

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm
Sunday	9:00am
Vietnamese Community	11:30am
Syro- Malabar Community	2:15pm & 5.00pm

Weekday Masses @ 9.00 am
(until the 31st Jan 2024)

Confession/Reconciliation:

Saturdays 9.45am onwards or by appointment

Pastoral Council Chairperson: Leonard Casey

SACRAMENTS / DEVOTIONS

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Fri & Sat 8.00am – 9.00am

Divine Mercy prayer:

Friday 8.30am

Rosary:

Saturday 8.30am

Novena:

Saturday 9.25am

(Our Lady of Perpetual Help)

Parish Office Administrator:

Bambi Lee

Ph. 579-5458

Email: icpellerslie@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tue to Fri: 9:00am -1:00 pm

Hall Hire: Ph. 579-5458

St. Mary's Catholic School:

Website: <http://www.stmary.school.nz/>

Mass Roster

Please note Andy is away till the 15th of Jan. Roles below are default assignments based on a monthly roster. If you are not available, please find your replacement to fill in your position where you can. Thank

20/01/2024	21/01/2024	27/01/2024	28/01/2024
Sat 5.30pm	Sun 9.00am	Sat 5.30pm	Sun 9.00am
	3rd Sun of Ord Time		4th Sun of Ord Time

Commentator
& Prayers of Faithful

1st Reader

2nd Reader

Communion

Minister

Altar Servers

Collectors

Musicians

Laptop

Operator

Offertory

Group

Counters

Church

Cleaning

Flowers group

There are no assigned duties in January.

*If you are able to assist,
please contact Theresa Stowers at
theresa_stowers@hotmail.com.
Subject title: Volunteering Mass Roster*

If you wish like to volunteer on a regularly basis in our Liturgy Committee, please email Parish Office, Theresa Stowers
theresa_stowers@hotmail.com and Andy Tibbitts
andytibbittsnz@outlook.com

As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10 (RSV)

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 OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ELLERSLIE

Parish Priest:

Fr. Joseph V.J., C.Ss.R

Assistant Parish Priest:

Fr. Sijo John, C.Ss.R

Vietnamese Comm:

Mr.Tu Ngo 021851746



66 Main Highway, Auckland NZ

(09) 579-5458

icpellerslie@gmail.com

www.ellersliecatholic.org.nz

Facebook: Immaculate Conception Parish

Ellerslie

The 3rd Sun of Ordinary Time

20/ 21 JAN 2024

The call to discipleship

St Mark gives the impression that the call of the first disciples was a very formal event, and one that came out of the blue without any previous knowledge of, or relationship with, Jesus. But St John shows that this was not the case. John makes it clear that their relationship with Jesus passed through a stage of growth and development. People don't spontaneously follow a complete stranger. It's clear that the four (Simon and Andrew, James and John) had previous contact with Jesus. They probably began by standing in the crowd, listening to him. That would have resulted in admiration, which made them want to get to know him personally. Once they met him, and felt the magnetism of his personality, they were attracted to him. This is what made possible their decision to follow him. This explains why, when the call finally came, their response was so immediate and complete. They left everything - livelihood, possessions, security, family ties - and devoted themselves exclusively to the following of Jesus.

Down the ages many believers have made the same total commitment to Christ. Even though his call 'Follow me' sounds like a command, it was of course but an invitation. Who were these men? They were fishermen. Fishing was an important occupation. But Jesus called them to an even more important occupation. He offered them not just a new work but a cause to which to dedicate their lives. They knew he wasn't calling them to a life of ease. Quite the contrary. As fishermen, they would have been well acquainted with hardship already. They understood also that Jesus' call was a call to service of others: will make you fishers of people. When the leaders of cults call people to follow them, they turn them into their personal slaves. Jesus called the apostles, not to service of himself, but to service of others. His call meant sacrificing their own plans, ambitions, securities, and so on. It was a dangerous adventure because they were moving from the known to the unknown. But they also knew that his call offered an opportunity to live a fuller and more worthwhile life. Up to this point, they had a career. Now they would have a vocation. A career and a vocation are different though not mutually exclusive. We might express a vocation through a specific career ... teacher, nurse, doctor ... But a vocation can never be reduced to these activities. It is something deeper. It involves vision, motivation, dedication. A career usually means furthering oneself. But a vocation means serving others. The fact that they accepted this challenge so whole-heartedly tells us a lot about the kind of men they were. Yet they weren't supermen. They were just ordinary people. No one ever believed in the ordinary people as much as Jesus did. One doesn't have to be an exceptional person to be a disciple of Jesus.

The Lord still calls people today, and the need is just as great today. And there still are those who respond. Some people (like the four apostles) are called to dedicate themselves totally and in a 'professional' way to the following of Christ. But not all Christians are called to follow Christ in this way. The idea of a call runs counter to the prevailing culture. The thinking today is that we can live an uncalled life - one not referred to any purpose beyond oneself. It's not easy to allow oneself to be chosen. Left to ourselves we tend to follow the line of least resistance. Hence, we need someone to challenge us, who has our best interests at heart, and who will not let us settle for anything less than the best that we are capable of. **What does the following of Christ mean for the ordinary person?** It means to be a Christian where you are and in your chosen profession. There are more ways than one of serving Christ and his Gospel. The call in the first instance is not to an apostolate but to discipleship.

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.

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10: The Ninevites renounced their evil ways.

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 7:29-31: The world as we know it is passing away.

Gospel: Mk 1:14-20: Repent and believe the Good News.



Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading: Deut 18:15-20: I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 7:32-35: The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.

Gospel: Mk 1:21-28: This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.

Parish Notices:

- **Alpha programme** – We have a new Alpha programme starting on the 17th of Feb 2024 (Saturday evenings). Those interested in joining the programme are requested to register their names using the QR code below or on forms available in church foyer.
- **Family Visits** – If you wish to have the visit of the parish priests for prayers and blessings in your family, please contact the parish office on (09) 579-5458 during office hours or via email at icpellerslie@gmail.com.
- **2024 Sacramental Programme** – Parents of Year 5 baptised students can now register ONLINE for our parish 2024 Sacramental programme via our parish website: <https://ellersliecatholic.org.nz/sacramenta-programme-2021/sacramental-programme/>
Check the key dates online (or on info sheets available in church foyer) and that you meet the criteria before registering.
Applications strictly closes on 25th Feb 2024.
- **Children's Liturgy** – Will recommence once school term begins. More details are to come soon.



Would you like to enhance your parish experience by actively participating in our small group activities, fostering community, spiritual growth, and shared fellowship?

Feel Free to participate in our active groups and reach out to the leads below:-

Faith Sharing Group - Raphael Ng	ngahthong@gmail.com
Marian Mothers Group - Anne Casey	tradebox.annecasey@yahoo.co.nz
Divine Mercy Novena Group - Sheila D'Souza	celinsheilds@gmail.com
Youth Group - Cyrus Jesudas	cyrusjesudas@gmail.com
Alpha Programme - Graeme White	gwhite@orcon.net.nz
Food Bank Delivery- Evelyn Leech	sandeleech@gmail.com
Hospitality (morning tea) helpers always welcome	icpellerslie@gmail.com

~UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER~

Weekday Masses @ 9.00 am
(until the 31st Jan 2024)

29th Jan – Auckland Anniversary (Public Holiday)

2nd Feb – The Presentation of the Lord

6th Feb – Waitangi Day

14th Feb – Ash Wednesday

1st Feb – Special Collection – Lenten Appeal

24th Feb – Chinese New Year



2024 Bible Diaries for Sale
@\$20.00

Buy 1 get ONE FREE

A pop up Sale table will be in the church foyer this Sunday. If you would like one, please bring cash.



Please pray for those who are sick, especially:

Edward Salvatore Fleming, Lily Chua, Carrie Canapi, Janilyn Novelas, 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 and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Elsie Waite, Terence P Flynn, Gretchen Hawkins, Charlie Green, Raymond Heard, James Costello, Hugh Duffin, John O'Dea, Frank Forde, John P Lawlet, Monica Berkhout, Francisco Vasquez, Dick Healey, Pacita Nanam, Sydney Coles, David Gamble, Sybil Halloran, John Robertson, Michael Mullin, Anthony Marino, Mary Turnock, Kevin Forde **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**

30/31 Dec Complete Sunday's collection: \$ 2379.40

6/7 Jan Complete Sunday's collection: \$ 1310.30

13/14 Jan Complete Sunday's collection: \$ 1707.80

Thank you so much for your kind generosity. Kindly note our bank account details are as below:
BNZ 02-0108-0706777-00.

Planning a new years resolution?

Why not consider volunteering at our Parish?

If you would like to volunteer at Mass Services, contact Theresa Stowers
theresa_stowers@hotmail.com

If you have a passion to grow our children's faith, Reach out to Anne Casey
tradebox.annecasey@yahoo.co.nz OR Judy
judymacmen@gmail.com (Sacramental prog)

Or if you would like to help out in other areas like music, choir, ushering, altar serving, flower arrangement, church cleaning, hospitality or in the Alpha programme?

Email the Office and you will be directed to the right persons.

Food bank Co-Coordinator wanted

Anyone still interested to share the role of Food bank coordinator with Evelyn in her food bank duties.

Contact Evelyn on 0274 722117 or email
sandeleech@gmail.com