

Hanging in the nave are two paintings by Joshua Horner. One shows Mendicant Friars giving alms. The red cross on their habits indicates they belong to the order out of which our modern Red Cross Society grew. The other painting shows Mary and the boy Jesus with Elizabeth and her son John, the later John the Baptist.

Around the walls are fourteen paintings depicting different scenes of Christ's journey to Calvary, beginning with the condemnation of Pilate and finishing with the burial. These "stations" were painted by a Wellington artist Julia Lynch.

St Michael's Church was opened on 1 October 1933. It was described by one speaker as "an adornment to the city of Auckland...a triumph of architectural skill that rivals many sacred edifices under the stars of the Southern Cross and would grace any city in any part of the world."

The architects Tole and Massey were awarded the Gold Medal of the New Zealand Institute of Architects. St Michael's Church is included as a category B item in the Auckland City Council's District Plan. The Historic Places Trust has registered the church as a Category I Historic Place being "a place of special or outstanding historical or cultural significance or value".

**WHEN SOLOMON DEDICATED HIS TEMPLE TO THE LORD HE PRAYED:**

***"LORD GOD OF ISRAEL, NOT IN HEAVEN ABOVE NOR EARTH BELOW IS THERE SUCH A GOD AS YOU, TRUE TO YOUR COVENANT AND YOUR KINDNESS TOWARDS YOUR SERVANTS WHEN THEY WALK WHOLEHEARTEDLY IN YOUR WAY.***

***MAY OUR GOD BE WITH US, AS HE WAS WITH OUR ANCESTORS. MAY HE NEVER DESERT US OR CAST US OFF. MAY HE TURN OUR HEARTS TOWARDS HIM SO THAT WE MAY FOLLOW ALL HIS WAYS AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS."***

If you wish to know more about this building or about the Catholic Church in general, please contact the Parish Priest, phone 520 1226 or call at the Parish Office (beside the Church).



**Welcome to St Michael's Church**

**A GUIDE TO OUR  
PARISH CHURCH**

For the nearly 700 people who gather here every Sunday this is a place of prayer, a sacred place where we meet our God in the community that gathers and in the worship of the Church.

A Parish Church is a “people” place. Hence the space where we can kneel, sit or stand is important.

After the space for the people, the Table of the Altar is the focus. Written on the front of the table are the words of Jesus at the Last Supper when He gathered with His friends on the night before He died:

### **DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

Ever since that time we have gathered around altars to celebrate the Eucharist or the Memorial Thanksgiving Meal. We share the Body and Blood of Jesus in the form of bread and wine.

The Christ of the Last Supper becomes present among us. We give thanks, we give Eucharist, for the Death and Resurrection of Jesus and we share the one Bread and one Cup.

To the right of the Table of the Altar there is the Table of the Word. From here the Scriptures are read. We are fed by the life-giving Word that is proclaimed to us.

To the left of the Table of the Altar is the Priest’s chair. The Priest presides over those who come together.

The window near the altar was put in place in December 1995. At the top of the panel there is the Cross and an open grave with the stone rolled away. Placed within the heart of Christ is the broken bread and the shared cup. We receive them with open hands.

St. John’s Gospel of the Last Supper has Jesus washing the feet of the disciples....the greatest among you must be the servant of all.... I have given you an example..... Whenever you give a cup of water in my name....

Immediately above this window is the latest addition to St Michael’s stained glass windows (May 2001). It depicts Blessed Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop) foundress of the Sisters of St Joseph, and her connection with St Michael’s School and Parish.

Beneath the Baldacchino or canopy is the Blessed Sacrament shrine with the Tabernacle in the centre. Here the consecrated Bread is kept. Catholics will kneel or bow when entering the Church to acknowledge Christ's presence. From the Reserved Sacrament, Holy Communion is taken to the sick in their homes.

Behind the Blessed Sacrament shrine are four windows depicting the Four gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Prominent above the shrine is a crucifix showing the Christ of Calvary. On one side of the Sanctuary is a statue of Mary and on the other one a statue of Christ showing the heart symbol of His love for His people.

Below the statue of the Sacred Heart are the Baptismal Font and the Easter Candle.

An early Church writer called the font the “Womb of the Church”. Here people are christened, born again to new life through water and the Spirit and become members of the Church.

Hanging on the wall opposite is a painting by Sister Annette Hanrahan. Commissioned in September 1998 to commemorate 50 years of service by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny in the Parish of St. Michael’s, it was dedicated and hung in this place on 6 June 1999. A small weekday chapel was established at the same time. The painting shows the connection of the Cluny Convent and the Parish Church. The background show some of the countries the early Cluny sisters went to as

missionaries, particularly Africa. Living God’s will in daily life is a particular charism of the Cluny Sisters. This is symbolised by the bird.

High on the wall above the Sacred Heart statue is a window showing St. Michael pointing his spear at the devil. St. Michael gazes across at St. George who is shown with the luminous red cross of St. George on his white shield. His sword rests on a dragon.

In the east transept at the same high level (above the Lady statue) is a window depicting Mary looking across to the missionary St. Columbcille, who founded a monastery on the Island of Iona.

The rose windows in each transept are a feature of St. Michael’s Church. An explanation of the symbols can be found below each window.

It was originally intended to have the windows of the nave (the body of the building) and the transepts depict 15 incidents in the life of Christ and Mary. (These ‘mysteries’ are enshrined in a prayer familiar to Catholics called the Rosary.)

In the west transept is the Annunciation (Mary being told she was to be the mother of the Saviour). Next to it is the Visitation: Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist.

Following down the east nave are windows showing the Birth of Christ and His Presentation in the Temple when He was 40 days old.

On the opposite side can be seen the Easter Day incident of Jesus speaking to Mary Magdalene and the Coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the first Pentecost Day. These two windows set in place in 1994 were designed and made in Auckland, as were the Eucharist windows in the Sanctuary.

In the east transept are the Assumption of Mary (being taken into Heaven) and her Crowning as Queen of Heaven.