

**MASS TIMES**

**Sunday** 9:00am  
 Sun Vietnamese Community 11:30am  
 Sun Syro- Malabar Comm 2:15pm & 5.00pm

**Monday** 8.00am  
*(Liturgy of the Word & Communion)*

**Tuesday to Thursday** 8.00am  
**Friday** 9.00am  
**Saturday** 9.00am  
 Saturday Vigil Mass 5.30pm  
 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:**  
 Fri & Sat 8.00am

**Divine Mercy prayer:** Friday 8.30am  
**Way of the Cross:** *(During Lent)* Friday 6.00pm

**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](mailto:icpellerslie@gmail.com)  
 Office Hours: Tue to Fri: 9:00am -1:00 pm  
 Hall Hire: Ph. 579-5458

**St. Mary's Catholic School:**  
 Principal: Mrs. Sue Kubala  
 Website: <http://www.stmary.school.nz/>  
 Ph: 09-579 8937

**Mass Roster**

	Sat	Sun	Sat	Sun
<b>Date/ Time</b>	06/04/2024 Sat 17:30pm	07/04/2024 Sun 09:00am	13/04/2024 Sat 17:30pm	14/04/2024 Sun 09:00am
<b>Name of Week</b>		Divine Mercy Sunday		3rd Sun of Easter
<b>Commentators &amp; PoF</b>	Deepak Jesudas	Filipino Community	Betty Andrews	Evelyn Leech
<b>1st Reader</b>	Mercy Edward	Filipino Community	Eugene Miranda	Sine Foulger
<b>2nd Reader</b>	John Szczepanski	Filipino Community	Tilla Miranda	Judy MacMenigal
<b>Communion</b>	Theresa Bennett	Leonila Teodoro	Sabrina Freitas	Sheila D'Souza
<b>Altar servers</b>	Cyrus & Cheryl Jesudas	Maya MacMenigall & Jojo Taylor	Aaron D'Lima & Shavidhu Fernando	Lalith Pudota, Andrew Kurukuntala & Raqnar Felcy Kurukuntala & Andrea Solomon
<b>Collectors</b>	Theresa & John Bennett	Lotofusi Tuisaemo & Marqaret Burke	Wongso Family	Martin Ng
<b>Musician</b>	<i>Volunteer Req</i>	Filipino Comm & Bambi	Charmaine D'lima	Martin Ng
<b>Laptop</b>	Lara Miranda	Filipino Community	D'lima Family	Ng Family
<b>Offertory</b>	Edward Family	Filipino Community	Miranda Family	Tina D'Souza
<b>Counters</b>		Andy Tibbitts & Ian McCombe		Margaret Burke & Ju Lin Lim
<b>Church Cleaning</b>	Tongan Comm		Vietnamese Comm	
<b>Flower Arrangements</b>	Filipino Comm		Vietnamese Comm	
<b>Morning Tea</b>			0	0

Dear Mass volunteers, 2 Monthly Rosters are now available. If you haven't received it, contact Office to ensure we have your contact details up to date.

For any roster changes, please email Parish Office and Andy Tibbitts  
[andytibbittsnz@outlook.com](mailto:andytibbittsnz@outlook.com)

**Last Sunday's collection: \$2723.40**

**Caritas Total Collection: \$1145.00**

Thank you so much for your kind generosity. Kindly note our bank account details are as below.

**BNZ 02-0108-0706777-00.**

**Kids' Korner Links**  
 Celebrating 2nd Sunday of Easter  
 Don't Judge

**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, forms are available in the foyer or send an email to [icpellerslie@gmail.com](mailto: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. Joseph V.J., C.Ss.R

**Assistant Parish Priest:**  
 Fr. Sijo John, C.Ss.R

**Vietnamese Comm:**  
 Mr. Tu Ngo 021851746



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 Facebook: Immaculate Conception Parish Ellerslie

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**06 / 07 April 2024**

**What is essential is invisible**



"Unless I see it and touch it, I will not believe it," said Thomas. This statement reflects a rational and logical approach that is prevalent in today's society. It suggests that everything can be rationally explained and that any obscurity can be illuminated by scientific inquiry.

Of course, we must be guided by reason, but we must also listen to the imagination and the heart. There are aspects of life that cannot be understood by purely rational means.

Science is not everything. To adopt Thomas' approach would be to condemn ourselves to living in a purely material world. But some of the most important ingredients of life can neither be seen nor touched. There is a layer of reality that eludes the senses but is, nevertheless, absolutely real. The visible world is only part of a greater world that includes invisible realities from which it draws its chief significance.

Seeing and hearing can be crutches that prevent us from thinking, feeling, and imagining. Often, the handicapped have more feeling and more perception than the so-called normal. Vision, insight, understanding, and perception have little to do with seeing. Many people prefer facts to vision. When a person knows something, really knows it, deep down in their heart, they don't have to argue about it or prove it. They just know it, and that's enough. We are no longer sufficiently aware of the importance of what we cannot know intellectually and which we must know in other ways.

Nevertheless, we can sympathize with Thomas. He was merely echoing the human cry for certainty. However, here on Earth, there is no absolute certainty about God and spiritual realities. We have to be content with "seeing a dim reflection in a mirror." We are not looking through an open door but peering through a chink. This chink is big enough to let the light in but not so big as to eliminate the wonder and the mystery. Too much light or too little light, and we are blind.

Rationalists approach God and religion as something that can be understood and explained; mystics approach God as something mysterious that can neither be understood nor explained but only experienced. Faith takes us where our senses cannot go. But which is stronger: faith without doubts or faith that contends with doubt?

**Divine Mercy Sunday**

Today is a special day, that serves as a profound occasion for reflection upon the boundless compassion and forgiveness bestowed by God. The origins of this observance can be traced back to the revelations received by St. Faustina Kowalska, who conveyed messages from Jesus regarding His Divine Mercy.

On this day, Catholic adherents engage in special masses, venerate the Divine Mercy image, and partake in the sacrament of reconciliation. It stands as a day of profound hope and spiritual renewal, offering solace and comfort to those seeking God's mercy.

## Mass Readings

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Acts 4:32-35: A picture of the how the first Christians lived community.

**Resp Psalm:** Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 1 Jn 5:1-6: Christians, children of God, show their love by keeping his commandment.

**Gospel:** Jn 20:19-31: When he touched the wounds of the risen Jesus, Thomas' doubt was turned into faith.



## ~UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER~

7<sup>th</sup> Apr – Divine Mercy Sunday

12<sup>th</sup> Apr – End of St Mary's School Term

25<sup>th</sup> Apr – Anzac Day

29<sup>th</sup> Apr – Start of School term 2

Please continue to pray for Father Joseph as he attends the conference and visits his family in India.



## Parish Notices

**TAX RECEIPTS COMING....** Please note the Parish Office is preparing your 2023-24 tax receipts. They should be ready by week 1 of May. Thank you for your patience.

**PLEDGE ENVELOPES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ENVELOP PACKS** (for those not using Pledge envelops) are now available for you to collect in the church foyer.

**NZ CATHOLIC MAGAZINES** \$4.00 for sale in Foyer. Some headlines for this issue: Relics of 11 saints coming to NZ. Hamilton bishop urges blokes to know Jesus. Wellington cathedral to open in June. Divine Mercy advert controversy surprises advertiser.

**DIVINE MERCY NOVENA** (March 29th – April 6th) In preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday (April 7th), a 9 day Novena begins in our Church and is held after the Mass. All are encouraged to join it.

## SAFEGUARDING WITHIN OUR PARISH

Volunteers who take Children's liturgy and part of groups that help with the young and vulnerable, need to attend a diocesan safeguarding workshop. Next online workshop is on Thursday **11th April 7.00pm**. Details on noticeboard or via Lisa-May Gray [Lisam@cda.org.nz](mailto:Lisam@cda.org.nz)

## ATTENTION ALL MINISTER OF THE WORD AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Liturgy Centre is offering training/refreshers for Ministers of the Word and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. These workshops will consist of context, prayer, and practical formation in these areas. Participants will only need to attend ONE of these workshops. All will receive a certificate upon completion. Workshop is on

**14th April | East (St Mark Pakuranga) 1pm-3pm (with light lunch provided)**

Register via the link below:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/liturgy-prayer/formation/>

## The Adult Formation Level 1 Part 1 of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Course

A foundation course for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program from 3 up to 12 years old. St Mark's



Pakuranga will be hosting the next NZ Adult Formation for Level 1.

More info on Noticeboard OR You can scan the QR code on the flyer to sign up. Places limited.

## The Relics of the Saints

The Catholic community in Auckland will have a unique and historic opportunity to welcome the relics of saints from both the Eastern and Western Catholic Churches.

The relics of the Saints will be welcomed at the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph on **Saturday 27 April at 3pm** in the presence of visiting Bishops of the Eastern Catholic Church of New Zealand. The special welcome will be **followed by mass at 4pm**.

**The relics of the Saints will be welcomed at Immaculate Conception Church, Ellerslie on Friday, May 3rd at 6 pm.** All are welcome to take this opportunity to welcome the relics here. This is followed by Mass (Syro-Malabar) at 7 pm. They'll leave the church after 9am Sat Mass.

## Diocese Notices and more...

### Building a Thriving Parish

**Wed | 24 April | 7-9pm | St Francis Retreat Centre**, 50 Hillsborough Rd, Hillsborough

Part 2 of the Go Make Disciples series of presentations on Parish Renewal. We will be sharing experiences, challenges, and practical tools and insights to help you as Lay Leaders to help your parish thrive.. Koha appreciated on the night. RSVP to [stephenf@cda.org.nz](mailto:stephenf@cda.org.nz)

**(Details on Noticeboard)**

### For Retreats & Events at St Francis Retreat Centre

- Lenses of Love
- Gospel of Mark Retreat
- Time Out Days
- 24Hr Quietude

[www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz](http://www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz) or call 09 625 6651

**(Details on Noticeboard)**

### Upcoming Events at Mary MacKillop Centre (Details on Noticeboard)

### Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College new webinar series.

A Taste of Theology from **April-December 2024 every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month**. These are 1 hour sessions with topics on Philosophy, Canon Law, Spirituality, Scripture, Moral Theology, etc. Four sessions revisit the documents of Vatican II. Cost of \$60.00. More info and to register, [www.tekupenga.ac.nz/tasteoftheology](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/tasteoftheology).

### Christian Women's League Orakei

**Wed 24th April | 11 am | St. Joseph's Church Hall, Orakei.** CWL is hosting a talk on Middle East conflicts and Geopolitical Shifts by Prof. Stephen Hoadley, (Auckland University) This is done with Caritas NZ and their partners in Jerusalem in aid of the Palestinian children in Gaza. For more info, ring Tina Raines on 021 940 950/09-5212499. **(Details on Noticeboard)**

**Titipounamu Study & Joy upcoming series** For more info: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.nz)

## Please pray for those who are sick, especially:

*Margaret Burke, 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:

*Margaret Tooman, Leopino Foliaki, Victorino Teodoro, Margaret O'Donnell, Thomas Donaghy, Walter Voordouw, Jane Aisher, Dennis McKenna, Jack Forsman, Fr. Joe Shepherd, Leo Foliaki, Richard O'Donnell, John Hitchen, Ester Tooman, Nicholas Sokolich, Charles Stoneham, Mona Hallam, Fr. Andrew Faith, Anne Nazareth, Eric Gimblett, John Bew, Cecil Lynch, Graham Family, Phillip Gould, Dave O'Carroll, Gertrude Sullivan, Catherine Morris, Paul Dobbs, Terrens P McMullen, William Bain, Violet Highman, Dennis Holland, George Clarke, Hughie Duggan, Verle Page, Monica Jones 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*

## Parish Activities

To foster community, spiritual growth, and shared fellowship, please come along to our small group activities that we have in this parish:-

**Alpha Programme**  
Graeme White  
[alphaellersliecatholic@gmail.com](mailto:alphaellersliecatholic@gmail.com)

**Divine Mercy Novena Group** – Sheila D'Souza  
[celinsheilds@gmail.com](mailto:celinsheilds@gmail.com)

**Faith Sharing Group**  
Raphael Ng  
[ngahthong@gmail.com](mailto:ngahthong@gmail.com)

**Food Bank Delivery**  
Evelyn Leech  
[sandeleech@gmail.com](mailto:sandeleech@gmail.com)

**Marian Mothers Grp**  
Anne Casey  
[tradebox.annecasey@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:tradebox.annecasey@yahoo.co.nz)

**Parish History Group** –  
Claudia Forycki  
[cforycki@water.co.nz](mailto:cforycki@water.co.nz)

**Jnr & Snr Youth Group** –  
Cyrus Jesudas  
[cyrusjesudas@gmail.com](mailto:cyrusjesudas@gmail.com)

**RCI and Sacramental Prog**  
Theresa Stowers  
[Theresa\\_Stowers@hotmail.com](mailto:Theresa_Stowers@hotmail.com)