



# St Benedict's Parish Newsletter



**Parish Priest  
Church**

Father Tony Kearns  
St Benedict's Church: cnr Izard Road and Everest Street, Khandallah  
St John's Church: 36 Ngatoto Street, Ngaio

**Sunday Liturgy  
Weekday Liturgy**

6:00pm (Vigil) St John's  
Monday 9:00am & 10:30 am St John's (until renovations at St Benedict's are completed)  
Tuesday – Saturday 9:00 am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Day Chapel)  
9:00 am Mass (Friday preceded by Exposition at 8:30 am) (Day Chapel)

**Reconciliation  
Presbytery & Day Chapel**

By appointment  
3 Everest Street  
Khandallah  
Tel (04) 479 7777  
Fax (04) 479 7632

**Parish Office  
St Benedict's School**

Email [stbens@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stbens@xtra.co.nz)  
Mon, Thu, Fri 9:30am – 3:30pm  
50 Nicholson Road  
Webpage: [www.stbenedicts.org.nz](http://www.stbenedicts.org.nz)  
Tel (04) 479 7777  
Tel (04) 479 6878

**33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

**13 NOVEMBER 2011**

Readings for

13<sup>th</sup> Nov

First Reading  
Second Reading  
Gospel

Proverbs 31:10-13.19-20.30-31  
Thessalonians 5:1-6  
Matthew 25:14-30

20<sup>th</sup> Nov

First Reading  
Second Reading  
Gospel

Ezekiel 34:11-12.15-17  
Corinthians 15:20-26.28  
Matthew 25:31-46



## Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 15 November – School Mass (Rooms 4 & 9) – 9.15am – St Benedict's School Library

Tuesday 15 November – Parish Council Meeting – 7.30pm – Presbytery

Wednesday 16 November – St Vincent de Paul Meeting – 7pm – St John's Hall

Friday 18 November – Secondary Spirits' Youth Group – 7pm – 8 Ngaio Gorge Road

Tuesday 22 November – CWL Christmas Social – 7.45pm – St John's

Sunday 27 November – Children's Advent Mass – 9am – St John's Church

Sunday 27 November – Ecumenical Advent Service – 7pm – St John's Church

## 'I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW' – Rev 21:5 BUILDING PROGRESS

Work on St Benedict's this week has been obvious (from the inside anyway) and noisy. It started out with the removal of more asbestos last weekend, and then scaffolding appeared inside and outside the building. Outside the scaffolding was to start work on replacing the large windows; inside scaffolding was placed to allow for the removal of the bricks from the 8 metre high wall behind the sanctuary.

As well as this on Monday a large amount of the vegetation was removed from the Everest Street side of the church to allow work to begin on the construction of the access ramp along the end to the building.

As the church is a construction site parishioners are reminded that it is hazardous to enter the building.

The photographic record of the alterations is being updated when possible. Check out the front page of our website: [www.stbenedicts.org.nz](http://www.stbenedicts.org.nz)



## MASS ON TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER

The parish will celebrate Mass on Tuesday 15 November at 9.15am in St Benedict's School Library. For any parishioners who wish to attend the Mass but have mobility problems, you will be able to drive up and park in the school playground – but please drive slowly and watch out for the children.



## Catholic Women's League

We extend a warm invitation to our members and **all women in the parish** to the CWL Christmas Party to be held in St John's Hall on Tuesday evening, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7.45pm.

This joyful celebration (tempered with a tinge of sadness by virtue of being the last occasion the CWL Christmas party will take place at St John's) will feature the singing of Christmas carols in St John's Church, a Christmas reading, a glass of 'bubbly' and supper in the Hall.

All those attending are asked to wear an item of jewellery, (such as a brooch), and the brighter and sparklier the better! There will be a Christmas raffle, so don't forget to bring some money!

We invite all those attending to bring an item of food (unwrapped, and please no perishable goods and no alcohol) for the CWL hamper, which will be delivered to a family in need over Christmas. A gold coin donation for our Mission station would be much appreciated.



## HELP WITH CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

If there is anyone who would be willing to help with the organising of Christmas liturgies/decorations, etc, in the Parish, we would be delighted to hear from you as soon as possible! Please either speak to Fr Tony or ring the Parish Office on 479 7777.

## HAMPER MASS

The annual Hamper Mass will be held on Sunday 4 December at the 9am Mass. A list of needy families will be placed on the notice board at St John's Church next week, and we ask for your generous support, as in previous years, to ease the burden for families suffering financial hardship particularly at this festive season.



## SECONDARY SPIRITS YOUTH GROUP - END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

This is the last Secondary Spirits' Youth Group for the year on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November**. It will be hosted at the Ireland household, **8 Ngaio Gorge Road** between 7pm and 9pm. Please bring togs, towel and a small plate for supper.



## CONGRATULATIONS ...

We offer our warmest congratulations to Alice Sowry, who was awarded Dux at St Mary's College in their recent giving. Alice has been granted a scholarship to study for a law/arts degree at Otago University ... and to Mollie Crosby (mother of Eugene) who will turn 100 years old on Monday 14 November – an amazing achievement.



## MUSIC MATTERS

### Choir Practices for Christmas:

*Mondays 5, 12 & 19 December at 7.30pm at St John's Church*

All Choir members, Music Group members, and any interested parishioners (new parishioners especially welcome) are warmly invited to join the Choir to sing at our Vigil and Christmas Midnight Mass (11.30pm on 24 December). Enquiries: Judith on 479 6739.



## NGAIO CAROLS – CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

All parish musicians who play an instrument are warmly invited and encouraged to join the music group for the Ngaio Carols (7pm on Sunday 4 December). Please let us know NOW if you would like to be part of this great preparation for Christmas. Please contact Clive on 479 1921 or Judith on 478 7736.



**Dove Catholic Fellowship** for Women meet on Saturday 19th November from 1.30pm - 3.30pm in Connolly Hall, Guildford Terrace (off Hill St), Thorndon. To conclude our year, we are holding a Thanksgiving Mass followed by a festive afternoon tea.

All women welcome to join us for praise, worship, teaching and fellowship. Enquiries: Sandra 475 5541 [www.dove.org.nz](http://www.dove.org.nz)

## PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP NEWS

The Passionist Family Groups play a central role in the social life of the parish, and are open to all parishioners and their families; non-Catholic members of the family are warmly welcomed into a friendly environment. If you would like more information, please contact Teresa and Bernard on 387 7510.



## ELECTION – MEET THE CANDIDATES EVENING

There will be a meeting of some of the local candidates for the forthcoming General Election on **Monday 14 November** at 7.30pm at Khandallah Presbyterian Church. This meeting is sponsored by the three local churches: St Benedict's, St Barnabas' Anglican Church, and Khandallah Presbyterian Church.



*Wellington North Pastoral Area  
(St Benedict's, St Peter & Paul's  
and St Andrew's)*

*invites you to a*

*Christmas Dinner Dance 2011*

*at the*

*Johnsonville Community Centre*

*Date 17<sup>th</sup> December*

*Time: 7.30pm*

*Attire: Formal*

*Dinner: Buffet*

*Live Band: Brief Encounter*

### *Tickets cost:*

*Adults: \$25*

*11 - 15 years: \$15*

*8-10 years: \$10*

*All proceeds to the parish*

*Tickets are limited, so book early*

*Contact: Shaun and Michele Driscoll*

*on 479 2896 (please leave a message if no reply)*



## Children's Advent Mass – 9am – November 27<sup>th</sup>

You are invited to join with the School and Parish communities to celebrate a Mass especially for the children to begin this special season of Advent on Sunday 27 November at 9am. If you would like your child/children to be involved with this Mass, please contact Mary Graham on 479 8582 or Andrea Witkowski on 479 1965.

It is at this Mass that we offer gifts for children whose families may be struggling financially. These gifts are passed on to Challenge 2000 to distribute. If you would like to contribute, please make sure that the gifts are wrapped and labelled appropriately (e.g. Boy, 7 years).

## GARDEN PARTY BOOK LAUNCH



You are cordially invited to the launch of Kevin Boon's novella Kezia, based on Katherine Mansfield's childhood in New Zealand. The launch will be held on Friday 2 December at 5 pm at Katherine Mansfield's birthplace at 25 Tinakori Road, Thorndon. Wear a colourful sunhat and whatever else you wish. Signed copies of Kezia will be available at the launch at \$20 per copy.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Do you have useable baby clothing (premature to six months), cloth nappies and pins, cot and bassinet bedding, toys or wool to assist us to help new mothers and their babies? Donations can be dropped off at a St Vincent de Paul shop, or call to have items picked up. Donated items will be given free to pregnant women and new mothers. Phone 389 7122 for more information or come in and see us at: St Vincent de Paul shop in Newtown, 207 Riddiford Street (opp McDonalds).



## The Lazarus Experience

A healing weekend for separated and divorced Catholics

When: Friday 25 November to Sunday 27 November

Where: 7 Trevethick Grove, Lower Hutt

Contact: Don 04- 587 0527, Mobile 021 459 859

Email: [lazarusexp@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lazarusexp@xtra.co.nz)



## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will be held in St John's Hall each Sunday during the 9am Mass. However, if there are occasions when the numbers attending Mass necessitate opening the back doors into the Hall, Children's Liturgy will be cancelled for that day. We would ask the parent helpers and the children to bear with us during this period of change! The Children's Liturgy work sheets are available to be collected by parent helpers from the Presbytery on Friday afternoons up to 4.30pm.

## Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship Meeting (Wgtn Branch)



This is an invitation to all men to come and join us at our Praise and Worship meeting on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm at Connolly Hall, Guildford Terrace, Thorndon (behind Sacred Heart Cathedral). Theme: "Be Blessed". Want to know more? Ring David: 387 9714

**Vigil for the Unborn:** On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at St Anne's Catholic Church, Emmett St., Newtown. Starts with Mass at 7pm and includes Adoration and Rosary Procession. Ends with Benediction at 9pm. This Advent, as we prepare for the coming of our Lord, let us remember those tiny Kiwis whose advent is threatened. Shared supper afterwards. [www.fli.org.nz](http://www.fli.org.nz) ph. 237 8343

## ON SALE THIS WEEKEND

Available this weekend after all Masses will be: **Columban Calendars** at \$8 each. **Little Blue Books for Advent** at \$6 each. Six minutes of reflection for each day from the First Sunday of Advent to the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord on January 9<sup>th</sup>. **Christmas cards** from the St Vincent de Paul Society; \$2.50 a packet – wonderful value



## PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please remember in your prayers all those who are sick, in hospital, or unwell, particularly Angela Houston, Jean Page, Betty Prendergast, Margaret Boon, Phyllis Ponsford, Tom McGrail, Paul Delaney, Brian de Joux, Maurice O'Connor, Margaret Butterworth, Helen Coleman, Jim Webber, Therese Shields, David Shroff, Agnes Dummons, Margaret Maroney, and Christine Smith. We ask you to pray also for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently, especially Valerie Dummons, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Ken Judd. The Parish Prayer Group is always available to pray for your special intentions. A list of contact phone numbers is on the notice boards in both churches.

## MARGARET SILF IN WELLINGTON

**Saturday 19 Nov 9.30am–4.30pm**  
*'Finding a true course in a changing world'*  
**Sunday 20 Nov 11.30am–5.30pm**  
*'The Growing Edge'*

Both events held at St Joseph's Church, Ellice Street, Mt Victoria. Registration for each (\$20, waged ; \$15 unwaged) to [marcellinrsm@xtra.co.nz](mailto:marcellinrsm@xtra.co.nz) or ph 383 7271 (evenings only) **Margaret Silf** is a skilled international retreat director and spiritual director in the Ignatian tradition. She is an author and regular columnist for "America" magazine, a contributor to the "New Daylight" series and BBC local radio.

## Rosters

A new set of rosters will be issued at the beginning of December to cover December, January, February and March 4<sup>th</sup>. If you know that you will be away during that time, could you please let your roster co-ordinator know by **no later than November 21<sup>st</sup>**.

The co-ordinators are: *Communion to the Sick* – Eugene Crosby on 479 2441 [eug.di@xtra.co.nz](mailto:eug.di@xtra.co.nz) *Readers* – Paul Davis on 479 7821 [paul.davis@otago.ac.nz](mailto:paul.davis@otago.ac.nz) *All other rosters* – Margie Crook on 479 7777 [stbens@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stbens@xtra.co.nz) Many thanks

## Last Week's Collections

Clergy Support	784.42	Thank you
Parish Collection	1920.48	

## Carols in Parliament – a Christmas service in association with the Council of Wellington Churches

Sunday 4 December at 7pm in the Grand Hall of Parliament (please be seated by 6.50pm) Christmas address given by Reverend Chris Nichol, 'Praise Be' host. Music by the Wellington South Salvation Army Band and the Tinakori Handbell Choir. **RSVPs are essential for security reasons.** Please RSVP by Wednesday 30 November to [bolitho@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bolitho@xtra.co.nz) phone 479 5352



## CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

There are still a few places on the Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend of 18 – 20 November. Enquiries to Aniela & Mark Potter: [markandaniela@gmail.com](mailto:markandaniela@gmail.com), 04 477 1957, or go to [www.ceewellington.org.nz](http://www.ceewellington.org.nz) Please pray for all couples preparing for marriage, and for the success of the weekend.



## Made in Petone

Sacred Heart School Petone  
Parish Hall - 33 Britannia St, Petone  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November: 9.30am - 1.30pm  
Unique handmade art & craft for Christmas presents as 23 stall-holders will be showcasing their wares in this historic Petone building. Food, drinks, Christmas raffle, carol singers, free car & pram parking, activities for kids (including a merry-go-round!) make this an event not to be missed. Eftpos (cash out) available. Proceeds of market will go towards upgrading school computers.

## Bishops' statement on 2011 General Election

Our bishops have provided a statement which outlines principles to consider when you are deciding how to vote in the upcoming election. It is available online at [www.catholic.org.nz](http://www.catholic.org.nz) under 'Bishops Statements' on the homepage.

## Baby sitter available

Hi, I'm Moragh Graham, and in December 2012 I am travelling to Vietnam on a World Challenge expedition. During our time there we spend 2 weeks staying and helping in a local village and also go on projects working with groups of orphans and other needy people. As part of the philosophy of this trip we are encouraged to raise the majority of the funds ourselves. If you are needing a reliable and enthusiastic baby sitter over the coming Christmas period (and beyond), either during the day or evening, please contact me. I am 15 years old, a past student at St Ben's and involved in the parish community. Please call me on 479 8582. Thank you.

**Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels**

**Matthew 25:14-30**

- ❖ Jesus was angry at the way the Jewish leaders treated God's gift of revelation to his people. They had turned it into a burden when it was intended to be life-giving to all. One of the ways they had done this was by putting strict observance of a multiplicity of rules at the centre of religious practice, rather than a deep faith and trust in the forgiving love of God. What part have rules played for you in your life? Have they been life-giving?
- ❖ Sometimes we can get a lesson on what is truly important in life from the example of people who are living in circumstances that on the surface are unorthodox, unconventional and sometimes irregular. What lessons have you learned from such witness?
- ❖ We can fall into the trap of seeing our own gifts and talents as our personal possession so that we can do with them as we like, rather than share them as gifts so that they can be multiplied. What is your experience of hoarding or sharing your own gifts? When did you feel most alive?
- ❖ The master in the story is also someone we can celebrate. He is the kind of person who does not cling to power. He entrusts his property (his cause) to others. Perhaps you have known leaders who have done this? Have you done it yourself? As parents, have you entrusted the lives of your children to them so that they can live life to the full by taking responsibility for their own lives?  
*John Byrne OSA*

**Questions people ask**

**Q.** Are the souls in purgatory in terrible suffering?  
**A.** Our Catholic Catechism is very consoling on this point. 'All who die in God's grace and friendship but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven' (Catechism, 1030). These blessed people know they are saved. They are very close to God. So they must be very happy, yet suffering the pain of recognising how poorly they had appreciated God's love and used their God-given talents. I think it is like the child who has been bold but now cuddles up in the parent's loving arms, crying in the recognition of how wrong he/she had been. The suffering of purgatory is the result of knowing how much we have been loved and how poor was our response to that love.

*Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap*

**The Deep End  
The Midas touch**

When you were at school or college, was there that one person who was good at everything, who got As in every subject, was a skilled sportsperson, a gifted musician, and was involved in every activity going? We all know people who seem to be good at anything they turn their hand to. Everything they touch turns to gold. In the parable in today's Gospel, the skills of the servants really do result in gold! The 'talents' which the servants are given are units of currency – the first two servants double their money, while the third, afraid to take a risk, buries his in the ground. But the point is not the amount of talents given to each. What pleases the master is how the talents are used. The greatest crime is to 'hide your talent in the ground', to fail to use the gift you have been given. This parable is often seen as an exhortation to use our God-given talents and to take risks for his sake. God gives talents to every person, and they vary from person

to person. However, we eventually have to give an account of these gifts and what we did with them.

The poet John Milton reflected on this parable in his sonnet 'On His Blindness':

*When I consider how my light is spent  
Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide,  
And that one talent, which is death to hide,  
Lodged with me useless, though my soul more bent  
To serve therewith my Maker, and present  
My true account, lest He, returning, chide.*

Triona Doherty

The leaders of the Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian and Salvation Army Churches have issued a call to all political parties to acknowledge their shared responsibility to provide a just share of society's wealth and resources for all its citizens - especially the most vulnerable. Included in this provision is adequate income for everyone, fair taxation policies and access to good health care, affordable housing, and the ability to live sustainably.



**Matthew 25:14-30  
What are my Talents?**

Today's Gospel is about our gifts and talents. Jesus reminds us that our talents are not given to us for our own enjoyment alone, our Talents are given to us to share and to give others happiness also. So many school kids work for charities, sing for the local hospital, at Mass or even help Coach train the younger teams. There are many ways of sharing our talents for the good of others.

Think of one talent that you have shared with others.

Why is it a good idea to continue to share your talents?

Work out the puzzle below to find out why we should share our talents with others!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
A	D	E	F	G	H	I	L	M	N	O	R	S	T	U	V	W	Y

5	11	2		5	1	16	3		18	11	15		9	1	10	18	
17	11	10	2	3	12	4	15	8		5	7	4	14	13		5	11

13	6	1	12	3													
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