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

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

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 25 OCTOBER 2026

Today's readings help us answer one of life's deepest questions: **What gives our life meaning?** For Christians, the answer is simple but demanding: to love God wholeheartedly and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

In Exodus, God reminds Israel that faith must shape the way people treat others, especially the vulnerable - the stranger, the widow, the orphan and the poor. Love of God cannot be separated from justice, mercy and compassion.

St Paul teaches the Thessalonians to become examples to others. Their faith in Christ should be visible in the way they live, especially through joy, perseverance and love. Christianity is not merely something we believe privately; it must become a way of life.

In the Gospel, a lawyer asks Jesus which commandment is greatest. Jesus joins two commandments together: love God with all your heart, soul and mind, and love your neighbour as yourself. These are like two sides of the same coin. We cannot genuinely claim to love the God we cannot see while refusing to love the people we meet every day.

The Eucharist gives us the grace and strength to live this commandment. We come to Christ so that we can leave transformed - more patient, forgiving, generous and compassionate.

So this week, do not allow your faith to remain only words or prayers.
Choose one concrete act of love each day: encourage someone, forgive, listen, help a person in need, or make peace.

GOOD SHEPHERD YOUTH EVENT!

LOVE IN ACTION

ALL YOUTH YEAR 6 TO YEAR 10
SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER
5PM-7PM
GOOD SHEPHERD HALL
SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY

All parishioners from across the Diocese are warmly invited to the Annual Mass for Deceased Clergy to remember and pray for those who have passed away over the past year. Tuesday 3 November 2026, 11am at St Patricks Panmure. Following Mass is the blessing of the gravestones.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDY

Bishop Stephen Lowe is calling for applications for the Ruth Miller Scholarship for Theological Study. The scholarship is available for those already teaching in a Catholic school who intend to complete one or more theology papers towards a Bachelor of Theology degree in 2027.
For information and an application form email scholarships@cda.org.nz. Closing date: 27 November 2026.

MARIST SCHOOL MT ALBERT CENTENARY

Marist School Mt Albert is celebrating its centenary next year. Past pupils, staff and members of the wider community are invited to join the centenary planning committee. Interested? Email Principal Mr Jolan Search at j.search@marist.school.nz

BISHOPS' ELECTION STATEMENT

As the General Election nears, Catholics are encouraged to read the bishops' 2026 election statement, Discerning our nation's future through a Gospel lens. It invites Catholics and people of good will to consider voting as a moral and civic responsibility, not just a matter of personal preference. The bishops urge people to review candidates' and parties' positions across key issues and to pray for the country.
Access the statement at: https://bit.ly/NZCBCElection26

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Join us in October or November for the last Safeguarding Workshops for 2026. Build confidence, refresh your safeguarding knowledge and understand the important part we all play in creating safe and welcoming communities.

READINGS FOR THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

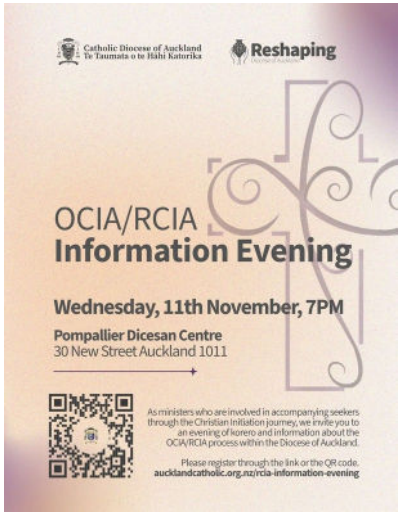
FIRST READING ~ Exodus 22:20-26
SECOND READING ~ 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10
GOSPEL ~ Matthew 22:34-40

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE - ALPHA FOR COUPLES

Whether you're married, engaged, or dating, Alpha for Couples is a welcoming and practical course designed to help strengthen your faith and relationship through engaging videos and guided conversations. Dates: Oct 8, 15, 22, 29; Nov 5, 12, 19, 22, 26; Dec 3.

RED NOVEMBER 2026 - AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

Red November raises awareness and prayerful support for persecuted Christians. Resources are available at rednovember.org. Red Wednesday is 18 November 2026, when the Diocese also plans to light the Pompallier Centre red and celebrate Mass at the Centre. Further details to follow.



OCIA/RCIA INFORMATION EVENING

Ministers accompanying seekers on the journey of Christian Initiation are warmly invited to an evening of korero, shared learning and diocesan resources/support.
Wednesday 11 November, 7pm, Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New Street, Auckland.
Register: aucklandcatholic.org.nz/rcia-information-evening/

'THE CALL TO GREATNESS' YOUTH EVENT

All youth in School Years 11-13 are invited to our first youth group for the term, Sunday 8 November, 5-7pm in the Parish Hall. Please see the flyer on the noticeboard to register, or contact Local Youth Minister Chrystelle on 021 028 55718.