



St Benedict's Parish Newsletter



**Parish Priest
Church**

Father Tony Kearns
St Benedict's Church: cnr Izard Road and Everest Street, Khandallah (closed for refurbishment till approx Easter 2012)
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 Tel (04) 479 7777
Khandallah Fax (04) 479 7632
Email stbens@xtra.co.nz Webpage: www.stbenedicts.org.nz

Parish Office

Mon, Thu, Fri 9:30am – 3:30pm Tel (04) 479 7777

St Benedict's School

50 Nicholson Road Tel (04) 479 6878

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

27 NOVEMBER 2011

Readings for

27th Nov

First Reading
Second Reading
Gospel

Isaiah 63:16-17;64:1.3-8
Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

4th Dec

First Reading
Second Reading
Gospel

Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11
Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8



Forthcoming Events

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

Tuesday 29 November – St Benedict's School Mass Attendance – 9.15am – St Benedict's School Library

Friday 2 December - Exposition (8.30am) and Mass (9am) – Day Chapel

Sunday 4 December – Hamper Mass – 9am – St John's Church

Sunday 4 December – Ngaio Carol Service – 7pm – Ngaio Town Hall

Monday 5 December – Choir Practice for Christmas – 7.30pm – St John's Church

Tuesday 6 December – Liturgy Committee Meeting – 7.30pm – Presbytery

Wednesday 7 December – Anointing Mass – 2pm – St John's Church

Sunday 11 December – Fr Tony's Open Home – 2pm – Presbytery

Sunday 11 December – Rite II Reconciliation for Pastoral Area – 7.30pm – St John's Church

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



St Benedict's Church has been particularly noisy this week with diggers laying new waste water pipes and beginning the excavation of the mobility ramp down the side of the church.

As well as this, concrete was poured to fill provide a base for the portals that will strengthen the sanctuary area. Concrete was also poured into the void in the sanctuary floor where the raised platform originally was.

As well as this, a start was made to the installation of the helibar earthquake strengthening that will bind the internal brick walls together.



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

ECUMENICAL ADVENT SERVICE

The Ecumenical service for Advent will be held at St John's Church this Sunday, 27 November, at 7pm. All parishioners are warmly invited and encouraged to attend. We would be delighted to have a few volunteers who would help to serve refreshments after the Ecumenical service to our guests. Please contact stay behind at the end of the service if you can help.



MASS ON TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER

The parish will celebrate Mass on Tuesday 29 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.



FIRST FRIDAY MORNING TEA

All parishioners are warmly invited to morning tea in the Presbytery on Friday 2 December following Exposition at 8.30am and Mass at 9am. Hospitality: May and Ra Ratia.

Last Week's Collections

Clergy Support	567.93	Thank you
Parish Collection	1390.47	

HAMPER MASS



The annual Hamper Mass will be held on Sunday 4 December at the 9am Mass. A list of needy families has been placed on the notice board at St John's Church, and we ask for your generous support to ease the burden for families suffering financial hardship at this festive season. The response to this request has always been amazing, but you don't have to contribute as part of a group or donate a whole hamper! If you would like to make a personal smaller offering, gifts may be placed on the altar before the Mass.



MUSIC MATTERS

Choir Practices for Christmas:

Mondays 5 & 12 & Thursday 22 December at 7.30pm at St John's Church (please note change of date for 3rd practice)

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.

Friends of Sacred Heart Cathedral Music – Bake Stall on Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 December

On behalf of the Friends, I am asking for assistance with providing baked goods, sweets, and preserves for our pre-Christmas fund raiser. Your generous assistance in past years has been a huge help to us. If you are able to help this year, could you please contact Judith on 478 7736. Many thanks.



LITURGY COMMITTEE MEETING

There is to be a meeting of the Liturgy Committee on Tuesday evening, 6 December, at 7.30pm in the Presbytery. This meeting is to plan for our Advent and Christmas liturgies. We warmly welcome anyone who would like to join the Liturgy Committee or who could help in any way with the preparations for this important liturgical season. For more details please contact Father Tony 479 7777 or Margaret Dunne 478 6348.

ANOINTING MASS

On Wednesday 7 December an Anointing Mass will be celebrated at St John's Church, Ngaio, at 2pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone who is elderly, or in need of healing, to receive the strength to cope with their difficulties – illnesses of mind and body – or for anyone who is caring for the sick.

The Catholic Women's League will provide transport for anyone who requires it, and will serve afternoon tea after the Mass. Any enquiries, please phone Margaret Dunne on 478 6348.



MISSIONZ

Fr Paul Shannahan, Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in New Zealand, has sent a letter thanking the parish for their very generous donations in the recent Missionz Appeal. The total amount donated by the parish was \$1,101.



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.

NGAIO CAROL SERVICE

The ecumenical Ngaio Carol Service will be held this year on Sunday 4 December at 7pm in the Ngaio Town Hall, and will feature the usual community carol singing and readings. The evening is most enjoyable, very suitable for families, and we encourage parishioners to attend if possible.


OPEN HOME AT THE PRESBYTERY



Fr Tony warmly invites all parishioners to his annual Open Home at the Presbytery on Sunday 11 December from 2pm. Please do take the opportunity to pop in for a chat and to meet up with fellow parishioners.

ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal will be launched this weekend, the first Sunday of Advent, with the traditional envelope collection. This year's appeal will support the Lay Pastoral leaders' Fund, International Priests serving in the Archdiocese, and the Catholic Social Services' social workers in schools project.



*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 th 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)*



RITE II RECONCILIATION

Rite II Reconciliation will be held on Sunday 11 December at 7.30pm in St Benedict's Church. This service is for our Pastoral Area and there will be several priests to hear confessions.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME ENROLMENTS FOR 2011

Now is the time of year when we ask that parents who would like their child to be a part of the Sacramental Programme for 2012 take and complete one of the enrolment forms which are in the foyer of the Church, and return it to the Parish Office. The programme is preparation for children who have been baptised into the Catholic faith and have reached **YEAR 4 or above** at school. We are presently working out the timetable for the programme next year.

HEALING SERVICE

There will be a Healing Service led by Fr John Rea at St Bernadette's Church, 194 Naenae Road, Naenae, on Wednesday 30th November at 7.30pm. Come and encounter Jesus Christ as your healer.



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 5pm 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.

The Catholic Institute of Aotearoa New Zealand

The Parish Office has received copies of the prospectus for the Catholic Institute of Aotearoa New Zealand, outlining the courses being offered in 2012 (and their relevant costs). (The Institute has two centres of learning in Wellington: at the Catholic Centre in Hill Street and at Victoria University of Wellington College of Education in Karori.) One copy has been placed in St John's Church foyer and the other will be kept in the parish office, should anyone wish to see the courses of study available.

WALK BY FAITH

Walk by Faith – a three year adult distance learning course in Religious Studies. The course is for those interested in deepening their knowledge of Jesus Christ, the Scriptures, the Church, and growing in personal faith. Enrolment forms are available in the church foyer. For further information, contact National Centre for Religious Studies, P O Box 12243, Wellington 6144; phone (04) 819 8380, email ncrsnz@clear.net.nz

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The St Vincent de Paul Society has need of additional storage space from now to the end of February for donated household items.



Their requirements are:

- secure, dry, single or double garage size
- the need to have easy access from the street

A fair rental will be paid. If you can help, please contact Haytham Mikhail on 389 7122 or 021 2077 376

Vigil for the Unborn: On Friday 2nd 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 ph. 237 8343

Final ICPE Worship Night of the year: Friday 2nd December, 7.30pm at St Gerard's Monastery

75 Hawker Street, Mount Victoria, Wellington.

Theme: "My soul magnifies the Lord!" As the year draws to a close, let us remember the great things the Lord has done in our lives and raise our voices in thanksgiving! *The ICPE Mission is a lay Catholic missionary community committed to the goal of evangelisation and training Catholics to become more effective evangelisers. They run parish missions, school retreats, youth events, discipleship courses, seminars. Email icpe.nz@gmail.com or call (04) 8017797 for more information.*



The Journey to Bethlehem – a service for Advent with Carols –come join the Sacred Heart Cathedral choir in a beautiful service to begin your preparations for the Christmas season. Bring your friends along to share the beauty and wonders of the service, the choir and their music. **Sunday 4 December at 8.30pm Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hill Street**

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 phone 479 5352



CHRISTMAS OLD SAINT PAUL'S

Mulgrave Street, Thorndon, Friday 9 December at 6:30pm

When you have lost someone dear to you, anniversaries and the times you were happiest are often the times you are at your saddest. Come and join us at our service of remembrance, and gather strength from others. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME** organised by the Guardian Funeral Home, Wilson Funeral Home and Harbour City Funeral Home



CAROLS WITH THE ANGELS

7.30pm Wednesday 14 December

St Mary of the Angels, Boulcott Street, Wellington

Hosted by Ian Johnstone. The programme features favourite carols for all to sing with the Maxwell Fernie organ, Wellington Citadel Salvation Army Band and choirs from St Mary of the Angels. There will be a collection to support earthquake strengthening and refurbishment of the parish presbyter and hall. You are also invited to bring a small Christmas gift for a child in need. All welcome

ADVENT LEAFLETS

Advent leaflets, giving details of parish services during December & January, useful prayers and other details are now available in the foyer of St John's. Please take one and prepare for this quiet and reflective season before the bustle of Christmas is upon us.

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 9th.

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, 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 Brain Van Der Wall and Helen Coleman, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Ted Byrne.

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.

Challenge 2000/Society of Mary 2011 Social Justice Pilgrimage

When: Meet at 10am at Challenge 2000, 27 Dr Taylor Terrace, Johnsonville, on Sunday 11 December and return on Sunday 18 December at 7pm.

Where: Journeying around the lower North Island visiting sacred sites, special places and spiritual people! An opportunity for young people aged 18-23 to enhance their leadership abilities skills, grasp social justice teachings and to reflect on what it means to be a prophetic Catholic in Aotearoa today and in the future. The Pilgrimage will be led by Kitty McKinley and Fr Chris Skinner SM as well as Challenge 2000 staff.

Cost: \$150.00 per person. Sponsorship available For more information contact: www.challenge2000.org.nz

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.

WEEDING

Do you know of anyone who might like to spend some time weeding?! If so, ring Stan on 499 5591.

From the Archdiocesan Justice Peace and Development Commission

How do we decide what is work? - if we get a payout at the end of the week or fortnight? If we sit at a computer and play the stock market? If we are self employed and still have money left after paying the bills? And what about the lady who has been on a benefit for over 10 years, while looking after her mother and saving the tax payer \$400,000 in senior care?

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels Mark 13:33-37

♦ The coming of the master is not just the moment of death, but any moment of grace. Recall unexpected graces – good things that happened when they were not anticipated.

♦ Perhaps some of these were moments when you were particularly alert and aware of what was going on in you and around you, and this enabled you to be open to a moment of grace. Recall the contrast with moments when that alertness and awareness were not present.

♦ The servants were given charge of the household 'each with their own job'. Identify with the servants as people given a responsibility within the household of God's people. What has it been like for you when you have been shown trust in this way by another person? What is it like for you to see yourself trusted in this way by God?

♦ What is your experience of good 'doorkeepers', people who were there and ready to receive you even when you came at an awkward or unexpected time. Also your experience of being a good 'doorkeeper' for another. *John Byrne OSA*

Questions people ask

Q. What did Jesus refer to when he told people to stay awake?

A. The Lord is reminding us never to forget our final judgement and destiny. How would you live, what would you do, if you knew that you had only a short time to live? 'Stay awake, because you never know when the time will come.' Staying awake also means being vigilant against temptation by not allowing ourselves to be misled by the subtle lies of the devil.

We are also exhorted to be alert and sensitive to the glory and goodness of God manifested in the world in many ways.

Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap

The Deep End Present Perfect

We need Advent to teach us patience. It can teach us more than that, of course. However, with our busy lifestyles, we need to relearn how to be patient with, rather than how to put up with, something or someone. That busyness results in us wishing our life away. We become edgy and tense with the present and slide easily into the future – be it only into the hour ahead of us. We develop the 'when I ...' mentality: when I get home, when the weekend arrives, when the summer is here, when I get my new car, when I ... when I ... when I. The future seems to hold the carrot; the present the stick. And, as we lose touch with the present, we lose touch with ourselves.

And how easy that is. Christmas decorations appear in the shops months in advance of Christmas. For many years now venues for Christmas parties have to be booked months in advance. And it's no surprise anymore to hear and see promotions for holiday sales the day after Christmas. We are being programmed to live in the future as if the present doesn't count. More and more life's rhythms are set by the world of commerce rather than by the world of nature.

Advent slows us down. It alerts us to prepare for Christmas, not to start celebrating it. Our Gospel today (Mark 13:33-37) alerts to something else: the Lord's return. That alertness is for now, for we can meet the Lord at any time.

Fr Tom Cahill SVD, Divine Word Missionaries



Children's Corner

Mark 13:33-37 Stay Awake!

Jesus tells us that we should always pay attention to the way we live our life and the way we follow him. He teaches us this in today's Gospel. Read over the Gospel and figure out why Jesus asked us to stay awake.

Was there ever a time when you did not pay full attention to what you were doing? What were the consequences of this? When you ask someone for a favour, how do you feel if they 'sort of' help, but not really? Explain your answer. How can I plan to be fully alert and present to my life today? Why would I bother?

Think of three ways you could show others that you are awake and giving your full attention! The boxes below should help!

I will try my best at...	I will concentrate my best during...	I will give my best at...
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