



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 9:00 am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Day Chapel)
Tuesday – Saturday 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
Webpage: www.stbenedicts.org.nz
Mon, Thu, Fri 9:30am – 3:30pm
Tel (04) 479 7777
Tel (04) 479 6878

CHRIST THE KING (YEAR A)

20 NOVEMBER 2011

Readings for

20th Nov

First Reading
Second Reading
Gospel

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

27th Nov

First Reading
Second Reading
Gospel

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



Forthcoming Events

- 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
- 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
- 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

Work on St Benedict's this week has been continuing apace ... and is still noisy! All the asbestos has been removed, and the demolition work inside the church is now complete. Large holes have appeared on either side of the sanctuary to hold the portals which will support the framework around which the reconstruction will begin. People passing along Everest Street will have noticed the departure of the old steps to the back door of the church and the lack of green cover. Fortunately, a few of the shrubs have been saved in the hope of replanting them at some later stage.

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



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 22nd, 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.



ECUMENICAL ADVENT SERVICE

The Ecumenical service for Advent will be held at St John's Church on Sunday 27 November at 7pm. All parishioners are warmly invited and encouraged to attend.

Last Week's Collections

Clergy Support	564.48	
Parish Collection	1382.02	Thank you



CHILDREN'S ADVENT MASS - 9am - November 27th

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).

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



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.

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 and all parishioners are invited to join in.

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.

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.

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.

ADVENT ADORATION

Advent Adoration and a look through the new Suzanne Aubert Visitors' Centre. 7pm - 9pm on Monday 28th November at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay, Wellington. All welcome!



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.

We require the services of a Reader and a Minister of the Eucharist. If you can help with either of these tasks, please let Margaret Dunne know as soon as possible. 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.



RITE II RECONCILIATION

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

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.



OPEN HOME AT THE PRESBYTERY

Fr Tony will be providing his annual Open Home at the Presbytery on Sunday 11 December from 2pm. All members of the parish are very warmly invited to pop in and take the opportunity for a chat and to meet up with fellow parishioners.



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)

ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal will be launched on 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.

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

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

HOLY HOUR

You are invited to a Holy Hour on Thursday 24 November beginning at 7.30pm in the Sacred Heart Cathedral Chapel to pray for vocations to priesthood and religious life. This Holy Hour will include prayers, scripture, times of silence, and conclude with Benediction followed by supper.

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.

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 start to prepare for this quiet and reflective season before the bustle of Christmas is upon us.



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

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

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 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.

Rosters

A new set of rosters will be issued at the beginning of December to cover December, January, February and March 4th. 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 21st**.

The co-ordinators are: *Communion to the Sick* – Eugene Crosby on 479 2441 eug.di@xtra.co.nz *Readers* – Paul Davis on 479 7821 paul.davis@otago.ac.nz

All other rosters – Margie Crook on 479 7777 stbens@xtra.co.nz Many thanks

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

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 under 'Bishops Statements' on the homepage.

WEEDING

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

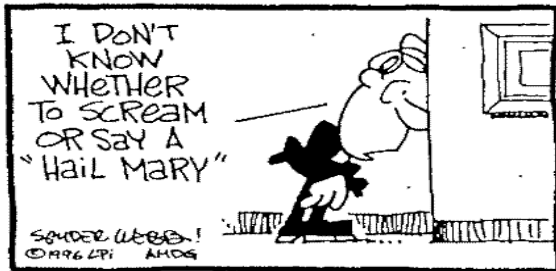
Baby sitter available

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 25:31-46

- ❖ This judgement scene contains surprises for us. One is that nobody is condemned for doing wrong, but for their failure to do good. Jesus is telling us that being his disciple is a positive choice about how we live and relate to others. What difference has it made for you when you viewed your Christian life as a daily opportunity to make a positive difference to others?
- ❖ Another way of saying this is that the aim of Christian living is not me-centred (about my personal sanctification) but other-centred (about responding to the needs of others). What happens to you when you get caught up in yourself? Is your life not better, and often more enjoyable, when you can look beyond yourself to others?
- ❖ Another surprise is to hear Jesus tell us that when we do something for another, he considers it as done to himself. When has seeing Christ in others helped you in your dealings with them?
- ❖ The story is about the judgement of the whole of humanity. It presents an ideal of society in which human relationships at all levels are governed by the law of love. In your experience, what difference has it

Matthew 25:31-46
Come, You that are Blessed

Work on this wordsearch and then with the words below have a go at making a sentence that helps us to understand today's Gospel.

- BLESSED • DRINK • ETERNAL
- FOOD • GOATS • HUNGRY
- LIFE • MAN • NATIONS
- PRISON • SHEET • SHEPHERD
- SON • STRANGER • THIRSTY
- VISIT • WELCOME

made to a group to which you belonged when there was a definite sensitivity to the needs of all members?

John Byrne OSA

Questions people ask

- Q.** What is the temporal punishment due to sin? Does it mean that God forgives us but imposes some sort of punishment at the same time?
- A.** I don't think you've got it right. This punishment is called temporal, as opposed to the eternal punishment which is the hell of unrepented evil. God does not impose the punishment but it is something self-inflicted. Any time I behave in a sinful manner, I am damaging my character. If I lash out at somebody in anger, I have damaged my spiritual health. The good news is that healing is available for this damaged character if we co-operate with the graces of the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist. *Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap*

The Deep End
Unsung Heroes

Have you ever seen the TV programme *Secret Millionaire*? In each episode a millionaire leaves his or her luxury life behind, takes on a secret identity, and lives undercover in a deprived area to find out who needs their help. They work alongside local people, discovering individuals and projects they think deserve a share of their fortune, before coming clean and surprising them with monetary gifts to help them in their work.

Often those who most impress the benefactor are those who are quietly working for the benefit of others, who give generously of their time and talents to make a better life for those in their local community. They are the ones who, in spite of their busy lives, are also the most welcoming and helpful to the undercover millionaire.

They are not in it for the money. They are not generous to the visitor among them because he is rich or because they expect to get something out of them. They are the people who see a need and do something to tackle it, and their simple acts of generosity lead to great rewards.

Jesus expects us to treat everyone we encounter with sensitivity and generosity. Today's Gospel reminds us of our responsibility to care for our fellow man; to feed the hungry, make strangers welcome, provide for those who are without, visit those who are sick or imprisoned. There are simple acts of mercy we can carry out each day. Such love for others is love for God; as the Gospel tell us, 'In so far as you did this to the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.'

Triona Doherty

