

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 5.30pm
 Sunday 9:00am
 Vietnamese Community 11:30am
 Syro- Malabar Community 2:15pm & 5.00pm
 Monday 8.00am
(Liturgy of the Word & Communion)

Tuesday to Thursday 8.00am
 Friday 9.00am
 Saturday 9.00am
 Public Holidays 9:00am

Confession/Reconciliation:
 Saturdays 9.45am onwards or by appointment

Pastoral Council Chairperson: Leonard Casey

SACRAMENTS / DEVOTIONS

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
 Friday & Saturday 8.00 – 9.00am
Rosary: Saturday 8.45am
Novena: Saturday 9.25am (Our Lady of Perpetual Help)
Divine Mercy prayer: Friday 8.30am

Parish Office Administrator:
 Bambi Lee
 Ph. 579-5458
 Email: icpellerslie@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tues to Fri: 9:00am -1:00 pm
Hall Hire: Ph. 579-5458

St. Mary's Catholic School:
 Website: <http://www.stmary.school.nz/>

ROSTER

	9 TH September Saturday 5:30pm	10 TH September Sunday 9.00am 23 rd Sunday in OT	16 TH September Saturday 5:30pm	17 TH September Sunday 9.00am 23 rd Sunday in OT
Commentator	Evelyn Leech	Andy Tibbitts	Tilla Miranda	Leonila Teodoro
1st Reader	Lara Miranda	Theresa Stowers	Charmaine D'Lima	Judy MacMenigal
2nd Reader	John Szczepanski	Alekhyia Kondaveeti	Sabrina Freitas	Leonard Casey
Communion	Sabrina Freitas	Sine Foulger	Bernard Liddington	Sheila D'Souza
Altar Servers Group	Cyrus Jesudas & Joshua Fernandez	Lalith Pudota & Andrew Kurukuntaia	Misha & Damen Budiono, Christian Domilies	Taiaopo & Vincent Lafele
Collectors	Lourdes & Christian Domilies	Amanda Yuen Lo & Rizallee Galvez	John & Theresa Bennett	Margaret Bourke & Amanda Yuen Lo
Musicians	Charmaine D'Lima	Martin Ng	Chow Family	To be confirmed
Laptop Operator	D'Lima Family	Ng Family	Jacinta Chow	volunteer required
Offertory Group	Miranda Family	Tavite Family	Liddington Family	Fuimaono Family
Counters		Margaret Burke & Ju Lin Lim		Sarah Ulmer & Andrew Sue
Church Cleaning	Vietnamese Community		Tongan Comm, Rizallee Galvez, Joleen Millard	
Flowers group	Vietnamese Community		Tongan Community, Rizallee Galvez	

If you would like to volunteer in our Liturgy Committee, please reach out to the Parish Office at icpellerslie@gmail.com

Last Sunday's collection: \$ 1456.90

Thank you so much for your kind generosity.
 Kindly note **NEW** bank account detail below:

BNZ 02-0108-0706777-00.

Kids Korner and and Parent's Ponderings

*The 23rd Sunday in Ord Time
 I am with You Always*

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 in the foyer or send an email to icpellerslie@gmail.com for the form.

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.

PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ELLERSLIE

Parish Priest:
 Fr. George Areeckal, C.Ss.R
Assistant Parish Priest:
 Fr. Majesh (Thomas) Kurian, C.Ss.R
Vietnamese Community: Mr. Tu Ngo
 021851746



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 Ellerslie

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time. 9 / 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

Harden not your hearts

Today's readings stress the responsibility to correct an erring brother or sister. This duty falls most heavily on the leaders in the community (see First Reading). But it is the duty of every Christian.

But the readings also stress the onus on the one corrected to repent. The consequences of not doing so are also stressed. 'If the wicked man does not repent, he will die in his sin' (First Reading) And the Gospel says, 'If he refuses to listen ... treat him as a pagan or a tax collector.' In other words, excommunicate him.

The warning is addressed to serious evildoers. But it has relevance for us all. To a greater or lesser extent all of us are drawn towards evil. And once we succumb, it is hard to break free. Each time we repeat an evil choice it becomes more of a habit, to the point where it eventually becomes part of our character.

Every evil act tends to harden a person's heart. The more a person's heart hardens, the less freedom there is to change. But the opposite is also true. Every good deed tends to soften a person's heart. Every time we do something good, we make it easier to do good again. From a spiritual point of view, hardness of heart is one of the worst things that can happen to anyone. A hard heart is a closed heart, so it can't receive. A hard heart inevitably becomes a barren heart. To adopt a hard-hearted attitude is to maim oneself. 'Fear not that your heart might be broken; fear, rather, that it might turn into a stone' (Oscar Wilde).

God is calling us from the error of our ways into a closer relationship with him and with one another. And it is to the heart that the call of God comes. Unfortunately, the heart is not always receptive. To harden our hearts against one another is bad enough. But to harden our hearts against God would be the ultimate calamity. It would mean that God himself could not get through to us.

God longs for our hearts, and is continually calling us into communion with him and with one another. When we heed the voice of God everything changes. Softened by the rain of God's grace, and warmed by the sun of his love, the human heart can be turned from a wasteland into fertile ground. Jesus came not to condemn us but to save us. In order to be saved, we have to confess our sins. But this is seldom easy. Pride makes it difficult for us to confess. However, if we do confess our sins, we have nothing to fear but the mercy of God.

This Sunday's Readings:

1st Reading: . Ezek 33:7-9: If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

2nd Reading: Rom 13:8-10: Love is the fulfilment of the Law. Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mt 18:15-20: If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

The Season of Creation A message from the CDA Justice & Peace Commission: In this Season of Creation, we pray that "justice and peace can flow like a never-failing stream of pure water, nourishing humanity and all creatures." Pope Francis.

Masterclass. Auckland Catholic Ministries to Young People is excited to bring you our 3rd Masterclass on **Sat 16th September 3:30pm**. This quarterly run event is dedicated to equipping, empowering and energising young leaders for ministry. *Get ready for keynote speakers, workshops, praise and worship, adoration, and plenty of opportunities to network with other leaders. Plus free coffee and some fantastic kai!*

If you're a youth or young adult leader, you NEED to be at Masterclass. Due to venue space, registrations are limited, so don't miss out on this fantastic formation opportunity. We can't wait to have you join us! Go to @AKCYM on Facebook to register, or contact felicitym@cda.org.nz with any queries.

Liturgy of Repentance and Reconciliation. For fifty-five years the Methodist and Catholic Churches have been in ecumenical dialogue. The New Zealand Catholic Methodist Dialogue Committee invites you to join with **Bishop Steve Lowe** preaching. **Wed | 25 October 7:30 pm** Methodist Church, 427 Lake Road, Takapuna

Ethnic Chaplaincies Annual Festival is back! Sancta Maria School and St Luke Church, Flatbush, **Sat - Sun 7th - 8th Oct 2023**. The Ethnic faith communities will once again Rise Up and Shine showcasing their "riches of nations"! If you want to organise/volunteer email louisar@cda.org.nz. **See Poster on Noticeboard.**

The Instrumentum Laboris is the official working document for the October gathering of the Synod on Synodality. All have been invited to engage with the document. The diocesan website <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/synod/> contains basic details of structure and purpose. It includes the following link to a short introductory video created by the Palmerston North diocese.

<https://youtu.be/9gt3Uzgvwgo?si=345bIEkXGybWkLkx>

DATES TO REMEMBER for the month of SEPTEMBER

20th Sept – Liturgy Committee Meeting

27th Sept – Finance Committee Meeting

NZ Catholic for sale in church foyers again. Price \$4.00 Some headlines: Dunedin angels to stand at cathedral high altar again. Family gathering with prelate for Opus Dei members. Auckland Catholic college to get \$20 million science facility. Alleged multiplication of hosts investigated as possible eucharistic miracle.

2024 Columban Art Calendar available \$12.00 Contact the Parish Office to arrange for payment and collection.

Rite of Christian Initiation (RCI)

An invitation to come and see

The Rite of Christian Initiation is a faith journey into the Catholic faith. It starts with an 'Introduction session', and 6 weeks enquiry sessions.

This RCI 2023/2024 prog runs for 6 months and finishes with a celebration of receiving the Sacraments at Easter Vigil.

Starts 1st of October 2023 (Sunday).

For more information email – Theresa:

theresa_stowers@hotmail.com

Who is it for?

- Children over 7 years of age of Catholic parents who have not been baptised.
- Those who are not Catholics, who want to learn and ask questions about the Catholic faith.
- Adults or teenagers who have been baptised Catholics who have not stayed connected with the Catholic faith and have not received the Sacraments of Confirmation or Holy Communion. Who now want to nurture their faith and relationship with God again.

Would you like to make this parish your home church? Or would you like to participate in our parish activities?

IF yes, you are invited to fill in a Registration Form available in the foyer or you can email the Parish Office for a digital copy.

Please pray for those who are sick, especially:

Jumer Cosme, Nigel Casey-Poole, Valerian Luis, George Tooman, Joan Luis, Gary Chen, Rowena Edgeworth, Ems Pengosro, Alvyne Rose R. Eslava, Connee Robertson, Josie Pearson 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:

*Ethel Clarke, Julia Mundy, Rita Cairn, Anna Godinovich, O' Sullivan, Anthony Mellawa, William A Wolfram, Rose Matthews, Charles Barron, Fr. O'Meegan, Michael Domilies, Sheila Holland, Katarian Panoff, William Smith, Eliza McSweeney, Joan Barr, Mick Murray, Gloria Yelavich, Helen Goldstone, Henrica A M Bruynel, George Briant, Agnes Heighton, Clarence Parkinson, Martin Dwyer, Mavis McDonald, Maud Strong, Ruka Brown, Milton Walters, Eliza Enriquez, Iona Fleming, Myra McGann, Maurangi Pore, John Barry, Funeali'I Stewart, Timbov Zambo, Elizabeth Tooman, Mary Tonks, Paul van Hees, Yine On Mar (Richard) **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 the Parish Office*

Upcoming Retreats & Events at St Francis Retreat

Centre:

For more info/dates and to book visit www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz / 09 625 6651

Time Out Days – For those who seek a day retreat 9:30am – 2:30pm (\$30.00 includes lunch)
| Thu 7 Sep | Tue 3 Oct | Wed 1 Nov

St Francis Open Day - Join us to celebrate the Feast of St Francis. Come explore the grounds and learn more about St Francis. There will also be an Animal Blessing Service so please bring your pets
| Sun 1 Oct 2pm-4pm.

Contemplative Prayer Retreat- Want to deepen your faith? Join us to learn about fruits of the journey of meditation in the Christian Tradition
| Sat 7 Oct 10am-4pm

Catholic Women's League Orakei – Eastern Suburbs,

HAMILTON GARDENS VISIT

Tuesday, 26th September, 2023.

Catholic Women's League Orakei - Eastern Suburbs invites ladies and men to our outing which is in aid of charity.

Meet at the RSA Orakei, 178 Kepa Road, Orakei 1071 at 9.00am back by 3.30pm. Lunch at the Hamilton Gardens Café. included in fee.
For more information, please ring Tina Raines on 021 940 950/09-5212499
or email tinairaines@gmail.com
(Details on Noticeboard)