

PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ELLERSLIE



66 Main Highway Auckland NZ
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 Parish Email:
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 Parish website:
 www.ellersliecatholic.org.nz
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Parish Priest:
 Fr. Joy Thottamkara C.Ss.R
 Email: joycssr@gmail.com
Assistant priest:
 Fr. Majesh Kurian C.Ss.R
Chaplain Vietnamese Community
 Fr. Andrew Nguyen
 Ph. 266 2789

MASS TIMES	
Saturday Vigil	5.30pm
Sunday	9.00am
Syro Malabar Com. (Sun)	5.00pm
Vietnamese (Sun)	11.00am
Monday	8.00am
(Liturgy of the Word & Communion)	
Tuesday to Thursday	8.00am
Friday	9.00am
Saturday	9.00am
Public Holidays	9.00am

SACRAMENTS / DEVOTIONS	
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:	
Friday & Saturday	8.00 – 9.00am
Rosary:	
Tuesday 7.40am & Saturday 8.45am	
Novena - Our Lady of Perpetual Help	
Saturday 9.20am	
Divine Mercy prayer: Friday 8.30am	

Confession/Reconciliation:
 Saturday 9.35am or by appointment

St. Mary's Parish Hall Hire
 Ph. 579-5458

Parish Secretary: Lourdes V. Domilies
 Ph. 579-5458

Newsletter: icparishellerslie@gmail.com

Parish Administrator: Margaret Burke QSM
 Ph: 579-5458

Parish Office Hours:
Tuesday – Friday 9:00am to 1:30 pm

Parish Pastoral Council Contacts:

PPC Chairperson: Lynda Tunupopo
 Mob: 027 363 3334
 E-mail: ppcellerslie@gmail.com

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: We, the Parish of Immaculate Conception Ellerslie are God's people seeking God's purposes and fulfilling them through service, inspired by the Holy Spirit, assisted through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

1st Sunday of Lent 9/10 March 2019

THE DESERT EXPERIENCE

Jesus spent forty days in the desert, reflecting and praying. In biblical times, the desert was considered a fearful place, where only demons dared live. Even so, it was an ideal place for reflection and prayer.

This desert experience came at a crucial moment in the life of Jesus-just after his baptism. It would be impossible to exaggerate its importance for him. As a result of this experience, he grew to love solitude, and made a habit of seeking it at difficult moments in his life. When people and events threatened to engulf him, he would steal off to lonely place to recover and to rededicate himself to the mission the Father had given him. In this way, he deepened this first desert experience.

We too need the 'desert' experience. In other words, we need a lonely place for reflection. Often, we live foolish and unspiritual lives. We get our priorities wrong. We are driven by stupid desires and imprisoned by selfish habits. We are surrounded by noise and constant activity. We are unable or unwilling to be alone, to be silent, to be still. And we wonder why we can't pray.

We need solitude. In solitude, we begin to stand on our own feet before God and the world and accept full responsibility for our own lives. The hermit goes into the desert, not to lose himself, but to find himself.

But if the source of our temptations is within us, our temptations will follow us into the desert. There we will meet our demons, our addictions, our lust, our anger, and our need of recognition and approval. We will change everything but what counts in our lives. We will adjust but not too much. We will change only if the changes do not discomfort us or cost us too dearly.

Because he himself has been through temptation, Jesus can empathise with us in our struggles with temptation. And because he was victorious over temptation, he can help us to be victorious also. Hence, we can approach him with confidence, knowing that we will have mercy from him and find grace in our time of need.

We don't go into the wilderness to escape from others, but to find them in God. 'Only in solitude and silence can I find the gentleness with which I can love my brothers and sisters' (Thomas Merton).

Jesus went into the desert and shared in our temptations. There he conquered the foe and made it possible for us to do the same. There is nothing we cannot master with the help of the One who strengthens us.

	9 th March Saturday 1 st Sunday of Lent	10 th March Sunday 1 st Sunday of Lent	16 th March Saturday Second Sunday of Lent	17 th March Sunday Second Sunday of March
Commentator	John Bennett	Margaret Burke	Betty Andrews	Parish-School Family Mass
1 st Reader	Bernard Liddington	Tania Sharkey-Tongauiha	Janet Liddington	Parish-School Family Mass
2 nd Reader	Tilla Miranda	Julia Leary	Collin Edward	Parish-School Family Mass
Offertory	Domilies family	Stowers family	Edward family	Parish-School Family Mass
Collectors	Lourdes Domilies George Tooman	Margaret Burke Valerian Luis	Peter Mendis Theresa Bennett	Parish-School Family Mass
Communion Ministers	Theresa Bennett Janet Liddington Jacinta Chow	Charmaine D'Lima Andy Tibbitts Russel D'lima	Bernard Liddington George Tooman Sabrina Freitas	Volunteer needed Volunteer needed Leonila Teodoro
Servers	James Hill Matthew Hill	Zhen Ng Kilian Casey	Josh Bennett Joshua Fernandez	Parish-School Family Mass
Musicians	Lara Miranda	Hannah and Martin	Chow family	Parish-School Family Mass
Data Projector	Collin Edward	Ng family	Chow family	Parish-School Family Mass
Children's Lit		As arranged		No Children's liturgy
Counters		Margaret Burke Andy Tibbitts		Margaret Burke Andy Tibbitts
Cleaning	Vietnamese Community		Tongan Community	
Flowers	Vietnamese Community		Tongan Community	
Church Linen	Gae'e Family			

The Parish is served by Redemptorist Missionaries
www.cssr.com, www.cssr.org.au

We welcome any visitors and new parishioners to our parish. If you would like to register, forms are available at the entrance of the church in the foyer. You can hand them in to Fr. Joy or in the parish office after filling them up.

This Sunday's Readings:

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

The confession of faith of the elect.

Psalms 90:1-2, 10-15

Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

Romans 10:8-13

The confession of faith of the believers in Christ.

Luke 4:1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Psalms 26:1, 7-9, 13-14

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 9:28-36

COME ENJOY THE NEW ZEALAND PREMIERE OF THE DOCUMENTARY FILM "THE HIDDEN REBELLION"

at The Parish Hall of the Immaculate Conception, Ellerslie 7pm SATURDAY 30th March 2019

The Hidden Rebellion uncovers the other side of the French Revolution: its persecution of the faith and the glorious stand of a Catholic people in France: the Vendéens.

Historians from four nations show how atheistic persecution started then and spread around the world, how this was followed by the resistance or the going underground of Christians in many countries.

Free admission but Koha (donations) are accepted.

Running time approximately 75 minutes. PG13

Do join us and invite your family and friends. God bless.

NZ CATHOLIC - \$4. The Mar. 10 – 23 issue of NZ Catholic is out now. Some headlines are: Radical Reforms and Catholic Schools. Abuse summit tough but needed says Cardinal Dew. Healthcare Mass in Christchurch. Two Catholics react to Jordan Peterson.



TO ALL MARCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

specially to Fr. Joy who celebrates his birthday on 9 March.

May the good Lord bless your birthday and your everyday with happiness, love and a wonderful life. Happy Birthday!



"Upcoming legislation intends to allow ABORTION UP TO BIRTH - If you're willing to come against this please email: tonybrebner@hotmail.com for full information and 'Open Letter' to all MPs."

CARPARKING – As you know, we do not have access to overflow carparking in the turf courts anymore. For the able bodied, we encourage parking on the surrounding streets or behind the presbytery in dry weather. Please leave the access beside the presbytery clear. Thank you.

"Lenten Giving Envelope Packs have been distributed today at mass. You can either use the weekly donation envelopes or use a single donation envelope. You may either return your donation envelopes during the parish offertory collection, or send them to Caritas directly. A freepost envelope is available for this option. NZ Post specifies that cash must not be sent through the post. Donations received by Caritas in these envelopes by 31 March will be sent receipts for the 2018/2019 tax. Thank you for your generous support.

Living Simply during Lent - In response to Pope Francis' urgent call to care for "Our Common Home" you may wish to take the Laudato Si' pledge by praying with and for creation, living more simply and advocating to protect our common home. See <http://livelaudatosi.org> <https://livelightly.nz/take-action>.

TAKATU KI TE MAU I TE RONGO PAI-CATHOLIC DIOCES E OF AUCKLAND FIT FOR MISSION PASTORAL PLAN 2014-2019

Jesus spends forty days and forty nights alone in the desert (Luke 4:1-13)

Jesus, lead by the Holy Spirit, tested

..... had own desert experience, hungry

..... Feeling lonely, isolated

..... needing strength, faith

Have I been led to a place ending up feeling alone, isolated, in need of strength? Was I surprised? Angry? At peace? Did I seek and

Thoughts to ponder during Lenten Season:

Don't forget that the saint is not the person who never falls, but rather the one who never fails to get up again, humbly and with a holy stubbornness - (Friends of God by St Josemaria Escriva)

Mercy Ships Every year a bunch of Kiwis head to West Africa to volunteer on-board an enormous hospital ship run by a Christian charity called Mercy Ships. Tonight The SUNDAY current affairs programme profiles them and their incredible work. TVONE – 7.30pm March 10th . Safeguarding The Catholic Church's National Office of Professional Standards (NOPS) has a new website <https://safeguarding.catholic.org.nz/> It contains information on reporting abuse, safeguarding and related policies.

2019 Fairfield Conference – Social Justice through Ethical Trade. 8-9 March 2019 AUt, Auckland. www.fairfieldconference.org.nz

Please pray for those who are sick especially Allan Turnock, Rowena Edgeworth, , Karen Mai, Mario De Silva and all those recovering from surgery or needing our prayers.

We remember those who have died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: *Mary Blake, Bill Watt, Andrea Puccinelli, Brigia Angland, Dorothy Kilgour, Tom Broome, Phillip Gould, Dianne Woods, Vicki Skeen, Francis Sandin, Jennifer Skeen, Reg de Thierry, Charles Corin, Frank Aplin, Edmond Nicholls, Patrick Kennedy, Rose Laurie, Mary Monaghan, Joseph Williams, Eileen Langham, Felisa O Tan, Thomas Patrick Monaghan, Peter Godinovich, Jan Shuker, David Lynch, Patrick Quinlan, John Furey, Mary Naughton, Fr. Matt Brady May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. For additions or amendments to the Prayers for the Sick or Anniversaries please e-mail or ring the parish.*

KEY DATES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

16 – Anointing mass at 9am

17 - Parish-School Family mass

18 – St. Patrick Day

19 – St. Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

31 – Junior Youth and Children's mass

Foodbank Can Collection 23 March - can everyone please bring a can or any non perishable item for Food Bank Basket please. Thank you very much

Central Auckland Grief Support is a peer support group for adults who have gone through grief or loss. Our next meeting is planned on Saturday 23 Mar 2 pm in the Hillsborough area. To find out more and to register, please contact Mabel at 625-8378.

St Paul's College, Catholic Boy's College, Ponsonby - We need unused Brass or woodwind instruments lying in attics or garages for use by our young men. For details contact the College office Phone: (09) 376 1287. Email: stpauls@stpaulscollege.co.nz. Payment in eternity. K. F. Fouhy - Headmaster

Family Life presents Weekend to remember – marriage gateways 5-7 April 2019 Waipuna Hotel Auckland. www.familylife.nz

Last Sunday's collection: \$1,097.10

Thank you for your kind generosity

Bank account number for people wishing to pay by automatic payment: Ellerslie parish Account - 02-0100-0120958-020 (BNZ)