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"If you should fail, be humble, make a resolution to be submissive to God's will and then get up, and carry on"-Padre Pio

22nd of February 2026— First Sunday of Lent (Year A)



Responsorial Psalm Ps 51
Response: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned!

Mission Statement of Our Parish
 "We the Catholic Community of the Holy Cross Parish Henderson, empowered by the Holy Spirit, accept and proclaim the Good News and strive to be one in God's love and to be of service to others".

MASS TIMES

Tuesday & Thursday 9am
Wednesday Morning 9am
Wednesday Evening Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help at 7:10pm followed by Mass at 7:30pm
Friday Morning 9 am
First Friday of the month: Blessed Adoration at 6.30pm followed by Holy Mass at 7:30pm
Saturday 8am and 6pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 7am, 9am, 11am, 6pm

CARING COMMUNITY
 Drop-in every **Tuesday** after 9am Mass

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK
 Every 3rd **Tuesday** of the month at 11am

20 DECADE ROSARY

Wednesday After 9am Mass

RECONCILIATION

Wednesday 6:45pm to 7:15pm. Also by appointment

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Thursday After 9am Mass till 12pm

MEDITATION
 Last **Friday** of the month at 10am

BAPTISM COURSE
 Every 3rd **Friday** of the month 5:30 pm at pastoral centre

BAPTISM SCHEDULE

Saturday 10:30am, 11:30am, and 12:30pm

HOLY CROSS CHILDREN'S MASS
 Every **First Saturday** of the Month at 6pm

HOLY CROSS CHILDREN'S LITURGY CLASS
 Every **Sunday** 9:00am and 11:00am Mass

FAITH SHARING
 Every 4th **Sunday** of the month at 12.15am

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET NOVENA & ROSARY
 Every 4th **Sunday** of the month 2pm-3pm

PREFERENCE SIGNING
 Every 1st, 2nd, and 4th **Tuesday** from 11 am to 12 pm only

Stations of the Cross
 8:30am before Daily Morning Mass
 6:40pm before the Novena for our Lady of Succor

Battling the tempter this Lent!
 At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread."
Matthew 5: 17-18

In this dramatic confrontation, Jesus, by allowing Himself to be tempted, begins the ultimate defeat of Satan, a victory that will culminate in Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection. This is the only recorded instance in which Jesus permits Satan to tempt Him directly. While Satan remained active throughout Jesus' ministry, seeking to disrupt His mission, this moment in the desert addresses temptation specifically. By rejecting each temptation, Jesus not only demonstrates how to overcome the devil but also empowers humanity with the grace needed to resist temptation through His triumph on the Cross.

As we enter into the first full week of Lent, reflect today on the temptations you face in your own life. Though Satan is powerful and highly intelligent, he is no match for the grace of God. By uniting ourselves to Christ, we are strengthened to resist all that Satan and his demons throw at us. Victory over temptation is not achieved by our own strength but through Christ's grace, which He freely offers to all who turn to Him.

My victorious Lord, You faced Satan with courage, the once-beautiful angel who fell from grace through pride and envy. Now he seeks to destroy those whom You love. Give me Your strength and courage this Lent as I confront my own temptations, so that united with You, I may share in Your victory. Jesus, I trust in You.

Eucharistic Adoration
 Every Thursday 9:30am after Morning Mass
 Holy Cross Parish Henderson

Franciscus
 1226 — 2026
 800th Anniversary of the Death of St. Francis of Assisi

Readings This Sunday

First: Genesis 2:7-9; 3: 1-7
Psalm: 51
Second: Romans 5: 12-19
Gospel: Matthew 4: 1-11

Readings Next Sunday

First: Genesis 12: 1-4a
Psalm: 33
Second: 2 Timothy 1: 8b-10
Gospel: Matthew 17: 1-9

Scripture Readings for the week

Monday	Ps 19	Lev 19: 1-2,11-18	Mat 25: 31-46
Tuesday	Ps 34	Isa 55: 10-11	Mat 6: 7-15
Wednesday	Ps 51	Jonah 3: 1-10	Luke 11: 29-32
Thursday	Ps 138	Est C 12: 14-16,23-25	Mat 7: 7-12
Friday	Ps 130	Eze 18: 21-28	Mat 5: 20-26
Saturday	Ps 119	Deu 26: 16-19	Mat 5: 43-48

Church Office: 9:30am-12:30pm (Tue-Fri) Tel: (09) 835 3355 Address: 2 Lavelle Road, Henderson Auckland 0612
 Email: secretary@hendersoncatholic.org.nz, accounts@hendersoncatholic.org.nz Website: www.hendersoncatholic.org.nz

The St Vincent de Paul Society, Over the past month, your prayers & monetary support, helped create 16 food parcels - that's a smile on the dial of 54 adults & 1 child across Henderson & neighbouring communities. If you wish to contribute to this worthy cause, you can do so by way of Bank transfers can be made to St Vincent de Paul Holy Cross: 12-3020-0488780-00. Please add your full name as reference. Tax receipts will be issued at the end of the year. Contact hendersonsvdp@gmail.com or Ph 022 687 4694 for your receipt.

Youth Ministry— We welcome Michael Kamson who will be coordinating with the communities regarding youth activities and projects for our parish.

Stations of the Cross—will be prayed starting Ash Wednesday before the Daily Morning Mass and at 6:40pm every Wednesday before the Novena for our Lady of Succor.

Faith Sharing Sunday- Our first Faith Sharing Session for 2026 will be held on Sunday, 22nd February 2026 at 12.15pm (following the 11.00am Mass). The session will begin with a talk on the topic of the day, followed by a shared lunch. This Month's Session. **Speaker: Sr. Adriana M.C. Regional Superior, Missionaries of Charity** (New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia & East Timor). **Topic: "Portrait of the Life of Mother Teresa"**. Sr. Adriana M.C., who is currently visiting New Zealand, will share her first-hand experiences of living and working closely with Mother Teresa for many years. You will hear personal stories and insights not found in books, witnessed and lived by Sr. Adriana herself. **All are most welcome! For further details please contact the Parish Office on 09 835 3355**

Holy Cross charismatic fellowship will have their monthly meeting on Monday the 23rd of February at 7pm in the parish meeting room. We will be reflecting on the 16th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. All parishioners are welcome to attend. Please bring your Bible along. For further details please contact Anil Baptist on **0223649306** or **anilbaptist@gmail.com**.

Holy Cross men's fellowship will have their monthly meeting on Thursday the 26th of February at 7pm in the parish meeting room. All men of the parish are welcome to attend. For further details please contact Anil Baptist on **0223649306** or **anilbaptist@gmail.com**.

Marriage and Funerals—if you want a marriage or a funeral celebrated at Holy Cross Parish Church Henderson, please email the office before setting up a date, you will need to speak to the Parish Priest before the celebration can be scheduled. By emailing the Parish Office, we can send you the requirements needed.

LENT is a 40-day season of preparation in the Catholic Church that helps us get our hearts ready for Easter, the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends just before the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Here's what Lent is really about:

A time of conversion

Lent calls Catholics to turn back to God, examine our lives, and grow closer to Him. It's not about being gloomy—it's about renewal.

The 3 pillars of Lent

The Church invites us to focus on three spiritual practices:

- Prayer – spending more time with God
- Fasting – learning self-control and dependence on God
- Almsgiving – caring for the poor and those in need

Why 40 days?

The 40 days echo important moments in Scripture, especially Jesus fasting for 40 days in the desert before beginning His ministry.

A penitential season

Lent is marked by: A more simple and reflective tone at Mass

- Purple vestments (symbol of repentance)
- Abstinence from meat on Fridays
- Fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday



The goal: Easter joy

Lent leads us to the joy of new life in Christ. Through repentance and renewal, we arrive at Easter with hearts more open to God's grace.



Registering as a parishioner is more than just putting your name on a list — it is a way of belonging. When you register, you become a recognised member of our parish family and help us care for you better.

Registration allows the parish to:

- Support you with sacraments such as Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, and funerals
- Keep you informed about Mass times, parish events, and ministries
- Provide pastoral care and support in times of need
- Plan effectively for the parish's future and serve the community more faithfully
- If you have a Planned Giving Number, you'll receive an end-of-year tax receipt and can claim 33% of your donation back from IRD.

Being registered also helps the parish understand who we are as a community and strengthens our ability to grow, welcome others, and continue the mission of the Church. If Holy Cross Parish is your spiritual home, we warmly encourage you to register and be an active part of our parish life. Together, we journey in faith, service, and fellowship.



Parish Contacts

Parish Priest:

Fr Ephrem Tigga OFM Cap.
hccparishpriest@gmail.com

Asst Parish Priest:

Fr Daniel Sitanggang OFM Cap.
hccasstparishpriest@gmail.com

Asst Capuchin Priest

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Principal Holy Cross School

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Liturgy & rosters:

Sr Akenese Nun Toon
akeholycross@gmail.com

Music: Tai Asiata

taiholycross@gmail.com

Technical support:

Mario Tionko
marioholycross@gmail.com

Donations/planned-giving:

Jasmine Prem
accounts@hendersoncatholic.org.nz

Youth Ministry

Michael Kamson
hccyouthcoordinator@gmail.com

Holy Cross Parish Henderson Health & Safety Protocol—Your Help Is Needed

In accordance with New Zealand Health & Safety law, Holy Cross Parish must have a registered **First Aider** present at every Mass. We are asking parishioners who are qualified—or willing to be trained—to please register in the foyer, where a member of the PPC will take your details.

We also invite volunteers to join our **Health & Safety Committee** to help develop parish policies, including Emergency Evacuation procedures. Full training will be provided.

Your support helps keep our parish community safe. Thank you.



1st Sunday of Lent 21st & 22nd February

Mass	Vigil Sat 6 pm	Sun 7am	Sun 9 am	Sun 11 am	Sun 6 pm
Leader :	Julia Macuja	Bonita Smith	Janice Borsos	Madalene Warren	Anora D'Costa
Reader 1:	Amy Macuja	Frances Martinez	Cheryl Sinclair	Jacinta Lemana	Kiara Monteiro
Reader 2:	Stephanie Alimagno	Anita Gupta	Maria Jose	Maria Kunitau	Sue Ivicevich
Ministers of Holy Communion:	Maria Alimagno	Winnie Veikoso	Frank Borsos	Melitta Cadelis	Michael Eade
	Renante Alimagno	Selestina Levave	Pearlie Judd	Sandy Fonoti	Anna Manoharan
	Prem Joseph		Jennifer Baptist	Frances Ieremia	Neil Fernandes
	Jasmine Prem Kumar		Noelene Early	Maria Faleusu	Charmaine Monteiro
Collector:	Phyllis, Mark, & Elridge	Soniega Family	Men's Fellowship	Filemoni & Celino	Michael Eade / Flocy Membere
Altar Servers:	Liam Kim	Isabel de Jesus	Caroline Cibi	Jordan Solomon	Francewill
	Joseph Seo	Titoa Smith	Frencheska Perlas	Joseph Uale	Lui Alabastro
	Zephan Saldanha	Amanda de Jesus	Lawrence Lolesio	Keyondre Uale	Jacob Alabastro
Music Ministry:	Indian Group	Quiet Mass	Vakauta Family		Legion of Mary
Offertory					
		Cleaning Fiji Community(Friday) St. Vincent de Paul Tongan Community	Flowers Filipino Community	Children's Liturgy Missionaries of Charity Sisters	

Second Week of Lent 28th Feb & 1st March 2026

Mass	Vigil Sat 6 pm	Sun 7am	Sun 9 am	Sun 11 am	Sun 6 pm
Leader :	child	Bonita Smith	Paul John Aalbers	Katherine Tanginoa	Kaira Monteiro
Reader 1:	child	Frances Ah Ken	Jane Thomsen		Griselda Baptista
Reader 2:	child	Mary Turnwald	Michael Smith	Fisiilose Dolora Veatupu	Kimberley Suan
Ministers of Holy Communion:	Joissee Cueva	Michael Mckeown	Colleen Aalbers	Ngalo'afe Nau	Michael Eade
	Jessica D'Silva	Ann Mckeown	Piet Bakker	Malia Veatupu	Anna Manoharan
	Dominica Cowan		Teresa Malone	Suzette Orquejo	Mary Sarunija Moh...
Collector:	Phyllis, Mark, & Elridge	Soniega Family	Men's Fellowship	Filemoni & Celino	Michael Eade / Flocy Membere
Altar Servers:	Zephan Saldanha	Amanda de Jesus	Lawrence Lolesio	Jordan Solomon	Jacob Alabastro
	Liam Kim	Titoa Smith	Caroline Cibi	Keyondre Uale	Feeba Corray
	Joseph Seo	Isabel de Jesus	Frencheska Perlas	Joseph Uale	Ana Fernandes
Music Ministry:	Indian Group	Quiet Mass	Vakauta Family		Legion of Mary
Offertory					
		Cleaning Fiji Community(Friday) St. Vincent de Paul Tongan Community	Flowers Filipino Community	Children's Liturgy Missionaries of Charity Sisters	