



# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PARNELL

## NEWSLETTER

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 21 FEBRUARY 2021

#### Pastor's Note

We are now entering into the season of Lent where we prepare for the great celebration of Christ's victory over death at Easter. We are called by Christ to renew ourselves in him so that we might share in this great victory. As the saying goes the best place to start is the beginning, and the beginning of our life in Christ is our baptism. St Peter in his first letter tells us directly that the water of the great flood is a type of the baptism which saves those who receive baptism. The account from Genesis reminds us of God's saving hand that is extended to us through our baptism, our Christian beginning.

When we dwell on our spiritual starting point of baptism we are also given a clear sign post to where we are headed. Our baptism tells us that we are set apart for God and are heirs to the promises associated with our adoption into God's family. Our baptism truly sets us apart in a veiled way compared with the clear outward sign of the imposition of ashes at the beginning of Lent. If you think back to previous years when you were able to attend an Ash Wednesday Mass or service, the reception of ashes on the forehead is clear sign that you have been set apart for God. It also shows the destination that we are moving towards, the celebration of Christ's victory of the cross. Our baptism makes us partakers of this mystery, through these waters we enter into the death of Christ so that we might also share in his resurrection.

Lent is a season where we are invited to journey with Jesus into the wilderness for 40 days, to be guided by the Spirit and prepared to receive the spiritual renewal that God wants to offer us. We are called to turn away from sin, renew our belief in the gospel message and remember the ultimate end that we are striving for, namely life with God in Heaven. During this Lenten journey we turn away from the pleasures of the world in the things that we have decided to fast from so that we might place more emphasis on our spiritual lives and our relationship with God. Fasting and prayer helps us in our intention of drawing close to God, it enables us to be properly disposed to receive the many gifts that God wants to give us. It is a reminder that we are not living for this world, and that our true home is in the world to come. Fasting and prayer helps us to more easily see the work of God in our lives, especially when we remove distractions that prevent us from being truly open to God.

When we give up something which is good in itself, for love of God, we acknowledge that our relationship with God is more important than any material thing that we could ever possess. It gives us a renewed insight into just how important our membership in God's family is, and that our baptism is something to be truly cherished. As we begin this season of Lent let us pray for one another that we might all receive the grace necessary to place Christ at the centre of our lives as we journey with him to the cross and ultimately the resurrection at Easter.

*Blessings ~ Fr Tony King-Archer*  
*Assistant Priest, the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph*

#### Liturgy of the Word

~ **Genesis** This tells of the friendship-agreement (covenant) which God established with Noah and his descendants after the Flood.

~ **Psalm 24** Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

~ **1 Peter 3:18-22** The waters of the Flood of Noah's time were a type of waters of baptism by which we are saved,

~ **Gospel Mark 1:2-15** After his baptism Jesus spent forty days in the desert, during which time he was tempted by Satan.

**Next Week's readings: Genesis 22:1-2.9-13.15-18; Psalm 115; Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10**

For Sunday and weekday readings see: [mobilegabriel.com](http://mobilegabriel.com) AND [www.livingtheword.org.nz](http://www.livingtheword.org.nz)

*Please pray for those who are sick, recovering from surgery or needing our prayers, especially:*

**Marlee Owens, Helena Hamlin, Samira & Raj, John Sullivan, James L. Cu, Sepi Fe'ao, Teresa Gudex, Dolly P, Ana Laura Robles, Ana Denisse Manjarrez, Brian Murphy, AS, Christopher Hughes, Alberto Olarte, Sue Bedford, Joe Raymond, Ben Hunt, Ambi Joseph, Ivy Hi, Royston Beckham, Margaret Everett, John & Rosa Williams, Ann Sayegh, Marie Mole, Linda Mole, Fr Andrei Centeno, Mary Bratton, Elizabeth Beckham, Alana North, Chris Dwyer, Maurice Robinson, Michael Wong, Maree C, Kanawhat Cheevachit, Alice Swann, Yaroslav Khmel, Anne Telles, Linus Broughton, BC, Emy Calma, Sue Wynne Davis, Rosily Chacko, Patricia Wright, Kirei Tua, Thils Vern, Luigi & Dawn Rocca, Bonifacio Sanches, Joy Agon, Gavin Alexander, Chonusi William, Eric & Rachel Smith, Maria Martho, Rosa Santos, Jon Manson, Francisco Billinilanz, Benny Clynes, Judy Hanna, Lynn Barnett Welsh, Neira, Christopher Browne, Barry Spooner, Nicholas James, Pamela Vincent, Shane McGruddy, Michelle Bergin, Rosita Galarg, Teana Jones, J. Harrington, Rodolfo Paragas, Serena Coughy, Martin Harriman, Ann Gordon, Frank Van Nieukerk, John Kainuku, Noeline Levick, Jin Shu Qin, Adelaida Sison, Jill Hopgood-Luyers, Virgilia Velasquez, Wilfred Mansoor, Baden McPherson, Shannon Kavanagh, Gloria Gillespie.**

*We remember those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time . . .*

**Anthony Raki, Dawson Rata-Harimate, Msgr Des McCarthy, Steven Mulvey, Patricia Kirwan, Peter Considine, David Silich, Ruby Joseph, Rodney Melville-Smith, Carlina Beltran, Raymond Mascarenhas, Farzana Shaikh, Thomas Setyo, Kathleen McHugh, Pat Shepherd, John Divers, Margaret Magness, Russell McDowall, Alzira Fernandes, Vida Delegat, Kath Urlich, Natividad Manalo-Abcede, Romeo Sureta Abcede, Hannah de Beer, Claire Howley, Philip Leishman, Regina Orr, Patrick O'Byrne, Cathy Campbell, Sr M Joan Hopkinson rsm, Sr Aileen Martin rsm, John O'Connor, Fr Ray Garchow OH, Odilia Amos, Kathleen Grey, Kim Jung Ha, Monika Menartowicz, Justiniano Senior, Michael O'Flaherty, Alois Ayan, Klara & Miha Pintaric**

*. . . Eternal rest grant to them.*

### **ALERT LEVEL 2 at ST JOHN**

Under Alert Level 2, there will be both weekday and weekend Masses here in Parnell. However, there will be no Reconciliation offered during this period.

Reminders to those visiting or coming to Mass:

- Scan and check-in when you arrive or alternatively, write down your details on the Visitor's logbook provided on the church foyer.
- Holy Communion will be distributed in ONE kind (NOT from the chalice) only in the hand. No wine this time.
- Wearing of face mask is strongly encouraged.
- If you are sick or unwell, please stay home.

Visit our website - [www.parnellcatholic.org.nz](http://www.parnellcatholic.org.nz) or connect with us on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnTheBaptistParnell> for the latest updates.

#### **Weekday Mass**

Monday to Friday: 12.10pm

Saturday & Public Holidays: 9am

#### **Priests Presiding this Weekend**

Saturday Vigil, 5pm—Fr John Tollan

Sunday 7am—Fr John Tollan

Sunday 9.30am—Fr John Tollan

#### **St John the Baptist Church Organ Fund**

The Parish Finance Committee has given the approval for our parish to purchase a new Church Organ. This will replace the old one (that's been used for 30 years) that broke down in October last year. The parish is currently renting an organ for our Musicians to use during our weekend Masses. The estimated cost to get the new organ would be between \$30,000 and \$40,000. We have set up a Church Organ Fund to help our parish achieve this. For your donations, please send them to: BNZ Parnell Parish 02-0100-0120982-014. Indicate your "Initials & surname" (for example: PBrowne) in the Particulars and "OrganFund" on the Reference.

To get a tax receipt, email your details to [office@parnellcatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@parnellcatholic.org.nz).

We thank you for your generosity.

**Caritas Lenten Appeal**—For this season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, Caritas is making available our Lent Reflection booklets which include the Gospel readings for each week of Lent. These can be reflected on or prayed with on an individual or small group basis in compliance with Covid restrictions. They can be viewed and printed from their website here: [https://caritas.org.nz/system/files/resources/2021%20LRP%20English\\_web.pdf](https://caritas.org.nz/system/files/resources/2021%20LRP%20English_web.pdf)

Caritas has distributed envelopes for giving to the Bishops' Lenten Appeal throughout Parishes for the Lenten season which you can collect at the end of Mass. Alternatively, you can give through electronic Lent envelopes <https://caritas.org.nz/donate> which you can participate in Lenten giving even if Mass is cancelled under level 2 or 3.

**NZ Catholic** - latest copy is available in the church for \$4.

~ ~ ~

#### **"Come & See"- Come and explore a vocation with the**

**Sisters of Mercy**—Saturday 27 March 2021 9.30am to 1.30pm Te Waipuna Puawai. 12a Umere Crescent, Ellerslie.

RSVP by 24 March and for more information contact: [vocations@mercy.org.nz](mailto:vocations@mercy.org.nz) Sr Fatima phone 021 084 29440 Sr Linda phone 021 263 0439.

**Food for Faith**— offers brief daily email encouragements in Lent 2021 for those who sign up at [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz). For more information visit [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz).

### **CATHOLIC COLLEGE OPEN DAYS**

**St Peter's College**—Thursday 4 March at 9.30 am & 1 pm in the College Hall by the Mountain Road entrance. Applications close Friday, 6 April. Visit [www.st-peters.school.nz/enrolment/](http://www.st-peters.school.nz/enrolment/) for further information.

**St Paul's College**—Thursday 4th March at 9.30am or 1.45pm. Parking will be available on-site. Assembly in the College Chapel followed by a tour of the College by senior students. Enrolment Packs will be available on the day or may be downloaded from [www.stpaulscollege.co.nz/enrolment/open-day-2021](http://www.stpaulscollege.co.nz/enrolment/open-day-2021).

**Baradene College**—6.30 pm, Thursday 4 March. Entry at Gate 2 to the Auditorium. Enrolments for Year 7, 2022 and a limited number of places in Year 9 are available. Applications close Friday, 19 March.

**St Mary's College**— 2.30pm & 6.30pm Thursday 4 March in the Paul Keane Gymnasium. All welcome. Enrolments for Years 7 and limited places for Year 9 in 2022 close Thursday 18 March.

**Sacred Heart College**—Wednesday, 10 March at 11.45 am & 1.30 pm. Enrolments close 1 April 2021. For details of enrolments for 2022 and scholarships visit [www.sacredheart.school.nz](http://www.sacredheart.school.nz).

**St Dominic's College**—school for girls in West Auckland. Tuesday 23rd March 6.30pm. Enrolment application packs for 2022 will be available. Enrolments close Friday 2nd July 2021.

#### **Worried about inequality in NZ?**

Education is the key. Can you sponsor a student at St Paul's College in 2021? For more details email [headmaster@stpaulscollege.co.nz](mailto:headmaster@stpaulscollege.co.nz)

~ ~ ~

#### **ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS**

For those in their 20s-30s interested in young adult groups/events in the Auckland Diocese, please contact Rochelle ([rochelled@cda.org.nz](mailto:rochelled@cda.org.nz)) or 022 309 2022 and visit [Facebook.com/AKCYM](https://www.facebook.com/AKCYM).

**Diocesan Youth Mass**—The first Diocesan Youth Mass for 2021 is scheduled for 7 pm Sunday 28 February at the Cathedral. Mass will be hosted by the Logos Project and year 13 school leaders and will be celebrated by Fr Kev Murphy SM. Please keep an eye on their Facebook page for further on this

#### **Are you a Tertiary Student in Auckland?**

You are invited to the Auckland Catholic Tertiary Chaplaincy (ACTC) for our 2021 Welcome BBQ. Enjoy delicious food, connect with other Catholic students, and discover your 'Home away from home' in the city. 5PM-7PM, Friday 5th March, 110 Symonds St, Grafton. For more information visit [facebook.com/thechaplains](https://www.facebook.com/thechaplains).

**The Walter Francis Darby Trust Scholarship for Medical Students**—If you are a 4th or 5th year medical student in 2021, are an active Catholic and normally reside within the Auckland Diocese you may be eligible for the Walter Francis Darby Trust Scholarship. For more information contact Catherine Ryan, Vicar for Education, Catholic Diocese of Auckland. Phone (09) 360 3057 or email [catheriner@cda.org.nz](mailto:catheriner@cda.org.nz).