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

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 11 OCTOBER 2026

Today's readings invite us to discover the joy of the Kingdom of Heaven. Isaiah speaks to a people living in exile and sorrow, yet he gives them hope: God is still with them. He will wipe away their tears, remove their shame, and prepare a feast of joy. Psalm 23 echoes the same confidence: "The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want."

St Paul also shows us this inner freedom. Writing from prison, he can still say that he has learned to live in every circumstance because Christ strengthens him. His joy does not depend on comfort, wealth, or success, but on the presence of the Lord.

In the Gospel, Jesus compares the Kingdom to a wedding banquet. God's invitation is generous and open to everyone. Yet some refuse because work, business, and personal concerns seem more important. The danger is not that God stops inviting us, but that we become too distracted to respond.

The wedding garment reminds us that accepting God's invitation must lead to conversion. Grace is freely given, but it asks us to allow God to change our hearts and make us more loving, merciful, and generous.

The Kingdom of Heaven therefore begins wherever God is welcomed and His love is lived. So do not allow difficulties, disappointments, or worries to steal your joy. The Lord is still inviting you to His banquet.

Stay close to Him, receive His grace with gratitude, and trust that with Christ beside you, even difficult circumstances can become places of peace, hope, and unexpected joy.

Blessings for the week ahead.

Fr Martin

GENERAL MANAGER | CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

An exceptional leadership opportunity has arisen to join the Diocese of Auckland as General Manager. Reporting to the Bishop and Diocesan Administration Council, this influential role provides strategic and operational leadership across finance, property, people, IT, governance support, and organisational performance. We are seeking an experienced senior leader with strong commercial and financial acumen, excellent stakeholder management skills, and a genuine empathy for the Catholic faith, ethos, and mission. This is a rare opportunity to make a lasting impact in a values-driven organisation serving communities across Auckland and beyond. **For more information and to apply, visit:**
https://www.sheffield.co.nz/Job-Search?Id=729

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

GOOD SHEPHERD READING AND REFLECTION GROUP (GSR&R)

Good Shepherd Reading and Reflection (GSR&R) Group meet in the parish office every Thursday from 7:15 to 8:45pm.
They are currently reading the Pope's encyclical Magnifica Humanitas (Magnificent Humanity).
All are very welcome.
Enquiries to Mary Griffin griffinmt1952@gmail.com or just drop in.

AED DEFIBRILLATOR

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

ORGANIST/PIANIST NEEDED SATURDAY VIGIL

Since the death of our faithful servant Consuelo, our Vigil Mass has been in need of an organist on Saturday evenings.
If you are interested in joining Saturday night music ministry with any musical talents please reach out to the office.

GOOD SHEPHERD CHILDREN'S CHOIR

If your child would like to join the choir email: office@balmoralcatholic.org.nz
Choir practice is during the **school term Sundays after Mass from 10.45am to 11.15am in the church** with Nishanthi from the NZ Modern School of Music.
All school-aged children are welcome to join!
The choir are working towards their next performance on Sunday 1st November, for All Saints Mass at 9.30am. The choir will also lead the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at 5pm.

NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday and Thursday 10am –12pm & Friday 10am –3pm.
The office is always contactable via email and phone. Appointments can also be made with the office or Fr Martin so please feel free to reach out if you need to.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

Getting married in early 2027? Don't leave your marriage preparation too late! Courses for 2026 are filling quickly. If you're planning to marry in the first part of 2027, you'll need to complete your marriage preparation this year, so we encourage you to register as soon as possible to secure your place. Courses are offered at **St Michael's Parish, Remuera** on Saturdays from **26 September** (9.00am – 1.00pm) and at **St Luke's Parish, Flat Bush** on Saturdays from **10 October** (10.00am – 4.30pm). For course more information, and to register visit www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/our-courses/

SUPPORT LIFE SUNDAY 2026

On Sunday **11 October**, Catholics across Aotearoa will celebrate Support Life Sunday. This year's theme, *Living Peace*, invites us to reflect on how we can promote a culture of life through prayer, compassion, and action. Resources, including liturgical suggestions and homily notes, are available online. Support Life Sunday 2026 - New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference
Living Peace. Supporting Life. Building Hope.

BISHOPS' ELECTION STATEMENT

The New Zealand bishops have published their statement for the 2026 General Election. Titled *Discerning our nation's future through a Gospel lens*, the document encourages Catholics and people of good will to consider voting as a moral and civic responsibility, not just a matter of personal preference. The bishops invite people to consider how they will cast their votes by reviewing candidates' and parties' positions across a range of key issues, and they also encourage people to pray for the country. Access the election statement at: https://bit.ly/NZCBCElection26

STUDY & JOY

The Rosary is a devotion with an uncertain origin by Pat McCarthy
www.studyjoy.nz/2026/10/07/the-rosary-is-a-devotion-with-an-uncertain-origin/

READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING - Isaiah 26:5-10

For those who put their trust in God, a great future lies in store:
the joyful life of heaven.

SECOND READING - Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20

Paul finds his friends' support a great help in time of trouble.
Even more important is his sure hope in the love of Jesus.

GOSPEL - Matthew 22:1-14

The 'Heavenly Banquet' to which all are invited also makes some demands on us.
Every guest must wear the wedding-garment of Christian charity.

PROPERTY MANAGER - EDUCATION (SECONDARY SCHOOLS)

Join the Diocese and help shape safe, future-focused learning environments across our secondary schools. This exciting role involves leading property projects, managing maintenance and compliance programmes, and partnering with school leaders to support Catholic education throughout Auckland and Northland. A relevant tertiary qualification and/or significant industry experience is required and experience in the education sector and knowledge of Ministry of Education property standards and funding processes would be advantageous. https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/.

LOCAL YOUTH MINISTERS WANTED!

The Catholic Diocese of Auckland is looking for self-motivated relationship-builders to become part-time Local Youth Ministers, working in a secondary school and/or parish. This is a unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people! To learn more and to apply, please visit: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/

JOSHUA CATHOLIC MEN'S

JOSHUA PAKURANGA –ST MARKS
334 Pakuranga Road, Pakuranga
Meeting date: **Mon 12 Oct 26 Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.** Speaker: Chris Mayhew
Topic: STANDING IN THE BREACH
Contact: Mike Lobo 021 280 9285

PLANNED GIVING-GOOD SHEPHERD

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.

Our bank account details for all donations is Good Shepherd Balmoral Ecclesiastical Goods Trust
BNZ Account: 02-0108-0708836-000

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT WANTED!

Marriage & Family Life Ministry is looking for a highly capable Administration Assistant to contribute to a ministry that supports marriage and family life. We are looking for someone who combines excellent administrative skills with a genuine pastoral sensitivity and a commitment to serving others. This is a Part-time role of 16 hours, working Mon, Tue, Wed and Fri 10am - 2pm (with some evening and weekend work) at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre.
For full details and to apply please visit please visit: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/. Closing date Monday **2 November.**

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

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
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:
Kristelle Thomsen
Office Hours Tuesday & Thursday
10am—12pm
& 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 see
www.goodshepherd.school.nz

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
in the foyer basket