

**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](mailto: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	22/03/2025 Sat 17:30pm	23/03/2025 Sun 09:00am	29/03/2025 Sat 17:30pm	30/03/2025 Sun 09:00am
<b>Name of Week</b>		3rd Sunday of Lent		4th Sunday of Lent
<b>Commentators &amp; PoF</b>	<i>Volunteer Req</i>	<b>St Marys School</b>	Sabrina Freitas	<b>Junior Youth</b>
<b>1st Reader</b>	<i>Volunteer Req</i>	<b>St Marys School</b>	Anitha D'Souza	<b>Junior Youth</b>
<b>2nd Reader</b>	Theresa Bennett	<b>St Marys School</b>	<i>Volunteer Req</i>	<b>Junior Youth</b>
<b>Communion</b>	Jacinta Chow	Andy Tibbitts & Sheila D'Souza	Rasika Kalaha & Watteqa	Albert Wolgram & Heather Kelly
<b>Altar servers</b>	Christian D	Zhen Ng, Benjamin Lo & Toby Leech	Shavidhu Fernando	Jojo Taylor
<b>Collectors</b>	Domilies Family	<b>St Marys School</b>	Bennett Family	<b>Junior Youth</b>
<b>Musician</b>	Lara Miranda	<b>St Marys School</b>	<i>Volunteer Req</i>	Tongan Comm
<b>Laptop</b>	Brendan Liddington	<b>St Marys School</b>	<i>Volunteer Req</i>	Tongan Community
<b>Offertory</b>	Domilies family	<b>St Marys School</b>	Finau Family	<b>Junior Youth</b>
<b>Counters</b>		Tony Morcom & Aaron Fernandez		as arranged
<b>Church Cleaning</b>	Vietnamese Comm		St Marys Parents	
<b>Flower Arrangements</b>	Vietnamese Comm		<i>Volunteer Req</i>	
<b>Morning Tea</b>		<b>St Marys School Family</b>		Liturgy and Finance

Last week's collection (incl Auto Payments): \$2327.00

Total Caritas collection to date: \$1015.00

Thank you so much for your kind generosity.

**Kid's Korner Links**

[3rd Sunday of Lent](#)  
[Second Chances](#)

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.



**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

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 Auckland NZ  
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<https://www.facebook.com/icpellerslie>

**The 3rd Sunday of Lent**

**22 / 23 Mar 2025**

**The Fig Tree and Second Chances**

The Pharisees dismissed sinners, believing them beyond redemption. Jesus, however, countered this view with the parable of the barren fig tree, highlighting the stark contrast between the owner's impatience and the gardener's compassionate approach. The owner, focused solely on immediate results, advocated for destruction, while the gardener, embodying love and care, understood the need for patient cultivation. This distinction underscored Jesus's message: true value lies not only in output but in the investment of love and effort.



The gardener's actions, such as enhancing the soil, symbolized Jesus's own ministry, which actively nurtured and guided those considered lost. Jesus's approach, characterized by patience and kindness, stood in stark contrast to the Pharisees' indifference. He invested himself in sinners, offering them a chance at redemption and transformation, leading many to fruitful lives. This parable serves as a testament to God's patience and willingness to offer second chances, exemplified by historical figures like St. Paul and St. Augustine, who underwent profound transformations.

Ultimately, the parable conveys a message of hope. It suggests that through God's mercy, our failings can contribute to our growth. However, it also acknowledges that repeated rejection of these opportunities can lead to self-exclusion. The parable encourages us to embrace the possibility of fruitfulness, rather than remaining barren, by accepting God's patient love and extending that same grace to others.



**Mass Readings**

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

**1st Reading**

Ex 3:1-8, 13-15: This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

**Resp Psalm**

Ps 102:1-4, 6-8, 11: R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

**2nd Reading:**

1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12: All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! (Mt 4:17)

**Gospel:**

Lk 13:1-9: Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

## PARISH NOTICES

### FSG (Faith Sharing Group) fellowship

FSG gathers on alternate Saturdays. All are welcome! Next meeting is held on **Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> March @ 9.45am - 10.45am** at the Presbytery deck meeting room.

Reflections will be on the Gospel for the current Sunday.

### Junior Youth Mass volunteers (in primary schools)

Primary school children interested in participating in the **Junior Youth Mass on 30<sup>th</sup> March** are invited to join. Parents who would like their children to be involved, please send an email to Alekhya [alekhyakondaveeti2003@gmail.com](mailto:alekhyakondaveeti2003@gmail.com) by this Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. This will help us coordinate roles for the Junior Youth Mass.

### Joint Committee Meeting and Shared Meal

There will be a joint committee meeting on **Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April**, at 7:30 p.m. in the parish hall, followed by a shared meal. All members of the PPC, Liturgy Committee, Finance Committee, Parish History Committee, Marian Mothers, and Youth Group are invited to attend the meeting and shared meal. Please bring a dish to share.

### 120th Anniversary Celebration Conclusion

Our Church's 120th Anniversary celebration will conclude with a School Mass on **Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April**, at 9:00 am. **Monsignor David Tonks** will be the Main Celebrant for that Mass. All are welcome.

### Parish Lenten Renewal

As part of our Lenten Renewal, we will hold a Parish Recollection on **Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April**, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Recollection will begin with Mass at 6:30 p.m., followed by a talk at 7:00 p.m., and Adoration until 8:00 p.m. All are invited to attend the Parish Recollection.

### Lenten Reconciliation Service

The Parish Lenten reconciliation service will be held on **Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> April** at 7 p.m. All are encouraged to make their confessions in preparation for the Easter.

**Parish Working Bee** will be on **Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> April** 2024. Spare a couple of hours to help spruce up the church in time for Easter. It will start at 10.30am till 1.30pm.

### Pledge Envelops \* are now ready for collection in church foyer. \*

Anyone wanting to change their pledge tithing from envelopes to direct banking (Auto Payment/ Direct Debit), please inform Parish Office by 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

### URGENT requests from Food Bank

Our food bank is in URGENT need of toiletries - toothpaste, soap, shampoo etc. We would be most grateful for any contributions you can offer. More info, please email Evelyn [sandeleech@gmail.com](mailto:sandeleech@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

23<sup>rd</sup> Mar - St Mary's School Mass (Patrick Hse)

30<sup>th</sup> Mar – Junior Youth Mass

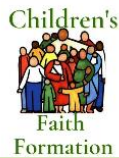
3<sup>rd</sup> Apr – Joint Committee Meeting and Shared Meal

4<sup>th</sup> Apr – 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Conclusion – School Mass

9<sup>th</sup> Apr – Parish Lenten Renewal

10<sup>th</sup> Apr – Lenten Reconciliation

12<sup>th</sup> Apr – Parish Working



Interested in the Children's Liturgy or Gospel activity sheets for your kids?  
Email, contact Deborah ([deborahw@cda.org.nz](mailto:deborahw@cda.org.nz)) OR go to the Auckland Catholic Diocese website for details <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/liturgy-prayer/liturgy-of-the-word-with-children/>



### Marriage Preparation Course

The CDA provides courses for couples planning to wed. For more info, you can go to CDA website or contact Gerry on [gerrys@cda.org.nz](mailto:gerrys@cda.org.nz)

## HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE



### Palm Sunday Vigil – 12<sup>th</sup> April

Sat – 5.30pm

*Blessing of the Palms at the Grotto followed by a procession to the Church, and then the Holy Mass*

### Palm Sunday – 13<sup>th</sup> April

Sun – 9.00am

*Blessing of the Palms at the Grotto followed by a procession to the Church, and then the Holy Mass*

### Holy Thursday – 17<sup>th</sup> April

7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

*Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose until Midnight*

### Good Friday – 18<sup>th</sup> April

2.00 pm The Way of the Cross

3:00 pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

The Easter Vigil Mass in the Holy Night - 19<sup>th</sup> April 7:00 pm

*Please Bring a candle with a wax catcher*

### Easter Sunday Mass – 20<sup>th</sup> April

Sun – 9:00 am

### Easter Monday Mass – 21<sup>st</sup> April

Mon – 9:00 am



## Altar Servers Needed for Holy week (17-20th Apr)

We are seeking Altar Servers to assist during Holy week, leading up to Easter weekend.

Altar servers, kindly look at the dates below and indicate your availability. Contact **Andy Tibbits on 027 568 272 by Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> April**. (Please note that this falls during the first week of the school holidays). Duties will be assigned based on the number of servers available for each time slot. We ideally require a total of 12 altar servers (6 seniors and 6 juniors) for this period. Dates and time servers are needed:-

### 17/4 Holy Thursday – 6.15pm.

Min. 6 servers needed

### 18/4 Good Friday services

**Stations of the Cross – 1.15 pm**

Min. 6 servers needed

**Passion of our Lord – 2.15pm**

Min. 6 servers needed

**19/4 Easter Vigil Mass - 6.00pm**

Min. of 6 servers needed

**20/4 Easter Sunday Mass 9 a.m.**

Min. 2 servers needed

### Altar Service Recruitment:-

Children who have completed the Sacramental Programme and are interested in becoming altar servers, please contact Andy and a separate training can be organized.

## 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  
[celinsheids@gmail.com](mailto:celinsheids@gmail.com)

**Faith Sharing Group**  
Raphael Ng  
[ngalthong@gmail.com](mailto:ngalthong@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**  
Anne Casey  
[tradebox.annecasey@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:tradebox.annecasey@yahoo.co.nz)

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

## 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:

*Edgar Hossack, Bernard Miskell, Maude Fitze, Merv Baker, Laura Gilbert, Albert Bayer, Doris Hart, Bob Gherardi, Maria V. Qubatan, Rona Turnock, Sis. Maria Szczepanski, Arthur Kirk, Christina Melican, Jean Webb, Dick Kearney, Frank Liddington, Frederick J Estick, Lilian Vail, Brian Tolich, Charles Linehan, Charles Walsh, Mary Lawlet their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. For additions or amendments, please e-mail the Office*