

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH PARNELL

Winter Sunday Mass Times~ Saturday Vigil 5 pm, Sunday 9.30 am

No Weekday Masses until further notice

Masses Saturdays & Public Holidays 9 am

Reconciliation ~ Saturday 9.30am

Parish Priest ~ Father Stephen Berez

~ Email: sberez@gmail.com

Parish Secretary ~ Felina Soldevilla: phone (09) 373 3132

~ Email: office@parnellcatholic.org.nz

www.parnellcatholic.org.nz

Parking in St John's Car Park

Those attending Sunday or a weekday Mass do not need to pay if using the St John's car park. On a Sunday, you may leave your car in the car park for one hour after Mass (that is, till 11.30am) without payment. Cars left beyond that time could be towed away.

On weekdays or Saturday Morning, you have fifteen minutes after Mass only.

Safe Church - Safe guarding

As Catholics we believe that every person is created in the likeness and image of God. Therefore, we continue to ensure that our parish is a place where everyone is treated with respect and dignity. We foster an environment which is welcoming, and in which all our parish whanau, including our tamariki, rangatahi, kuia and kaumatua, feel safe.

If you have any complaints or concerns, our Safeguarding Co-ordinator is Felina Soldevilla and you can contact her by phone (09) 373 3132 or email office@parnellcatholic.org.nz

You may also contact the National Office for Professional Standards 0800-114-662.

You may also contact the police 111.

The Square Gift Store

(Catholic Shop)

Liston House, St Patrick's Square
43 Wyndham Street, Auckland CBD 1010

Tel: (09) 365 1693

Email: info@thesquaregiftstore.co.nz

DONATION POINT TAP

No cash but keen to donate?

You can now use the Tap & Go device located in the church foyer to give a one off donation.

This is a secure contactless donation using your eftpos/credit cards with PayWave or mobile devices with Apple Pay or Google Pay.

It is \$10 for every tap (no receipt will be issued).



St Vincent de Paul Society Foodbank Donations

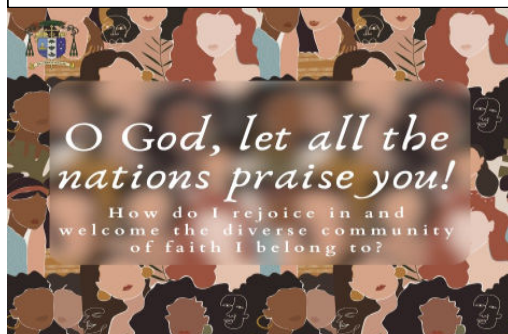
Our Parish welcomes your donations of non-perishable goods and personal care items. The donations basket is located on the right side of the main entrance as you go inside the church.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Contact the SVDP Food Support team at:

0800 680 090 or 815 6122

Email: foodbank@svdpak.org.nz



PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARNELL

"Prepare a way for the Lord."

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 20 AUGUST 2023

This week's Gospel, narrates the encounter between Jesus and a Canaanite woman who approached him seeking help for her demon-possessed daughter. This seemingly simple story carries profound implications, reflecting God's universal care and concern for people of every nation. It also serves as a reminder that we should not restrict God's love to ourselves or to the laws of any particular institution.

In the passage, Jesus initially seems to dismiss the Canaanite woman's plea, stating that he was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel. At first glance, this response might be perplexing and even disheartening, as it implies a restriction on God's love and healing power. However, the woman's unyielding faith and persistence in addressing Jesus as the "Son of David" demonstrate her belief in the divine authority and universal nature of God's compassion.

Jesus' interaction with the Canaanite woman reveals an important truth: God's love transcends cultural, ethnic, and societal boundaries. It is not confined to a particular group or institution but extends to all humanity. This story serves as a reminder that God's grace and care are not limited by human divisions but are available to everyone, regardless of their background or origin.

As believers, we should be cautious not to confine God's love and grace within the narrow confines of our own understanding or religious institutions. Our faith should not become a barrier but an open gateway for all who seek God's presence. Instead of imposing limitations on God's love, we should strive to share it with others, just as the Canaanite woman's faith and persistence touched the heart of Jesus.

The notion that rules surrounding the reception of the Eucharist are designed to protect the Lord from those He wants to draw close to is a thought-provoking observation.

While these rules may serve important theological and sacramental purposes, they should not become exclusive barriers that hinder people from experiencing the transformative power of communion with Christ.

Jesus' ministry was characterized by openness and inclusivity. He welcomed sinners, outcasts, and those considered unworthy by society, inviting them to partake in the divine fellowship. The Eucharist, as a central aspect of Roman Catholic worship, symbolizes this invitation to be in communion with Christ. Thus, the rules surrounding it should not be exclusionary but rather a means to foster spiritual growth, reverence, and sincere devotion.

Today's Gospel presents a powerful narrative of God's universal care and concern for all people. The encounter between Jesus and the Canaanite woman serves as a reminder that God's love is not confined by human boundaries and should not be restricted by our own biases or institutional rules. Instead, our faith should be a catalyst for openness and inclusivity, allowing God's love to flow freely and embrace all who seek Him. We must approach our spiritual practices with humility and understanding, ensuring that they do not become stumbling blocks for others but avenues for drawing close to the Lord.

***Blessings ~ Fr Stephen Berez,
St John the Baptist Parnell***

Liturgy of the Word

~ **Isaiah 56:1,6-7** The Lord calls upon us to follow what is right and just, as he prepares to reveal his salvation and justice.

~ **Psalm 66** O God, let all the nations praise you!

~ **Romans 11:13-15,29-32** St Paul takes pride in his ministry to the Gentiles.

~ **Gospel Matthew 15:21-28** The Gospel today tells of Jesus' encounter with the Canaanite woman. Jesus looked beyond cultural barriers and saw the sincerity of her heart.

Next Week's readings: Isaiah 22:19-23; Psalm 137; Romans 11:33-36 Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20
For Sunday and weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.com AND/OR www.livingtheword.org.nz

This Week at St John the Baptist

Presiding Priest this Sunday

Saturday 5pm Vigil Fr Stephen Berecz
Sunday 9.30am Fr Stephen Berecz

Mass times this week in Parnell

Mon to Fri – No Mass until further notice
Saturday & Public Holidays 9am

Reconciliation—Saturdays 9.30am
~ ~ ~

St Michael's Remuera Parish Mass times:

Monday to Friday 7am & 12 pm

New Parish Bank Account

Please take note of our new Parish Bank Account. From 1 July 2023, new and one-off Donations to the Parish should be to this New Account:

BNZ 02 0108 0705969 000

For those with existing Automatic Payments already set up prior to 1 July 2023, these will be processed as usual with the payments automatically routed to the new bank account.

Church Life Survey 2023— Parishioners aged 15 yrs and above are encouraged to participate.

Click on the link below to download the questionnaire online. The survey takes approximately 10-15mins to finish.

<https://clsnz.org/dataentry/online/01H1WZJFMBCHJQCXT5GJ7H9D3/en-rc>



Sunday Mass on TV

Sunday Mass on TV at 2 pm on Shine TV channel 25 or Sky channel 201.

NZ Catholic Newspaper

The latest edition is available in the main foyer for \$4 a copy. Please pay cash to the Parish Office or online through the Parish Account.

Volunteers needed in our Parish

Vacancies for the various ministries in our parish are open. EOM, Readers, Greeters, Projectionists.

Full training and support will be provided.

Please enquire at the Parish Office.

Email: office@parnellcatholic.org.nz

Bishop's Pastoral Council—A copy of the Bishop's Pastoral Council Newsletter is available at <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/June2023-6.pdf>



Holy Hour Adoration & Benediction

at St Michael's Remuera

Can you spend 1 hour with Jesus?

St Michael's Church in Remuera invites everyone to join them for a Holy Hour every 4th Friday of each month. The Holy Hour includes Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction and communal prayer. Everyone welcome.

Next Holy hour is on Friday 25 August at 7pm.

Mass for Loss of a Child

A special Mass will be offered for those who have experienced loss of a child. Spiritual and psychological healing is necessary after the loss of a child and the Catholic Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist help to facilitate healing and to fully know God's love and mercy. St Michael's Parish, 6 Beatrice Road, Remuera on Saturday 2nd September at 5pm; Reconciliation & Adoration from 4.30pm. For more information contact: Brenda Brightwell, St Michael's Parish, 027 641 5615

The Beginning Experience

ALONE AGAIN? A weekend away to help those suffering the heartache of Separation, Divorce, or Widowhood, 25-27 August. Phone Lynda 0274898003 or (09)4789742 or Kelly evenings 0276864416 www.beginningexperience.org.nz
For more info.

~ VACANCIES ~

Prison Chaplaincy Director

Applications are invited for the position of Prison Chaplaincy Director for the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference (NZCBC). This is a full-time national role, providing pastoral and professional leadership and support to the Catholic chaplains who provide chaplaincy services in New Zealand prisons. Visit www.catholic.org.nz/news for more information. Applications close Monday 28 August at 5pm.

Kaihapai Māori New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference

The role will support several of the bishops' national agencies in advancing a deeper understanding of the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi and a Māori way of working across all ministries. Visit <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/kaihapai-maori/> for more information. Applications close Monday, 21 August at 10pm.

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass

Friday 1st September 7pm

At St Mary's Parish, 20 Kitenui Ave, Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass, followed by general blessing of St Faustina's relic. All welcome.

The Ethnic Chaplaincies Annual Festival

is back! It's all happening at Sancta Maria School and St Luke Church, Flatbush, Sat 7th – Sun 8th October 2023. Book this date! Get involved in your ethnic communities! Participate in the beautiful message of Isaiah 60 | Rise and Shine! It is the Ethnic Chaplaincies Rise Up and Shine Festival Time! See you there! If you want to be involved in the organising/volunteer email louisar@cda.org.nz

GIFT Golden Jubilee

G.I.F.T (Grow In Faith Together) is celebrating its Golden Jubilee. Bishop Steve and the GIFT family invite you to join in celebrating this important milestone. Sunday 17 September, 11 am Mass at Good Shepherd Parish, Telford Ave, Balmoral followed by a light lunch in the parish hall. RSVP by 11 /09 to mylene@giftcentre.org.nz



Celebrating 125 years of St Joseph's Catholic Church Dannevirke

Special Jubilee Mass & luncheon on Saturday the 14th October, followed by a special Mass Sunday 15th October. Please register your interest by emailing stjodvke@xtra.co.nz with your details no later than 10 September 2023.

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

Crestine Carson, Jon Manson, Eric & Rachel Smith, Francisco Billinilanz, Lynn Welsh, John Kainuku, Sallyshni Devi, Paul Mulderry, Louise Collins, Dina Miranda, Edilberto Reyes, Malu Beltran, Msgr Paul Farmer, Vivien Emery, Thilsi Vern, Gil Melling, Elenore Byrne, Neira, Ivy Hi, Corazon Villanueva Misa, Ben Hunt, Angela Robinson, AS, Maura Just, Maurice Robinson, Aaron Ablan, Teresa Gudex, Kirei Tua, Emy Calma, BC, Dennis Matthew, Marlee Owens, Samira & Raj, John Sullivan, James L. Cu, Joy Agon, Alberto Olarte, Ana Laura Robles, Ambi Joseph, Alice Swann, Christopher Hughes, Brian Murphy, Ana Denisse Manjarrez, Sue Bedford, Joe Raymond, Royston Beckham, Alana North, Margaret Everett, Mary Bratton, Fr Andrei Centeno, Judy Hanna, Michael Wong, Yaroslav Khmel, Anne Telles, Linus Broughton, Patricia Wright, Sue Wynne Davis, Rosily Chacko, Dawn Rocca, Nicholas James, Rosa Santos, Bonifacio Sanches, Rosita Galarg, Gavin Alexander, Chonusi William, Teana Jones, Maria Martho, Benny Clynes, Christopher Browne, Barry Spooner, Pamela Vincent, Michelle Bergin, J. Harrington, Serena Coughy, Martin Harriman, Ann Gordon, Adelaida Sison, Wilfred Mansoor, Rodolfo Paragas, Virgilia Velasquez, Baden McPherson, Shannon Kavanagh, John & Rosa Williams, Linda Mole, Jin Shu Qin.

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

Patricia Ash, Narcisa Garcia Cruz, Colleen Swasbrook, Muriel Prendergast, Lodewijk Widarma, Elizabeth Inawati, Lee Francisca, Michelle Pereira, Noreen Fletcher, Salvador & Ana Maria Robles, Peter Williams, Dr Warren Moran, Basil Aholelei, Bill Roche, Phyllis Murphy, Greg Boyed, George Dyer, V. Handoyo, , Peter Nola, Frank Soldner, Jo Scully, Anthony Raman, Maurice Boland, Eileen Brosnan, Mikie King, Michael Rehder, Cecy da Costa, Betty Johnstone, Jo Scully, Hazel Harris, Eugina Reyes, Robin Maber, Basil Yap, Nolean Byers, Jim Robbie, Lizza Tagle, Anthony Moore, Andrew Martin, Brendan Dunican, Romeo Ballona, Pat Tonks, Josephine Bish, Bob Skelton, George Wood, Benjamin Contreras Snr, Moira Bryant, Lynette Collins, Maura Henley, Pacing Bergante Talamor, Eleanor Tierney, Kazimier Milek, Gerard Brown, Wilma Bretana, Sr Frances Scully OP, Eric Szczerba, Marie Murphy, Laurie Neeson . . . Eternal rest grant to them..