



# PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ELLERSLIE

## Parish Priest:

Fr. George Areeckal, C.Ss.R

## Assistant Parish Priest:

Fr. Majesh (Thomas) Kurian C.Ss.R

## Chaplain Vietnamese Community

Fr. Andrew Nguyen

Ph. 266 2789

## 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.*

66 Main Highway Auckland NZ

Phone: (09) 579-5458

Parish Email:

icpellerslie@gmail.com

Parish website:

www.ellersliecatholic.org.nz

facebook: @icparishellerslie

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

## 9/10 JANUARY 2021

### MASS TIMES

(1 January – 31 January 2021)

Tuesday to Sunday – 9:00 am

### SACRAMENTS / DEVOTIONS

#### Exposition of the Blessed

##### Sacrament:

Friday & Saturday 8.00 - 9.00am

##### Rosary:

Saturday 8.30 am

Novena - Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Saturday 9.25am

Divine Mercy prayer: Friday 8.30am

#### Parish Pastoral Council Contacts:

**PPC Chairperson:** Andy Tibbitts

E-mail: icpellerslie@gmail.com

### This Sunday's Readings:

#### **Isaiah 55:1-11**

*Come to the waters, listen to my words and you shall have life.*

#### **1 John 5:1-9**

*The Spirit, the water and the blood give witness.*

#### **Mark 1:7-11**

*You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

### Next Sunday's Readings:

#### **Samuel 3:3-10, 19**

*Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening*

#### **Psalms 39:2, 4, 7-10**

*Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.*

#### **1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20**

*Your bodies are members of the body of Christ.*

#### **John 1:35-42**

*They saw where Jesus lived and they stayed with him.*

### GOSPEL REFLECTION: BAPTISM, A DEFINING MOMENT

Prior to his baptism, Jesus had lived for 30 years at Nazareth. During those years he had begun to hear another call – a call to the service of his brothers and sisters in the wider community. So finally he left Nazareth.

When he appeared before John to be baptized, he had reached a cross-roads in his life. He had left behind him the comparatively quiet life of Nazareth, and was about to embark on his public mission. No doubt he came to that moment after a lot of prayer and reflection. Nevertheless, it can't have been easy for him. He must have experienced some uncertainty and anxiety. He needed confirmation.

He received that confirmation at his baptism. There he heard the wonderful words of the Father: 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.' These words set the seal of divine approval on the mission he was about to begin. Though he was the beloved Son, he became a servant to the people to bring them back to God.

By accepting John's baptism, which was meant for sinners, Jesus, the Lamb without sin, joined the file of sinners lining up to be baptized by John. With this public gesture, he made himself one with sinners. He became our representative and carries the burden with us.

The heavenly Father's words of affirmation put wind in his sails. He not only received confirmation from on high for his mission, but also received power from on high for it. This is signified by the descent of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit remained with him throughout his public ministry.

The story of the baptism of Jesus is a lesson on what baptism means for Christians. From a spiritual point of view, baptism is the greatest thing that can happen to us. What happened at the baptism of Jesus happened at our baptism too. God calls us by name. He says to each of us, 'You are my beloved son,' or 'You are my beloved daughter.' And the Holy Spirit descends on us, because we too are given a mission, namely, to participate in the work of Jesus.

We are not called to save the world, or to solve all its problems. Nevertheless, each of us has our own unique call, in our families, in our work, in our world. Faithfulness to small everyday tasks is our way of responding to the problems of our time and of participating in the work of Jesus.

**St. Mary's Parish Hall Hire**

Ph. 579-5458

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

**Newsletter:** icparishellerslie@gmail.com

**Parish Finance Administrator:**

Margaret Burke QSM  
Ph: 579-5458

**Parish Pastoral Council Contacts:**

**PPC Chairperson:**

Andy Tibbitts  
E-mail: icpcellerslie@gmail.com

**St. Mary's Catholic School:**

Website: <http://www.stmary.school.nz/>  
Phone: (09) 09-579 8937

**NZ CATHOLIC** –\$4. The latest issue of NZ Catholic - Publication of the Year, Australasian Religious Press Association Awards 2020. Some headlines in this issue: Dunedin bishop reflects on St Joseph. Festival of Lights in Christchurch. March for Life in capital streets. Vandalism at east Auckland church.



The first step towards an attitude of worship is to “lift up our eyes”. When we lift up our eyes to God, life’s problems do not go away, but we feel certain that the Lord grants us the strength to deal with them.

**Safety Requirements & Procedures when entering the church: Please follow these practices for your safety and the safety of others.**

- \* Stay home if you are unwell or having any cold/ flu symptoms.
- \* Upon arrival, register by scanning the QR code
- \* Sanitize your hands.
- \* Feel free to wear face covering in the church

**Please pray for those who are sick and all those recovering from surgery.**

*Lynda Tunupopo, Jennifer Fewtrell, Gary Chen, Allan Turnock, Stanislav Szczepanski, Rowena Edgeworth,*

**We remember those who have died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

*Rev Fr. Des Angland, Kathleen Melican Hall, Manuel & Effie Fernandes, Kenneth Pinto, Elim students and teachers, Alice Tyne, Margaret Whitley, Eileen Murphy, Brother Morris, William Griffin, Charles Turner, Theo Jacobsen, Mary McNamara, Thomas Gardiner, Jim Edwards, Fr. Dennis Farrell, Joe Coleman, Margaret Webb, Tom Coyne, Carol Pringle, Helen Barnett, Ella Godwin, Ron Beckett, Morris Connor, Elsie Taylor, Mary Jane Snelgar, Lorrence McAnully, Owen O'Brien, Sr Afra RNDM, Gora Forde, Mary Wyke, Richard Coombe, Jim Clarke, Vera Handforth, David Skeen. **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.***

**The Parish is served by Redemptorist Missionaries**

[www.cssr.com](http://www.cssr.com), [www.cssr.org.au](http://www.cssr.org.au)

*We welcome any visitors and new parishioners to our parish. If you would like to register, please email the parish for a registration form. You can email them back or hand them in the office or to the parish clergy.*

**ELLERSLIE PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2021**

This parish - based programme is for the preparation of children who wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion.

The course will commence on Sunday 14th February 2021 after the 9.00 am mass in the parish hall. A candidate must be a **baptized Catholic**; in **Year 5 for 2021 School Year** and **active parishioner of our parish or of another parish (name of the parish)** to be enrolled in the course.

If you wish to enroll, please email [icpellerslie@gmail.com](mailto:icpellerslie@gmail.com) with the Subject Sacramental Programme for enrolment form. Forms can also be downloaded from our website [www.ellersliecatholic.org.nz](http://www.ellersliecatholic.org.nz). Enrolment closes 31st January 2021. **LATE ENROLMENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**NZpray2day** – is an app to encourage people to seek a moment to reflect, pray and respond to the ancient Christian cycle of seasons, saints and readings. Available from Apple's App Store or the Google Play Store; search for NZpray2day, It is free, a gift for you from Te Kupenga – the Catholic Leadership Institute.

To all parishioners celebrating their birthday this week,  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



**Parish of the Immaculate Conception, Ellerslie**

**66 Main Highway Ellerslie**

**NEW YEAR HOLIDAY TIME TABLE**

Friday, 1st January 2021 to Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 (inclusive)

- mass at 9:00 am

Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm

Sunday mass at 9:00 am

⊕ Usual timetable resumes from Tuesday, February 2, 2021 - mass at 8:00 am

