

**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** 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

**SACRAMENTS / DEVOTIONS**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:**  
 Fri & Sat 8.00am  
**Divine Mercy prayer:** Friday 8.30am  
**Rosary:** Saturday 8.30am  
**Novena:** Saturday 9.25am  
 (Our Lady of Perpetual Help)  
**Pastoral Council Chairman:** Leonard Casey  
**Parish Office Administrator:** Bambi Lee  
 Phone: 579-5458  
 Email: [office@ellersliecatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@ellersliecatholic.org.nz)  
 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**

	Sat	Sun	Sat	Sun
<b>Date/ Time</b>	14/03/2026 Sat 5:30pm	15/03/2026 Sun 09:00am	21/03/2026 Sat 5:30pm	22/03/2026 Sun 09:00am
<b>Name of Week</b>		4th Sunday of Lent		5th Sunday of Lent
<b>Commentators &amp; PoF</b>	Russell D'Lima	<b>St Mary's School</b>	Ming Deng	Greg Carl
<b>1st Reader</b>	Sabrina Freitas	<b>St Mary's School</b>	John Szczepanski	Alekhyia Kondaveeti
<b>2nd Reader</b>	Tilla Miranda	<b>St Mary's School</b>	Charmaine D'Lima	Margaret Bourke
<b>Communion</b>	Sabrina Freitas	<b>St Mary's School</b>	Rolinda D'Souza	Andy Tibbitts & Sheila D'Souza
<b>Altar servers</b>	Christian D, Shavidhu Fernando & Miqha Rose	Lalith Pudota, Richie & Lavinia Haungatau & Ethan Yong	Rachelann D'Lima, Miguel Pereira & Tiana Thilakarathne	Benjamin Lo, Vito & Mele Haungatau, Nevon Narangoda & Toby Leech
<b>Collectors</b>	Finau Family	<b>St Mary's School</b>	Taliauli Family	Haungatau family
<b>Musician</b>	Charmaine & Claudia	<b>St Mary's School</b>	Robert & Claudia	Tongan Comm
<b>Laptop</b>	D'Lima Family	<b>St Mary's School</b>	Jacinta Chow	Tongan Community
<b>Offertory</b>	Miranda Family	<b>St Mary's School</b>	Bennett Family	Kafa Family
<b>Counters</b>		Vibin & Andrew Tsue		Tony Morcom & Denis Dsouza
<b>Church Cleaning</b>	Tongan Comm		Vietnamese Comm	
<b>Flower Arrangements</b>	Tongan Comm		Vietnamese Comm	
<b>Morning Tea</b>		Families of St Mary's		0

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.

Last week's collection (Inc. AP): \$1920.30  
 Bishop's Lenten Appeal: \$220.00

Thank you so much for your generosity.  
 Immaculate Conception Ellerslie  
 BNZ 02-0108-0706777-000

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

✉ [Office@ellersliecatholic.org.nz](mailto:Office@ellersliecatholic.org.nz)  
 🌐 [www.ellersliecatholic.org.nz](http://www.ellersliecatholic.org.nz)  
 📘 <https://www.facebook.com/icpellerslie>

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**14 / 15 Mar 2026**



Jesus heals a man blind from birth, illustrated by Fran Denton.

In Jesus' time, disability was often wrongly viewed as a divine punishment for sin. In the Gospel reading of this Sunday (John 9:1-41), Jesus fundamentally rejected this idea, teaching that the man's blindness was not a curse but an opportunity for God's power to be revealed. This shifts the focus from blame to action, suggesting that our own works of charity and social justice are ways to restore dignity and ensure everyone has the right to a decent life.

The story highlights a spiritual irony: the man born blind gains true sight, while the religious authorities—the Pharisees—remain blind. Although the Pharisees claimed to know God, they could not recognize Him standing right in front of them. The healed man, conversely, becomes the teacher, pointing out that God listens to those who sincerely worship and obey Him, regardless of their social standing.

Ultimately, this narrative illustrates Jesus' relentless compassion and the personal nature of faith. When the Pharisees cast the man out of the Temple, Jesus does not leave him to handle his new life alone; instead, He intentionally seeks him out to complete his journey of belief. This "next step" after the physical healing shows that Jesus is not just interested in fixing bodies, but in building a constant, seeking relationship with us. It serves as a reminder that even when we are rejected by human institutions, we are actively pursued by a God who desires to be truly known.



**Mass Readings**

**1st Reading:**  
 1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13: In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

**Resp Psalm.**  
 Ps 22: R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**2nd Reading:**  
 Eph 5:8-14: Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!** I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!** (Jn 8:12)

**Gospel:**  
 Jn 9:1-41: The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- 17<sup>th</sup> Mar – Alpha Prog @6.30pm  
17<sup>th</sup> Mar – St Patrick's Day  
19<sup>th</sup> Mar – St Joseph's Day  
21<sup>st</sup> Mar – ICP Lenten Pilgrimage@10am  
26<sup>th</sup> Mar – Lenten Reconciliation @7pm  
28<sup>th</sup> Mar – Working Bee @10.30am  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar – Palm Sunday

## Kids Korner

Children's Liturgy is ON this Sun. We encourage your kids forward when priest calls out for their session in the Presbytery meeting room.

Interested in Gospel activity for your kids? Click below:



## Planning to get Married?

The Auckland Catholic Diocese has an approved Marriage Preparation course for couples. Book your course early – 1 yr for NZ, 18 mths for overseas weddings. Register and Book HERE: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/our-courses/>

For more info, contact Gerry [Gerrys@cda.org.nz](mailto:Gerrys@cda.org.nz)  
M:021 0224 7442

## The Upper Room

Wed | 18 March | Good George Mission Bay  
The Upper Room is a night of formation and fellowship for young adults. Guest speaker James Bergin will be presenting on the topic of 'Digital Integrity', where we will delve into how one can be authentically Catholic in an artificial digital world. \$10 tickets. Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/the-upper-room-march-2026>

## Wings.Nga Parirau

This Lent – an invitation to know your faith and grow your relationship with Jesus. Are you interested but cannot make face-to-face meetings? Try Zoom!

1<sup>st</sup> Year Programme of 'Wings', Modules One and Two on Zoom, ALL Thursdays in Lent, 7-7.40pm.

We will be reflecting on the Catholic Faith and our personal Faith journey.

Sunday Gospels of Lent provide a framework for our Scripture reflection, on Zoom, ALL Saturdays in Lent 7-7.40pm

Church Teaching through the writings of Pope Leo XIV, reflect together, on ZOOM,

ALL Wed in Lent, 7-7.40pm

Come and pray silently with others, be present with Jesus Every morning, on Zoom, 6.15 – 6.45am.

Is Meditation new for you? 'Come and See!' Contact Dianna Fouhy: [diannaf@cda.org.nz](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)

## LENT 2026 with FOOD FOR FAITH.

Visit [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz)  
Sign up to receive daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor. Prepared especially for those seeking greater maturity of faith.

## Prayer Retreat for Women

Prayer and the Interior Life' Fri - Sun | 17<sup>th</sup> Apr 6pm to 19<sup>th</sup> Apr 3pm 2026 - with time for Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, Personal Prayer and Spiritual Direction. Location: Hillsborough, Auckland. Early bird registration and details here

[www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz](http://www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz)

## Divine Mercy

Feast Sunday | 12 April | 5:30pm | St Benedict's Parish,

1 St Benedict's Street, Eden Terrace. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, Blessing of Images, Holy Mass, Veneration of St Faustina's relic. You are warmly invited to attend this Feast Day Celebration. Bring your Divine Mercy images & artefacts to be blessed. Jesus told St Faustina "My Heart rejoices on this Feast Day". Free parking is available at Wilson Carpark, including free street parking on Sundays

## Lent Webinar Series - Caritas Aotearoa NZ Journey

Registrations have now opened for the Lent Webinar Series involving our Catholic Bishops, for all dates: <https://link.caritas.org.nz/lentweb1regiamong>.

## 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**  
[Alpha@ellersliecatholic.org.nz](mailto:Alpha@ellersliecatholic.org.nz)

**Baptism Course (<7yo)**  
[Baptism@ellersliecatholic.org.nz](mailto:Baptism@ellersliecatholic.org.nz)

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

**Faith Sharing Group**  
[Office@ellersliecatholic.org.nz](mailto:Office@ellersliecatholic.org.nz)

**Food Bank Delivery**  
[lenorafoliaki@gmail.com](mailto:lenorafoliaki@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**  
Taiaopo Lafaele  
[taiaopo774@gmail.com](mailto:taiaopo774@gmail.com)

**RCI Programme**  
[RCI@ellersliecatholic.org.nz](mailto:RCI@ellersliecatholic.org.nz)

**Sacramental Prog**  
[SacraProg@ellersliecatholic.org.nz](mailto:SacraProg@ellersliecatholic.org.nz)

**Complaints**  
[Complaints@ellersliecatholic.org.nz](mailto:Complaints@ellersliecatholic.org.nz)

**Safeguarding**  
[Safeguarding@ellersliecatholic.org.nz](mailto:Safeguarding@ellersliecatholic.org.nz)

## Bishops' Lenten Appeal 2026

'The beginning of Lent marks the start of the Bishops' Lenten Appeal. Money raised through this appeal helps Caritas fund both development and emergency relief work around the world.

Donations can be made to Caritas directly via

- 1) direct debit. Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is 03-0518-0211216-003. Code: Lent and Particulars: Your first and last name
- 2) or credit card through the Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand website <https://www.caritas.org.nz/ways-to-give>.
- 3) Freepost envelopes are available at Mass throughout Lent. Post them, OR **hand in cash in the envelopes provided** during the parish offertory collection.

Any donations received in the Caritas office after April 1st will be sent a receipt for the 2026/27 tax year. Thank you. For more info, email: [caritas@caritas.org.nz](mailto:caritas@caritas.org.nz) or call 0800 22 10 22.

## Parish News

*As part of our efforts to keep parish communications secure and minimise phishing or spam attempts, we have introduced new email addresses for the parish office and our main activity groups. Please refer to the top front page and right-hand column of this newsletter for the updated contact details and kindly update your contact list accordingly.*

**Monday Mass** at 8:00 am will continue until further notice.

**Stations of the Cross** will be held on Friday at 6:00pm during Lent.

**ICP Lenten Pilgrimage:** Join us on **Saturday, March 21**, for a special Lenten Pilgrimage. We will walk and pray the Stations of the Cross together as we head to the top of **One Tree Hill (Maungakiekie)**. This is a powerful way to follow the Lord's journey and be together as a parish family. **Please RSVP to Robert on 021 929 500.** We will meet at the **parish car park at 10:00 a.m.** All are welcome! Remember to wear walking shoes and bring water.

**Youth Activity – Sunday 22 March, After Mass. Meeting room**

All youth are welcome to join us for a Karaoke Activity taking place on Sunday, 22 March, after Mass. Cost: \$10.00. Come along for a fun afternoon of karaoke, fellowship, and short talks. It will be a great chance to connect, share, and enjoy time together. All youth are welcome – we hope to see you there!

**Lenten Reconciliation** will be on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 7.00pm

**ICP LENTEN PILGRIMAGE**  
"The Way of The Cross"  
Saturday, 10am, March 21, 2026  
From ICP Carpark  
RSVP: Robert Chow - 021 929 500  
Pray, Walk, Reflect  
Easy hike to Maungakiekie/One Tree Hill and back  
Easy hike suitable for all. Option to do the Advanced hike to the summit.  
**Karaoke Youth Group Event**  
22nd March After Sunday 9am Mass!

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

*Evelyn Leech, Andy Tibbitts, Fran Duncan, Dolores Custodio, Margaret Burke, Daniel Bridge, Wilma Smith, Catherine Ng, Edward Salvatore Fleming, Lily Chua, Carrie Canapi, 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:

*Peter Godinovich, Jan Shuker, David Lynch, Patrick Quinlan, John Furey, Mary Noughton, Fr. Matt Brady, Isabella Courtney, Kathleen Dovey, Thelma Donaldson, Molly Fletcher, Veronica Webb, Annie V Snelgar, Michael Collins, Terry Ritchie, Leonard Corless, Catherine Furey, Nimal Silva, Jose Rosale, Simone T Ha'ungatau, Desmond T Turnock, Lance Follow, Dorothy Walker, Albert Agnew, Andrew Casey, Anthony Prendeville, Alice O'Meagher, John Patrick Moore, William Smith, Lilian Mansor, Joe Molloy their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.*