

MASS TIMES

Sunday 9:00 am
 Sun Vietnamese Community 11:30 am
 Sun Syro- Malabar Comm 7.00 am, 1.45 pm & 5.30 pm

Monday to Thursday (during Lent) 8.00am
Friday 9.00am
Saturday 9.00am
 Saturday Vigil Mass 5.30pm
 Public Holidays 9:00am

SACRAMENTS / DEVOTIONS

Confession/Reconciliation:
 Saturdays 9.45am onwards or by appointment

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
 Fri & Sat 8.00am
Divine Mercy prayer: Friday 8.30am
 Way of the Cross: Friday 6 pm.
Rosary: Saturday 8.30am
Novena: Saturday 9.25am
 (Our Lady of Perpetual Help)

Pastoral Council Chairperson: Leonard Casey

Parish Office Administrator: Bambi Lee
 Phone: 579-5458
 Email: icpellerslie@gmail.com
 Office Hours: Tue to Friday 9:00am -1:00 pm
 Hall Hire: 579-5458

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

MASS ROSTER

Date/Time	08/03/2025 Sat 17:30pm	09/03/2025 Sun 09:00am	15/03/2025 Sat 17:30pm	16/03/2025 Sun 09:00am
Name of Week		1st Sunday of Lent		2nd Sunday of Lent
Commentators & PoF	Lara Miranda	Greg Carl	Charmaine D'Lima	Evelyn Leech
1st Reader	<i>Volunteer Req</i>	Sheila D'Souza	Russel D'Lima	Tina D'Souza
2nd Reader	John Szczepanski	Rizalee Galvez	Tilla Miranda	Taiapo Lafaale
Communion	Sabrina Freitas	Sheila D'Souza & Albert Wolfgram	Rolinda D'Souza	Andy Tibbits
Altar servers	Christian D & Shavidhu Fernando	Lalith Pudota, Andrew Kurukuntala & Raqnar Ordone	Rachelann D'Lima	Vincent Lafaale, Ragnar Ordone & Robert Liu
Collectors	Finau Family	Felcy Kurukuntala & Andrea Solomon	<i>Volunteer Req</i>	Katrina & Amanda Yuen Lo
Musician	Charmaine & Claudia	Martin Ng & family	Chow Family	Christian D & Theresa
Laptop	D'Lima Family	Ng Family	Jacinta Chow	Theresa Stowers
Offertory	Miranda Family	Yuen Lo Family	Bennett Family	Fuimaono Family
Counters		Margaret Burke & Ju Lin Lim		Sarah Ulmer & Andrew Tsue
Church Cleaning	Vietnamese Comm		Tongan Comm	
Flower Arrangements	Vietnamese Comm		Tongan Comm	
Morning Tea				

Last week's collection (incl Auto Payments): \$2396.70

Thank you so much for your kind generosity.

Our bank account **BNZ 02-0108-0706777-00**

Kid's Korner Links

[1st Sunday of Lent](#)
[Lenten Reflection](#)

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.



OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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, Ellerslie,
 Auckland NZ
 (09) 579-5458
icpellerslie@gmail.com

www.ellersliecatholic.org.nz
<https://www.facebook.com/icpellerslie>

The 1st Sunday of Lent

08 / 09 Mar 2025

The Desert Experience

Right after being baptized, Jesus spent 40 days alone in the desert. It was a very important experience for him. The desert, a place of fear and isolation in biblical times, provided the ideal setting for reflection and prayer. This period solidified Jesus's practice of seeking solitude during challenging moments, allowing him to reconnect with his divine mission and overcome the pressures of his ministry. This foundational desert experience became a model for how he managed the demands of his life.

The need for a "desert" experience, or dedicated solitude, extends to our own lives. In our modern, noisy world, we often neglect introspection, leading to misaligned priorities and unhealthy habits. Solitude allows us to confront our inner selves, to take responsibility for our lives, and to address our internal struggles. This confrontation with our "demons" – addictions, desires, and insecurities – is essential for true self-discovery and spiritual growth.

Jesus's own experience with temptation in the desert makes him a powerful source of empathy and strength for us. By facing and overcoming temptation, he paved the way for us to do the same. Solitude is not about escaping the world, but about finding a deeper connection with God and, consequently, with others. Through Jesus's example, we understand that with divine support, we can conquer our challenges and live more fulfilling lives.



McCarthy Flor, New Sunday and Holiday Liturgies Year C
 Dominican Publications 2012



Mass Readings

<https://universalis.com/nz.auckland/1300/mass.tm>

1st Reading

Deut 26:4-10: The confession of faith of the elect.

Resp Psalm

Ps 90:1-2, 10-15: R. Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

2nd Reading:

Rom 10:8-13: The confession of faith of the believers in Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel:

Lk 4:1-13: Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.

PARISH NOTICES

Mass on Mondays - During Lent, there will have Mass on Mondays at 8.00 am.

The Way of the Cross - The Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at **6.00 pm**.

Alpha course - Last chance to join and register to our Alpha programme **Tuesday, 11th March, 7.00pm.**
alphaellersliecatholic@gmail.com

Emerald Cedar fir leaves requests for Palm Sunday
We're seeking donations of **Thuja Smaragd/ Thuja Plicata** leaves used for parishioners to hold on Palm Sunday. If you can assist, please message Theresa (Theresa_Stowers@hotmail.com).



Pledge envelops will be distributed soon. Announcements will be made once these are available for collection in church foyer. Those wanting to change their pledge gifting from using envelops to direct banking (Auto Payment/ Direct Debit), please inform Parish Office ASAP.

Tax receipts for April 2024 – March 2025 are expected to be ready by end of April 2025.

St Mary's School House Mass is on 23rd March, not 16th March. Apologies for incorrect date printed in last newsletter.

FSG (Faith Sharing Group) fellowship
FSG gathers on alternate Saturdays. All are welcome! Next meeting is held on **Saturday, 15th March @ 9.45am - 10.45am** at the Presbytery deck meeting room. Reflections will be on the Gospel for the current Sunday.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- 11th March – Alpha Prog
- 14th March – Stations of the Cross @ 6.00pm
- 17th March – St Patrick's Day
- 19th March – St Joseph, Spouse of Mary
- 21st March – Stations of the Cross @ 6.00pm
- 23rd March - St Mary's School House Mass (St Patrick House)

Stations of the Cross and FOOD

Attention all youth!
Come along on Friday March 21st 6:00pm for Stations of the Cross and fish and chips afterwards!
Bring \$5 please

Friday 21st of March 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Please email taiaopo774@gmail.com to RSVP



Lenten opportunities for prayer and pondering during Lent

Pope Francis' Letter to us all on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Wed | 5, 12, 19, 26
Mar | 7.00 -7.30pm on Zoom.

Wake Up and Pray Meditation
Mornings in Lent through Easter 5th March – 20th of April, 6.15 – 6.45am on Zoom

Prepare Ponder Pray with the Gospels. Saturdays in Lent 7 – 7:30pm on Zoom.
For more info, contact Dianna Fouhy, Faith Formation Team @ diannaf@cda.org.nz

SUMMIT | Young Leaders

Weekend 28-30 March 2025

Youth ministry and young adult ministry leaders, get ready for an incredible weekend of formation, fellowship and being spiritually filled!

Featuring engaging keynote sessions, workshops equipping you with practical ministry skills, plenty of opportunities to pray and to be RENEWED, a whole community of fantastic leaders to connect with, mass, adoration, campfires and a whole lot more!

This year, we are very excited to announce that our guest speakers are Mark Lysaght, the Director of NET Ministries in Australian and New Zealand, and Kym Keady, the Director of Ignite Youth.

Earlybird registrations are \$120 until Wednesday 12 March 2025. Standard registration is \$140.

Register here:
<https://SUMMIT25.eventbrite.com>
Please note this is an 18+ event.

Prayer for Life this Lent

Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday - pray for an end to abortion. Sign up and receive educational resources & daily prayer intentions. Join the peaceful prayer vigil near the abortion place on Wednesdays. More at FLI.org.nz/prayerforlife

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

Divine Mercy Novena Group – Sheila D'Souza
celinsheids@gmail.com

Faith Sharing Group
Raphael Ng
ngahthong@gmail.com

Food Bank Delivery
Evelyn Leech
sandeleech@gmail.com

Marian Mothers Grp
Anne Casey
tradebox.annecasey@yahoo.co.nz

Parish History Group
Claudia Forycki
cforycki@water.co.nz

Jnr & Snr Youth Group
Anne Casey
tradebox.annecasey@yahoo.co.nz

RCI and Sacramental Prog
–Theresa Stowers
Theresa_Stowers@hotmail.com

Bishops' Lent Appeal 2025

Lent is a time for fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. During this season, New Zealand's Catholic Bishops invite us to contribute to the needs of the poor through the work of Caritas. Money raised through the Bishops' Lent Appeal helps Caritas fund both development and emergency relief work around the world.

Envelopes are provided at the back of the church for this purpose. You may either return your donation envelope during the parish offertory collection or send it directly to Caritas.

Thank you for your generous support. **To learn more or donate visit Caritas.org.nz.**

Those who are interested, here is a link to Lenten reflection resource made available by Caritas for you. <https://www.caritas.org.nz/lenten-resources>



Click on picture for the [Lenten Reflection](#)

Please pray for those who are sick, especially:

Raphael Ng, Daniel Bridge, Wilma Smith, Catherine Ng, Edward Salvatore Fleming, Lily Chua, Carrie Canapi, Jumer Cosme, Valerian Luis, Joan Luis, George Tooman, Gary Chen, Rowena Edgeworth, 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 Ganley, Bob Delany, Josephine Choat, Fred Handforth, Vince Walters, Velma Liddington, Brigia Angiana, Dorothy Kilgour, Tom Broome, Phillip Gould, Mary Blake, 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 Tan, Thomas Patrick Monaghan, Bill Watt, Andrea Pucinelli, Peter Godinovich, Jan Shuker their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.