

*Welcome to  
St Michael's Parish*





## PARISH OF ST MICHAEL

6 Beatrice Road, Remuera.

Auckland 5

Phone 520-1226

Fax 520-1956

Email: [stmichaels.remuera@clear.net.nz](mailto:stmichaels.remuera@clear.net.nz)

Website: [www.catholicremuera.org.nz](http://www.catholicremuera.org.nz)

There are several sayings that you will hear quite often in our Parish. One is from St John's Gospel:

*"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."*

John 10:10

Our Parish is a community of believers who are united in Jesus Christ. As you will see as you read this booklet (and keep it for reference), there are many ways we celebrate this unity.

Another saying you will hear:

*"It is good to belong."*

It is hard to celebrate by yourself. You need others with you. My hope and prayer is that all at St Michael's will experience the unity we have with Christ and with one another. And all will be able to say: Yes, this is a life giving community and it is good to belong.

Welcome and be in touch!

(Monsignor) Brian Arahill

Parish Priest

[bfarahill@clear.net.nz](mailto:bfarahill@clear.net.nz)

## **WHAT WE CELEBRATE (WHAT WE DO) AT ST MICHAEL'S.**

**We celebrate the Lord's Day. We keep holy Sunday, the first day of the week.**

We gather every Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist (the Mass) very conscious of the words of Jesus at the Last Supper "Do this in memory of Me.". We plan our Sundays around the Mass, giving one hour a week out of the total 168 in the week "to remember and give thanks".

*"Christians have always experienced this day as the first day of the week, since it commemorates the radical newness brought by Christ."*

(Pope Benedict XVI . "The Sacrament of Love."

**We proclaim the Word of God.**

We know that **proclaiming** the Scriptures is an integral part of celebrating the Eucharist. We have a good number of people who proclaim the Word. We prefer *Proclaiming the Word* to simply *reading*. *Proclaiming* delivers expression and meaning. We need to hear the Word to be nourished by it.

## **We minister Holy Communion.**

We have a large group of people who are Special Ministers of Holy Communion. They assist in giving Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ, to their brothers and sisters.

## **We Celebrate with Music**

We sing at all the Sunday Masses led by a group of valued organists, musicians, singers and cantors. For the Family Masses (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month) we celebrate with a group of young, and “young at heart” musicians who lead us in prayer.

The Parish offers a music scholarship for anyone wishing to learn to play the pipe organ, with a view to joining the organists’ roster.

*“To sing is to pray twice.”*

## **We honour the presence of Christ reserved in the Tabernacle of our Parish Church.**

*“I heartily recommend the practice of Eucharistic adoration, both individually and in community...which enables the faithful to experience the liturgical celebration more fully and more fruitfully.”*

(Pope Benedict XVI)

The Church is open most of the day to be a place of personal prayer. Christ is present in the Blessed Sacrament. The Sanctuary lamp is a sign of this presence.

We genuflect or bow before going into a seat as a sign of adoration and reverence. In older terms this was known as “making a visit to Our Lord”. On Fridays we have public communal adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

## **We welcome adults into our Catholic Community**

Every year we have a BECOMING CATHOLIC Programme. (The technical name is the RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS). This is for adults who have never been baptized or who have been baptized in another Christian Church, but now wish to seek Jesus Christ within the Catholic Community. For further information about this exploratory programme ring Sister Francis (Phone 520 0445) or email [stmichaels.remuera@clear.net.nz](mailto:stmichaels.remuera@clear.net.nz)

*“The one journey that ultimately matters is the journey  
Into the place of stillness deep within one’s self.”*

(Ron Rolheiser “Daybreaks”)

## **We welcome babies into our Catholic Community.**

We help parents prepare for the Baptism of their children. This is done after 10am Sunday Mass several times a year, and consists of three sessions. For further information, contact the Parish Office (520 1226) or email [stmichaels.remuera@clear.net.nz](mailto:stmichaels.remuera@clear.net.nz) for the Convenor of these sessions.

*“An ancient legend holds that when an infant is created, God kisses its soul and sings to it.”*

Ron Rolheiser. “Daybreaks”



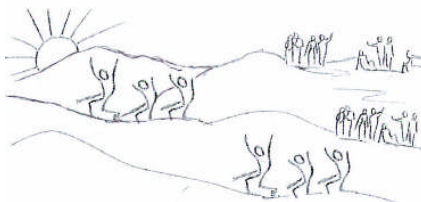
## We celebrate the Confirmation and First Holy Communion of our young people.



We help parents to prepare their children for further initiation into the church. We call this programme **BECOMING CHURCH**.

Sister Francis also organizes these sessions. They begin at the start of each school year. If there are any Young Adults who have not celebrated these Sacraments, there are preparation sessions around about October of each year. For further details contact Sister Francis ph 520 0445 or email [stmichaels.remuera@clear.net.nz](mailto:stmichaels.remuera@clear.net.nz).

### *On Our Way*



For children who are not at a Catholic school we have a religious education programme called **ON OUR WAY**. Children continue their Catholic Education by meeting once a month in term time. We assist parents to hand on the knowledge and practise of the Catholic Faith. Contact Sr Paula Mary ph 520 2776.

*God does not ask us to have a faith that is certain,  
but a service that is sure.*

Ron Rolheiser. "Daybreaks"

## **We celebrate the presence of Children at Mass.**

On most Sundays we have a special Liturgy of the Word for children. This means the children leave after the Greeting and go to the Parish Centre for their own simplified Scripture readings and prayers. The recommended age range is 4 to 9 years. If you would like to help with this programme, contact Birgita Muller by email [birgita@ihug.co.nz](mailto:birgita@ihug.co.nz).



## **We celebrate the marriages of couples who want to marry at St Michael's.**

Enquiries are made with the Parish Office. Bookings are confirmed by the Parish Priest. Pre Marriage education is part of being married and this is offered under the auspices of the Bishop and is booked by contacting the Diocesan Office ph 360 3025 or at [www.catholicmarriage.org.nz](http://www.catholicmarriage.org.nz)

*Almost all the time we are waiting for a  
fuller season in our lives*

Ron Rolheiser "Daybreaks"

## **We celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**

The Parish provides opportunities for Confession and Absolution of personal sin. This can be done by personal appointment with a priest or at the scheduled times of 11.30am Fridays and 9.30am Saturday. There are special times during Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter.

*“To repent is to allow God to  
open our minds and heal us.  
Private Confession is one of the pillars  
of the spiritual life.”*

Ron Rolheiser “Daybreaks”

## **We care for the sick among us.**

We are conscious of those who cannot join us at the Sunday Eucharist. Parishioners (Ministers of Holy Communion) take Holy Communion to them in their homes or rest homes. Kathryn Schollum is the coordinator of this group ph 571 2399. Monsignor Arahill is always very willing to visit the sick, especially to celebrate the **Sacrament of the Sick**.

*“Are any among you sick? Let them send for the  
priests of the Church who will pray over them  
and anoint them with oil.”*

(Letter of James chapter 5)

## **We celebrate funerals with reverence and dignity.**

There is a natural grief associated with death. But it is also a time to reach into our faith and reaffirm our belief that life is stronger than death and that light always shines out of darkness. The Parish has resources to help you to prepare for a funeral. The Parish Priest or a designated lay person will assist. It is always appreciated if you are in contact with the Parish early in making arrangements.

*“Life is changed, not ended.. ....We gain an everlasting place in heaven.”* Preface. Funeral Mass



### **Memorial Shrine**

On the right as you enter our Parish Church is the Memorial Shrine for the Dead. The book shows, day by day, those whose funerals have been celebrated at St Michael's.

*“Lord remember those who have died.  
Gladden them with the light of your face.”*

## St Michael's Catholic School



We celebrate and foster unity between Parish, School and Family. Whenever there is a fifth Sunday of the month, the whole school comes together with the Parish to celebrate the 10.00am Mass.

A Preference Card must be obtained from the Parish Priest before children can be enrolled in the school. This is to show that the family has connections with the Catholic Church.

Principal of the School: Mrs Jo Augustine.

Director of Religious Studies: Mrs Paula Middleton.

School Telephone Number: 520 0933

*“Be it known to all who enter here that CHRIST is the reason for this school.*

*Christ is the unseen but ever present teacher in its classes, and the model and inspiration for Parents, Teachers and Children.”*

Displayed in every classroom in the school.

## **St Michael's Heritage Foundation**

Was established for the Conservation, Preservation and Enhancement of St Michael's Church and surrounding grounds. St Michael's Church is a listed Historic Place and has heritage status under the Auckland City District Plan. It requires costly maintenance to keep it in good working condition.

**Parish Finance Council** assists the Parish Priest with the administration of the Parish Finances and Property.

Current members are:

Monsignor Brian Arahill	Mike Going
Phillip Bell	Noel Davies
Kevin Pickworth	Carey Pearce
Pat de Zoete	

Their contact details may be obtained from the Parish Office ph 520 1226 or email

[stmichaels.remuera@clear.net.nz](mailto:stmichaels.remuera@clear.net.nz)

## **We support the Parish by our donations.**

Because the Parish is a community, we ask all members to support the works of the Parish by financial contributions. One collection is taken up at Mass. (If there is a second collection it is for a special cause.) One quarter of the Sunday collection goes to the Remuera House Account for the support of the priests, and the care of sick and retired priests. The other three quarters goes to the Parish Account and is used for the upkeep and expansion of parish works. Envelopes can be obtained from the Parish Office, but many arrange an automatic payment through their bank to the Parish. Many find this is the best and easiest way. The monthly financial report is prepared by Hargrave Accounting Limited and is available for inspection at the Parish Office. The Parish Auditors are Lynch Phibbs.

*“The struggle for one community is one of the most difficult and demanding of human endeavors”  
In this life we are essentially interdependent.  
We have duties as well as rights.”*

Ron Rolheiser “Daybreaks

## **We Celebrate Unity**

**Parish Pastoral Council** co-ordinates the activities of the Parish. The Council meets monthly and welcomes the comments of Parishioners. Photos of Councillors are on a board at the back of the Church. Current members are:

Monsignor Brian Arahill

Margaret van Meeuwen (Chair)

John Durkin                      Mike Fitzmaurice

John Szczepanski      Patrick Ryoo

Tina Fitness                      Anne Duffy

Pauline Young              Lian de Charmoy

Their contact details can be obtained from the Parish Office

**Revelations** is our Parish magazine and is published 3 times a year. It contains news and views of Parish and Church life. We have a group of “walkers” who deliver most of the magazines to parishioners’ homes. We welcome volunteers prepared to assist with delivery. Contact the Parish Office.

**Parish Website** – [www.catholicremuera.org.nz](http://www.catholicremuera.org.nz) is our vibrant, colourful site and there is something new posted nearly every week. Be sure to check it out!

**Parish Office** is administered by Pat de Zoete and is open between 9am and 1pm Mon – Fri. Ph 520 1226 email [stmichaels.remuera@clear.net.nz](mailto:stmichaels.remuera@clear.net.nz)

## **Pilgrims' prayer**

Lord God, we thank you for calling us into your company of those who trust in Christ and seek to obey his will. May your Spirit guide and strengthen us in mission and service to your world, for we are strangers no longer, but pilgrims together on the ways to your kingdom.

Amen

“Is not the clay in the full power of the potter, and is he not free to do what he chooses”

“The Way of the Pilgrim ’ P114

## **Friendship**

Friendship happens in that special moment when someone reaches out to another, trust, comforts, believes in another, hopes the best for another, and makes a special difference that no one else can make.

God, let us be a table spread  
With gifts of love and broken bread,  
Where all find welcome, grace attends,  
And enemies arise as friends.

## **TIMETABLE**

**Eucharist** – is the heart of life at St Michael's.

### **SUNDAY MASS TIMES:**

Saturday Vigil	5.00pm
Sunday	8.00am
	10.00am

*(A separate Liturgy of the Word for Children is offered every Sunday at the 10.00am Mass EXCEPT for the Third Sunday of the Month when a Family Mass is celebrated, and in the School Holidays.)*

### **WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:**

Tuesday , Wednesday & Thursday	9.15am
Friday	12.05pm
Saturday	8.15am

### **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Friday	11.00am
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(February – December)

### **BENEDICTION**

Friday	12 noon
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### **RECONCILIATION**

(Individual confession)

Friday	11.30am
Saturday	9.30am

(or by appointment with the Parish Priest)