humanity with Him into the very heart of God. As our Head, He has gone before us so that we, His Body, may follow.

This is why the Ascension is not loss—it is promise.

From this flows what we call Christian hope. Not mere optimism, not wishful thinking, but something real and lasting, already accomplished in Christ.

As Scripture tells us, it is an “imperishable, undefiled, and unfading inheritance.” This hope sustains us when life is heavy, when suffering is real, and when the world seems uncertain.

And our world desperately needs this hope.

We see young people searching for meaning, the elderly feeling forgotten, the sick carrying silent burdens, and societies marked by fear, division, and war. Even the Church at times feels weary. Yet the Ascension reminds us: Christ is not absent—He is reigning, interceding, and drawing us forward.

So what are we called to do?

We are called to become witnesses of hope.

In our words, we speak hope.

In our actions, we build hope.

In our daily lives, we sow seeds of kindness, beauty, and peace.

Even when God seems distant, He is closer than we think, calling us to remain faithful. Brothers and sisters, hope does not disappoint—because Christ has gone before us.

And where He has gone, we are called to follow.

*Have a blessed week- Fr Martin*



## TAX RECEIPTS

The Tax receipts for the 2025/26 financial year are now ready to collect in the foyer. Thank you for your continued support of the parish community.

## NEW PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

The new envelopes are out in the foyer to collect for those who are already enrolled on our Planned Giving Programme. Please make sure you collect the correct set.

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 Saturday morning after 9.30 am Mass in the GS church.

For further information contact:

Jackson Gonzales : [jacxz\\_jam@yahoo.com](mailto:jacxz_jam@yahoo.com)

## GOOD SHEPHERD READING AND REFLECTION GROUP (GSR&R)

Meet in the parish office every Thursday from 7:15 to 8:45pm. Theme for May is “Journey into Prayer”. All are very welcome.

Enquiries to Mary Griffin

[griffinmt1952@gmail.com](mailto:griffinmt1952@gmail.com) or just drop in.

## AED DEFIBRILLATOR

The parish has a defibrillator in the foyer.

THE CABINET ACCESS CODE IS C2017

## HOURS OF MERCY

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Jesus Youth, Auckland, will be having Adoration every Tuesday here at Good Shepherd Church, after the 9:30 am Mass, from 10 am to 12 pm, until Pentecost.

All are welcome to spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

## GOOD SHEPHERD CHILDREN'S 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. All school-aged children are welcome to join!



## THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY—17-24 MAY.

Join with Bishop Steve at the Ecumenical Day of Prayer for Christian Unity 7 pm on Friday, 29th May at St John Presbyterian Church, 422 Mt Albert Road, Mt Roskill.

All are welcome.



## READINGS ASCENSION OF OUR LORD SUNDAY OF EASTER

### FIRST READING - Acts 1:1-11

The risen Jesus, departing from his apostles, instructs them to await the arrival of the Holy Spirit who will empower them to become his witnesses.

### PSALM 47

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with a sound of a trumpet.

### SECOND READING - Ephesians 1:17-23

This is a prayer that God the Father may empower us to know and appreciate the inheritance to which he invites us in raising Jesus and exalting him.

### GOSPEL - Matthew 28:16-20

The risen Jesus commissions his disciples to make disciples.

### THE UPPER ROOM

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 6:30pm at  
Good George in Mission Bay.

Young adults come to a night of faith and fellowship in this special interview-style event, James Bergin will sit down with Frank Ritchie to explore his remarkable journey from serving as a Wesleyan Methodist minister to entering the Catholic Church this Easter just past. For more information and tickets go to @AKCYM on Facebook or search for the-upper-room-may-2026 on Humanitix.

Please note that this is an R18 event.



### JUBILEE YEAR OF ST FRANCIS (1226–2026)

#### Franciscan Friars Vocation Dinner

You are warmly invited to join the Franciscan Friars for an evening of prayer, fellowship, and conversation. Wednesday, 27 May at 6 pm (Mass and Evening Prayer, followed by a shared meal) at St Francis Retreat Centre (50 Hillsborough Road, Mt Roskill, Auckland). This gathering is a wonderful opportunity for single men aged 18–40 to learn more about Franciscan religious life and to ask questions in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

To RSVP and enquiries: Br Philip Jeffares OFM +64 210 414 642 Br Yornes Panggur OFM +64 225 259 93

Or email: [vocations@franciscans.org.au](mailto:vocations@franciscans.org.au)

### MARIST COLLEGE ENROLMENTS

Marist College are still accepting applications for 2027 enrolments for Year 7 and 9. For further information visit [www.maristcollege.school.nz/enrolments](http://www.maristcollege.school.nz/enrolments)

### TE KUPENGA CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

#### Enrolment for Semester Two 2026

Enrol for theology courses at Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College this Semester 2, whether you're starting or continuing your journey of faith. Study full-time or part-time, on-campus or online.

Enrolment for Bachelor of Divinity and Graduate Diploma in Theology are now open. For courses offered, go to [www.tekupenga.ac.nz/timetables](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/timetables).

### RISE UP AND SHINE FESTIVAL

Brought to you by the Migrant Chaplaincy. Taste the World, Celebrate the Culture! 30<sup>th</sup> May. Starts at 10am with a Thanks giving Mass followed by food stalls and cultural show. At the Malaeola Community Centre, 16 Waokauri Place, Mangere.

### WORLD YOUTH DAY AUCKLAND 2026

10 am-8:30 pm Saturday 1st August at Victory Convention Centre. Join over 1,800 young Catholics at Victory Convention Centre for World Youth Day Auckland 2026. Inspired by the Scripture chosen for the 40th World Youth Day, "You also are my witnesses, because you have been with me" (John 15:27). For more information and to register go to:

<https://events.humanitix.com/world-youth-day-auckland-2026>



## **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**