

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 9am Mass & No 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

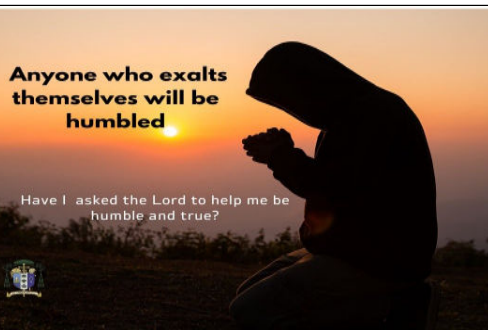
Our Parish welcomes your donations of non-perishable goods and personal care items. The donations basket is located on the right side of the main entrance as you go inside the church.

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."

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 5 NOVEMBER 2023

Walk the talk.

Paul, in his letter to the Thessalonians, used the powerful image of a nursing mother who cares for her children. He presented the Word of God as nourishment for the soul. Equally important is the relationship he established with the people in sharing his very self. He worked day and night for them and for God. And he is pleased to see the fruit of their labour, the Word of God at work in those who received it and believed.

The priests, during the time of the prophet Malachi, were forewarned. They "have turned aside from the way and have caused many to falter." They did not take good care the people. As a result, they had broken faith with one another and they violated the covenant. Isn't this the exact opposite of what Paul established and achieved with the Thessalonians?

The scribes and Pharisees were once again placed on the hot seat when Jesus criticised and exposed their hypocrisy and hunger for recognition. The people were severely warned not to imitate their example. There is no genuine love for the people but everything is merely for showing off. There is neither intimate nor personal relationship established between them and the people. While Paul called and treated the Thessalonians as his dearly beloved, the scribes and the Pharisees only used the people for their own benefit and just to feed their egos.

In our readings this Sunday, the priests and the religious leaders are portrayed not as we hoped them to be. How easy it is to cast a stone on them for not being good role models and not doing what is expected of them. And how convenient it is to just be "ordinary" and "normal," having lesser expectation and commitment. WRONG! I believe, the caution and warning apply to all of us, Christians. By virtue of our Baptism, we receive the common priesthood. We are all PRIESTS for Christ. We share not only that same dignity but also that same responsibility and commitment to follow Christ, to have a deep relationship with Him and to support each other in faith hope and love. Pope Francis initiated the Synod on Synodality, precisely, to rediscover our true selves in the life of the Church. We journey together, co-responsible and accountable for our growth in faith. And we are not only PRIESTS for Christ but also KING-servants and PROPHET-heralds of the Good News. Come, let us inspire one another and let us all walk together, humbly, with God.

*Blessings ~ Fr Gilbert Ramos
St Benedict's Newton*

Liturgy of the Word

~ **Malachi 1.14-2:2,8-10** The Prophet berates the priests of his day for failing to live up to their calling.

~ **Psalm 130** In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

~ **1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13** Paul reminds the Thessalonians of his love and care for them and how hard he worked to bring them the good news.

~ **Gospel Matthew 23:1-12** Jesus tells the crowd and his disciples to follow the teachings of the scribes and Pharisees but not their actions.

Next Week's readings: Wisdom 6:12-16 Psalm 62; 1Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

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
As Fr Stephen recovers from his surgery for the next couple of weeks, there will be no 9am Mass and no 9.30am Reconciliation on Saturdays during this time.

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. New and one-off Donations to the Parish should be made 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

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>

Columban Calendars 2024

Is now available and can be purchased from the Parish Office for \$15 each. Please bring cash or email the parish office if you prefer to pay online.

Remembering our Dead – This November, we remember in prayer our deceased friends and family members. Please write their names on the cards provided and place them in the wooden box designated for this purpose. The box will be placed before the altar during Mass.



Advent Retreat

Saturday, 2 December 8am-2pm at St Michael's Parish Remuera ~ 6 Beatrice Road, Remuera. Discover the mysteries of Advent with the insightful guidance of Dr Robert Loretz. Light lunch provided. Entry by Koha. Visit www.remueracatholic.org.nz for more info.

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) Thu 7 Dec

24Hr Quietude - For those who seek a short retreat – Fri 7pm – Sat 7pm Nov 10th /11th (\$120pp incl accommodation + food) For more info/dates and to book, visit www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz or call 09 625 6651

The Anglican and Catholic Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand, meeting together in Wellington last week, jointly express their horror at the latest acts of violence and join international voices in calling for an immediate ceasefire.
<https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/anglican-catholic-bishops-gaza-statement/>

NZ Catholic Newspaper

The latest edition is available in the main foyer for \$4 a copy (unchanged for 8 years). Please pay cash to the Parish Office.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The **Jubilee Bursary** is offered for theological and religious education studies. **Applications close 18 November 2023.**

Ruth Miller Scholarship Bishop Stephen Lowe is pleased to call for applications for the **Ruth Miller Scholarship** for study at Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College. **Applications close 18 November 2023.** For info & applications, please email: scholarships@cda.org.nz.

VACANCIES at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland University Ministry Coordinator - full time.

Youth Ministry Officer - full-time.

Marriage and Family Life Admin Assistant - this is a part time role of 16 hours per week with occasional evening and weekend work.

Mt Eden Corrections Facility - Catholic Prison Chaplaincy - permanent part-time position of 32 hours per week, Monday to Thursday with the expectation of some Sundays per month for Sunday Services.

Applications close 17 November 2023.

To learn more about these positions, please visit: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/

Parish Coordinator Vacancy - St Luke's Flatbush Applicants must have the right to work in NZ and have a NZ drivers licence. For more information, please contact the Parish Priest, Fr Craig Dunford by email office@flatbushcatholic.org.nz

Open Home at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre

An invitation to an open home at The Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New St, St Mary's Bay on the 9 November from 4.00-7.30pm.

25th November 2023

Gaudete: Advent & Christmas Carols

3pm - 6pm Saturday. Sir Woolf Fisher Arena (770 Great South Road, Manukau 2104) For All Ages | Donation / **Entry by Koha** | Free Parking Available. For more information Contact: (09) 360 3061 | liturgycentre@cda.org.nz or visit our webpage:

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/gaudete

Auckland Divine Renovation

Our final event for the year.

Join us as we watch the recorded session of Revival and Renewal Watch Party. 6pm at 30 New St – Ponsonby Monday 6th November. Dinner provided. Please register at Divinerenovation/events. For more info contact Cheryl Surry on Cheryl.surrey@divinerenovation.org or Stephenf@cda.org.nz

Marriage & Family

Would you be interested in training to become **Marriage Educators** through the Marriage and Family Life Ministry at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland? Contact Gerry at 3603025/02102247442 or email gerrys@cda.org.nz for more info.

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

Maureen Adsett, Fr Stephen Berez, Chonusi William, Teana Jones, Maria Martho, Linus Broughton, Dawn Rocca, Lyn Sparks, Royston Beckham, AS, Margaret Everett, 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, 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 . . .

Valrae Collins, Caroline McLean, Ada Harris, Leciso Baldo, Eddie Ierenino, Manus Gallagher, Robert Whiting, Anne Mendrano, Vili Filo, Melkiau Thavethoo, Sr Helen O'Neill rsm, Dame Sr Pauline Engel rsm, Margaret Wilke, Stephanie Hoyle, Linda Ward, Oscar Lacuna, Lorenza Inigo, Betty Robinson, Molly Novak, Toni Johnston, Mark Farac, Kevin Ryan, Gerry Dooley, Linda Ward, Tony White, Anthony Yco, Sr Cecilia Maher rsm, James Waldron, Don Gordon, Evelyn McGilly, Michael Goodwin, Gail Layborne, Isabel Acuna, Patrick Keenan, Johnny McCarthy, Zinaida Ponomareva, Fr Hans Bachman, Steve Munro, Br Clarent Glynn FMS, Alfred Santos, Fr Humphrey O'Leary CSsR, Richard Tapley, Albert Reardon, Ong Siew Eng, Josebelle Filipino, Fa'asima Muliumu, Fifita Ramaulal, Florence McCarthy, Antonio Guzzo, Fr Dominic O'Neill

... Eternal rest grant to them..