

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 Berecz

~ Email: sberecz@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

WHO DO
YOU SAY
I AM?

If asked who would I
say Jesus Christ was?



PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARNELL

"Prepare a way for the Lord."

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 27 AUGUST 2023

"Who am I?" – Identity and Mission of Jesus and Peter

During my seminary days, we staged a musical entitled "Prodigal Son". While the run-away younger son is starving for food in a pigsty, the eternal quest "Who am I?" haunts him more than ever. He sings:

*"There seems to be several people, locked up inside of me;
fighting a constant battle for me Identity.*

*Sometimes, they keep me prisoner, sometimes they set me free;
Is one of them my true self? Is one of them really me? Who am I?"*

How did 'others' see Jesus? For some, He was just the revival of a dead past prophetic revival – like a John the Baptist, an Elijah or a Jeremiah or one of the prophets.

In a very decisive conversation at Caesarea Philippi, Jesus throws this same eternal quest to his disciples about His Identity: "But, who do you say that I am?" (Mt 16:15). Without a doubt but without complete comprehension too, Peter confesses, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Jesus, then declares a 'blessedness' on Peter and shifts the focus from Himself to Peter. Peter who recognised the true 'identity and mission' of Jesus is now himself given a new identity and mission from Jesus. Simon is called by a new name – *Cephas* in Aramaic, or *Petros* on Greek taken from the root word for 'rock'. With a new name, comes a new commission. Simon the fisherman is officially commissioned by Jesus with divine authority, "You are Peter and on this 'rock' I will build My church." Like Eliakim in the first reading, Peter is given the 'Keys' of the Kingdom of Heaven with authority 'to bind' and 'to loose'.

Peter's vocation was not always a story of fidelity. Peter's journey in following Jesus was coupled with 'sincere confession' and 'denials'. He stood firm in his 'faith' and 'faltered' even to sinking point. The 'rock' at times had crumbled into bits of sand. Following Jesus was a 'see-saw' rhythm between getting it right and getting it wrong. But, Jesus never gave up on Peter. After the Resurrection, on the same shores of Galilee, Jesus will challenge Peter to the quality of his love for Jesus. Peter finally gets it right. There is never a doubt after Peter responded to the all-important question, "Peter, do you love me?" True love heals all pain, wipes away all shame and strengthens faltering faith.

As we reflect on the Gospel of today, we are called today to accept and obey the authority of Pope Francis our Petrine figure.

Blessings ~

Fr Glenford Lowe, Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph

Liturgy of the Word

~ **Isaiah 22:19-23** the Lord speaks to Shebna, the master of the palace, and Eliakim, the chosen servant.

~ **Psalms 137** Lord your love is eternal, do not forsake the work of your hands.

~ **Romans 11:33-36** St. Paul reflects on the unfathomable riches, wisdom, and knowledge of God.

~ **Gospel Matthew 16:13-20** This reading emphasizes the significance of Peter's confession, highlighting that faith in Jesus as the Messiah is the cornerstone of the Church.

Next Week's readings: Jeremiah 20:7-9; Psalm 62; Romans 12:1-2 Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

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

Sunday Mass times from September onwards

Please note that from next weekend,
Our 7am Sunday Mass will resume.

Both the Saturday 5pm Vigil and Sunday 9.30am
Masses are as usual.

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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.*

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



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.

~ 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.

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Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Holy Cross Seminary, Ponsonby invites all to join
their celebration of the Feast of the Exaltation of
the Holy Cross. Bishop Michael Gielen will be
presiding. Mass at 7pm on Monday,
11 September 2023 at Sacred Heart Parish,
16 Vermont Street, Ponsonby, Auckland.
Light refreshments will be served after Mass at
Holy Cross Seminary, 44 Vermont St, Ponsonby.
Parishioners are most welcome to join.

Social Justice Week begins on

Sunday 3 September, with the focus on peace and
responding to conflict. The National Liturgy Office
has relevant information here: [https://nlo.org.nz/
news-and-events/media-releases/social-justice-
week-3/](https://nlo.org.nz/news-and-events/media-releases/social-justice-week-3/) resources are available to download from
Caritas Aotearoa NZ here: [www.caritas.org.nz/
parishes/social-justice-week](http://www.caritas.org.nz/parishes/social-justice-week)

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

REUNION St Dominic's College Dunedin

Please register your interest in a proposed
reunion of those who attended
St Dominic's College Dunedin Phone
03 4543191 or e-mail stunpaul@xtra.co.nz

McAuley High School 60th Jubilee Celebrations

September 23rd 2023. An invitation to all past
students and teachers to attend. It's your ONE
chance to catch up. Don't let this opportunity pass
you by. Email: alumni@mcauleyhigh.school.nz
for more details

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

Rita Lopez, Wayne Barden, Joy Mitchell, Lyn Sparks, Ian Werder, Maryke Lind, Paul Mulderry, Louise Collins, Judy Hanna, Neira, Thilsi Vern, Ivy Hi, Dina Miranda, Edilberto Reyes, Malu Beltran, Vivien Emery, Gil Melling, Teresa Gudex, Corazon Villanueva Misa, Ben Hunt, Angela Robinson, Anne Telles, Kirei Tua, Maurice Robinson, Maura Just, Aaron Ablan, Alice Swann, Dennis Matthew, Marlee Owens, John Sullivan, Joy Agon, Lynn Welsh, Samira & Raj, James L. Cu, Linda Mole, Alberto Olarte, Ana Laura Robles, Brian Murphy, Christopher Hughes, BC, Ana Manjarrez, Sue Bedford, Joe Raymond, Dawn Rocca, Royston Beckham, AS, Margaret Everett, Mary Bratton, John & Rosa Williams, Michael Wong, Yaroslav Khmel, Rosa Santos, Linus Broughton, Patricia Wright, Sue Wynne Davis, Ann Gordon, Nicholas James, Bonifacio Sanches, Rosita Galarg, Gavin Alexander, Chonusi William, Teana Jones, Maria Martho, Benny Clynes, Eric & Rachel Smith, J. Harrington, John Kainuku, Christopher Browne, Serena Coughney, Adelaida Sison, Rodolfo Paragas, Virgilia Velasquez, Shannon Kavanagh.

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

Dominador Licayan, Fr Felix Donnelly, John Lane, Dan McCarthy, Maria Herzer, Heather Adlington, Joy Kane, Dominador Cebes, Zarko Millich, Fr Kevin McKone, Erlinda Gonzales, Ernesto Guin, Jenny O'Shea, Cyril Creado, Sr Bernadette McCarthy, Colleen Beguely, Bonifacia Jogejo Hermosilla, Michael Tipene, Kathleen Rowland, Ken McLean, Colleen Quinn, Michael Moodabe, Sr Cyprian SMSM, Ruth Dimatulac, Cipriano Santiago, Donald Crawford, Augustina Cabrera, Lesley Smith, Neville Pearson, Matthew Slykerman, Kevin McBreen, George Goodwin, Anecita Carrucan, Anneke Brandt-Bantzinger

. . . Eternal rest grant to them..