

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

No Saturday Morning Mass & Reconciliation until further notice

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 SVPD 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."

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 24 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Sneaky Latecomers

In Matthew chapter 13, Jesus presents seven Kingdom parables. In today's Gospel (Mt 20:1-16), Jesus presents us with another Kingdom parable. The underlying theme is 'God's generosity' verses 'human expectations'. How fair is God's grace?

The parable is about the landowner who promises a day's wage to different sets of people: the 'early-birds', the 'nine-to-fives', the 'mid-nooners', the 'siesta-awakers' and the 'sneaky-late-comers'. The landowner is caught in a dilemma. There is a bountiful harvest to be gathered but the labourers are few. The landowner makes several visits to the marketplace. He knows the adage: "many hands make light work!" But God is more in search of winning hearts than willing hands.

When evening falls, its pay time. Those who toiled all day in the heat-of-the-sun and those who sneaked in the cool-of-the-evening await their rightful and just wage. They are in for a surprise. Jesus is a God of surprises. The logic of the 'Divine-reversal' is about to unfold. The last are rewarded first with a *denarius* each. Then, finally, the 'early-birds' who toiled the whole day are rightly paid a *denarius* each. They protest in anger. They grumble and complain about inequities, "This isn't fair!" They argue, "Why should the 'idlers' at the marketplace, who sneaked in at the last hour, be paid a whole day's wage?" "How could a loving God be so unfair?"

The Kingdom of God is built on GRACE. The landowner takes the time to educate and

evangelise the labourers on how the Kingdom of God operates. Human jealousy cannot stand in the way of Divine generosity. "Why be envious because I am generous?"

The Kingdom of God is a welcome place for all. There is no place for 'idleness-in-the marketplace'. Above all, there is no place for envy or complain in the heart of a disciple. God never closes the door of the Kingdom to any sneaky latecomer. To the thief on Mount Calvary, Jesus promises him, "Today, you will be with me in Paradise!"

Our lives at times are caught up in the 'idleness-of-the-market-place' rather than being a 'gatherer-in-the-Lord's vineyard'. But God comes in search of you, wherever you are and whenever you are. His favourite word is, "Come gather with me!" Giving up the 'idleness-of-the-market-place' is not easy. The lure of spending hours on social media, on idle gossip and slander, on meaningless activity... the list goes on and on. But God does not give up on you. He walks up to you by the hour and calls you by name to a higher purpose of living and being!

The saint and the sinner, the graced and the ungraced, the church and the unchurched are all paid with the Blood of Christ on Calvary. The Kingdom of Heaven is won because of God's Grace and not because of 'your work'. When we fall into the 'trap of comparison' - judging others as unworthy or sneaky - we misunderstand that the entire Kingdom of God is built on grace and mercy!

**Blessings ~ Fr Glenford Lowe
Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph**

Liturgy of the Word

~ Isaiah 55:6-9 Seek God while He's close; abandon wickedness.

~ Psalm 145 The Lord is near to all who call on him.

~ Philippians 1:20-24,27 In life or death, I magnify Christ. Life means fruitful labor.

~ Gospel Matthew 20:1-16 The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who hires laborers at different times.

Next Week's readings: Ezekiel 18:25-28 Psalm 24; Philippians 2:1-11 Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

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 Philip Sullivan
Sunday 7am Fr Tim Costello, SM
Sunday 9.30am Fr Philip Sullivan

Mass times this week in Parnell

Mon to Fri – No Mass until further notice
No Saturday 9am Mass & No Reconciliation
this weekend

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St Michael's Remuera Parish Mass times:

Monday to Friday 7am & 12 pm

Fr Stephen Away

Fr Stephen is 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 NO 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

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.

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>

Seminar on Loss, Suffering and Death

At St Michael's Remuera Parish Centre on Wednesday, 25 October 7pm. Registration forms are available in the Church Foyer or through their website: <https://www.remueracatholic.org.nz/events/seminar-loss-suffering-death>

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 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. "To learn more about the programmes, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/programmes.

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Prayer for the Synod

Cardinal Mario Grech, General Secretary of the Synod Assembly starting in Rome on 4 October, has invited all the faithful to participate in **prayer for the Synod** from today Sunday 24 September with Prayers for Intercession. A Vatican News article about Cardinal Grech's letters to the bishops is here: www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2023-09/cardinal-mario-grech-invitation-episcopate-priests-prayer-synod.html

All are welcome to a **Choral Evensong** at Trinity Cathedral on Sunday Oct 1, 5 pm to pray the Synod in Rome.

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass on Friday

6th October 7:00pm

at St Mary's Parish, 20 Kitemui 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! If you want to be involved in the organising/volunteer email 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, purchases 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.

Columban Calendars – The 2024 Columban Calendars are now available to purchase from the Parish Office for \$15 each. Please bring cash or pay online to the Parish Bank Account.

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

Remedios Tolentino, Teresita Hontiveros, 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 . . .

Michael Gabriel McKinney, Patricia Burke, Natalie Keane, Jennifer Fox, Patricia Devereaux, Michael Joseph, John Lokes, Paul Nola, John Toland, Br JP Wilson, Michael Raj Kumar, Pricilla Andrews, Wendy Terwiel, Consolacion Adique, John Pakistan, Fr John Airey CSsR, Fr John Berry, Denham Shale, Eulalio Daguman, Billy Plumb, Rosa Romualdez, Mario Samala, Faustino Calvelo, Bill Mudgway, Violet Sinkovich, James O'Grady, Brian Claney, Trinidad Antolin, Eileen O'Brien, John Geddes, Jo Walsh, June Courtney, Paul Austin, Luke Tipene, Shirley Loretz, Tarun Asantha, Ann Marian, Campbell Adams, Paul Gallagher, Janis Coleman, Carolina Noionha, Carmel McCarthy, Cheekeong, Dallys Horne, Mary Conning, Terence Abreo, Rosann Laird, I Antoniraj, Rosemary Mohi, Jim Waldron, John Gordon, Helen McLaughlin, Bishop John Cuneen, Jim Butterworth, Pat Inslay, Leonard Lanigan, Monthi Fernandes, Pamela Maling, Margaret Chapman, Dan McCarthy, Jillian Paterson, Fr Michael O'Hara, Steve Noonan, Margaret McLean, Maria do Carmo Noronha, Jose Tlentino, Dorothy Bowerman, Sharon Lim, Phyliss Bloomfield *Eternal rest grant to them..*