

## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH PARNELL

Sunday Mass Times~ Saturday Vigil 5 pm, Sunday 7am & 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](mailto:sberecz@gmail.com)

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

~ Email: [office@parnellcatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@parnellcatholic.org.nz)

[www.parnellcatholic.org.nz](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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).



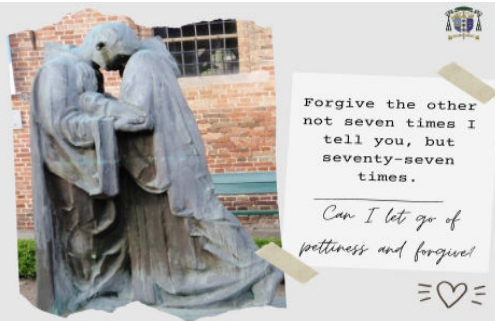
### St Vincent de Paul Society Foodbank Donations

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

Contact the SVPD Food Support team at:

0800 680 090 or 815 6122

Email: [foodbank@svdpak.org.nz](mailto:foodbank@svdpak.org.nz)



## PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARNELL

*"Prepare a way for the Lord."*

### TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 17 SEPTEMBER 2023

This week's Gospel presents a powerful lesson on forgiveness and the profound impact it can have on our lives. In this passage, Peter approaches Jesus and asks how many times he should forgive someone who sins against him—suggesting the possibility of forgiving up to seven times.

However, Jesus responds with the parable of the unforgiving servant, conveying a message that transcends mere numbers.

The parable revolves around a servant who owes an enormous debt to his master. The master, moved by compassion, forgives the servant's debt entirely. Yet, the same servant, upon encountering a fellow servant who owes him a much smaller debt, mercilessly demands repayment, and shows no mercy. When the master learns of this, he retracts his forgiveness and punishes the servant for his lack of compassion.

This passage invites us to reflect on the nature of forgiveness and its implications for our own lives. Peter's question about forgiving seven times reflects a common human tendency to quantify and limit our forgiveness. However, Jesus' response challenges us to embrace a limitless, unconditional forgiveness—one that mirrors God's forgiveness toward us. The parable's central message is clear: if we have received God's abundant forgiveness, we should extend the same grace to others without hesitation.

The parable's unforgiving servant highlights the danger of harbouring resentment and refusing to forgive. By juxtaposing the servant's actions with the master's response, the parable emphasizes the stark contrast between the divine forgiveness we receive and the human forgiveness we are called to extend. This contrast serves as a poignant reminder of our responsibility to reflect God's love and forgiveness in our interactions with others.

Furthermore, the parable underscores the interconnectedness of forgiveness and humility. Just as the servant's pride led to his downfall, a lack of humility can hinder our ability to forgive. True forgiveness requires us to set aside our ego, acknowledge our own imperfections, and approach others with a compassionate heart.

In a world often marked by conflicts and grievances, the Gospel today provides a timeless lesson on the transformative power of forgiveness. It challenges us to break the cycle of bitterness and animosity, fostering healing and reconciliation instead. As we ponder this passage, we are encouraged to examine our own attitudes toward forgiveness and to strive for the kind of grace-filled interactions that reflect our divine calling. Ultimately, this reflection prompts us to embrace a spirit of boundless forgiveness, just as we have been forgiven by our Creator.

***Blessings ~ Fr Stephen Berecz  
St John the Baptist Parnell***

## Liturgy of the Word

~ **Sirach 27:30-28:7** Wrath and anger are condemned, while forgiveness of others is commended.

~ **Psalms 102** The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion.

~ **Romans 14:7-9** Christ's death and resurrection affirm that he is Lord of both the living and the dead, and our lives should reflect that.

~ **Gospel Matthew 18:21-35** Jesus teaches about forgiveness using a parable of a servant forgiven a huge debt but who then refuses to forgive a smaller debt.

**Next Week's readings: Isaiah 55:6-9 Psalm 145; Philippians 1:20-24,27 Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16**

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

## This Week at St John the Baptist

### Presiding Priest this Sunday

Saturday 5pm Vigil Fr Stephen Berecz

Sunday 7am 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

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### St Michael's Remuera Parish Mass times:

Monday to Friday 7am & 12 pm

### Fr Stephen Away

Fr Stephen will be away from 20 September until 8 October. The weekend Masses (Saturday Vigil 5pm, Sunday 7am & 9.30am) will continue as normal. There will be **NO 9am Mass and Reconciliation on Saturdays** during this period.

### 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

### 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](mailto:office@parnellcatholic.org.nz)

### Safe accommodation required

Professional woman in her 30's, parishioner of St Michael's, using public transport, seeking room or flat to rent in her work area, either Epsom, or a neighbouring suburb. Please contact 022 360 6569.

## Holy Hour at St Michael's Remuera

The next Holy Hour with Adoration, Benediction & Communal Prayer is on Friday 22 September at 7pm. Everyone welcome.

### Sunday Mass on TV

Sunday Mass on TV at 2 pm on Shine TV channel 25 or Sky channel 201. It is also uploaded at 5.30pm Saturday night to the Auckland Catholic Diocese Youtube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/aucklandcatholic>

The Mass this weekend comes to us from Parnell led by our Parish Priest Fr Stephen.

## Upcoming Retreats & Events at St Francis

### Retreat Centre:

**Time Out Days** – For those who seek a day retreat - 9:30am – 2:30pm

(\$30 includes lunch) Tue 3 Oct | Wed 1 Nov

**St Francis Open Day** - Join us to celebrate the Feast of St Francis. Come explore the grounds and learn more about St Francis. There will also be an Animal Blessing Service so please bring your pets | Sun 1 Oct 2pm-4pm.

**Contemplative Prayer Retreat**- Want to deepen your faith? Join us to learn about fruits of the journey of meditation in the Christian Tradition | Sat 7 Oct 10am-4pm | Earlybird (before 23 Sep) \$65 | Standard (after 23 Sep) \$85.

For more info/dates and to book visit

[www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz](http://www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz) or

call 09 625 6651



The New Zealand Catholic Methodist Dialogue Committee invite you to join a **Liturgy of**

**Repentance and Reconciliation.**

Preacher: Bishop Steve Lowe.

Wednesday, 25 October 7.30 pm

Methodist Church, 427 Lake Road, Takapuna.

## Te Kupenga – Catholic Theological College

accepts enrolment for the Bachelor of Divinity and Graduate Diploma in Theology starts September 25. "With a dedicated and qualified faculty of theologians, and access to a wealth of resources, our program will empower you to critically analyse complex theological issues, foster spiritual growth, and prepare you for a meaningful career in ministry, education, or other fields where a profound understanding of theology is invaluable." To learn more about the programmes, go to [www.tekupenga.ac.nz/programmes](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/programmes).

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## 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@mcmauleyhigh.school.nz](mailto:alumni@mcmauleyhigh.school.nz) for more details.

## St Joseph's Catholic School, Onehunga

If you are a Past Pupil, Staff member or BoT member - we would love to hear from you. We are celebrating our **175th Anniversary** Fri 27, Sat 28 and Sun 29 October 2023. Contact Melanie Duarte @[mduarte@sjs.school.nz](mailto:mduarte@sjs.school.nz) to register your interest.

## 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! If you want to be involved in the organising/volunteer email [louisar@cda.org.nz](mailto:louisar@cda.org.nz)

### Date Claimer 9 November

The Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New St, St Mary's Bay is a service hub for the diocese. And a mystery to many. On the 9 November from 4.00-7.30pm you are invited to an Open Home at the Centre. It will be an opportunity to engage with staff, explore some of the archival treasure, enjoy a snack, purchase liturgical resources and more.

**The Season of Creation** A message from the CDA Justice & Peace Commission: In this Season of Creation we pray: that we "heed our call to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice." Pope Francis

### 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.

### DAYLIGHT Saving Time

Starts next weekend. On Saturday night 23 September, let's remember to turn our clocks **1 hour forward** before going to sleep.

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

Linus Broughton, Dawn Rocca, Royston Beckham, AS, Margaret Everett, Lyn Sparks, Ian Werder, Maryke Lind, Joy Mitchell, Francis Morais, John Kainuku, Christopher Browne, Serena Coughy, Adelaida Sison, Rita Lopez, Wayne Barden, Mary Bratton, John & Rosa Williams, Michael Wong, Yaroslav Khmel, Rosa Santos, Linus Broughton, Dawn Rocca, Royston Beckham, AS, Margaret Everett, 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, 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, Rodolfo Paragas, Virgilia Velasquez, Shannon Kavanagh.

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

Shane McGruddy, Cleofe Mora, Marian Saqueton, Murray Nash, Eduardo Sagge, Msgr Brian Arahill, Peta Knibb, Angus Gomez, John Fitzmaurice, Assid Corban, Pauline D'souza, Cyril Breslin, Maureen Godon, Jojo Deguit, Pat Glamazina, Trinidad Antolin, Kevin Gould, Russell Nelson, Johnny Austin, Johannes Wijoko, Florence Gomez, Michael Hontiveros, Barbara Richardson, Joe Coleman, Consuelo Katigbak, Felizardo Gacad, Mary Fernandez, Sr Maria McDonald OP, Ann Foss, Eric Kolhase, James Hurley, Jet Carib, Rosemary Griffen, Margaret McLean, Kath Clarke, Lorie Ayao-Shields, Nancy Kelly, Theresa Kemp, John Barret, Patricia Maher, Sharon Lim, Rose Blaicklok, Patricia Borg, Alma Sands, Joseph Ang, Gwen McCarthy, Rodolfo De Asis, Maureen McQuoid, Alice Murphy, Des Rosser, Kathleen Reardon, Fr Ernie Milne IC, Jimmy Nicoll, Reenie Fernandez, Victoria Cano Myra Philomena Cawthorn. . . *Eternal rest grant to them..*