

## 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](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 right side of the main entrance as you go inside the church.

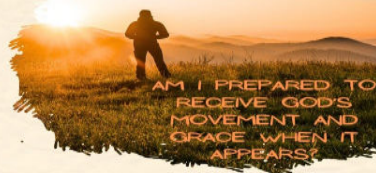
Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Contact the SVDP Food Support team at:

0800 680 090 or 815 6122

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

**So stay awake,  
because you do not  
know either the day  
or the hour.**



## PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARNELL

*"Prepare a way for the Lord."*

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 12 NOVEMBER 2023

### An OIL CRISIS

In Mt 24, Jesus mentally prepared His disciples on how to face the future. Great leaders know the importance of the 'Law of Navigation'. Jesus provides His disciples both direction and hope! Blessedness follows the servant who 'stays awake and is alert'. On the flip side, 'weeping and gnashing of teeth' await the foolish and unprepared servant. Now in Mt 25, the disciples face their litmus test with three parables. Today's gospel is the first among them. An 'oil crisis' is the dividing line between being wise or foolish.

Today's parable revolves on the ten maidens awaiting the arrival of the bridegroom. The Jewish marital customs were known to everyone. There was always a deficiency in punctuality. Following the betrothal, the bridegroom would lead a procession to bring home his new wife. Invited guests knew the rule - be ready and enter in or delay and be locked out - there was no place for the late-comers. The doors would then be shut, and a week-long banquet would follow. When it really mattered, the foolish maidens were not ready.

This parable teaches us that everyone of us is responsible for our own 'spiritual' condition. We do not know the coming of the Lord Jesus to meet His bride at the end of time. In the final analysis, wisdom consists in being prepared, being alert and having our 'lamps lit'. Jesus himself said that it is not all those who say, "Lord, Lord," who will enter the Kingdom of God. Heaven is an abode for 'doers of the Will of the Father'. Every moment is stamped 'Will of God'. We are all 'Doubly Graced' and called to live the 'Sacred Now'. Trying to delay our spiritual preparation is an exercise in futility. The oil of spiritual preparation cannot be bought or borrowed at the last minute. Our relationship with God is a daily journey of conversion and a wake-up call to be alert with our lamps lit.

Sadly, we can spend our whole lifetime polishing the exterior of the lamp while we neglect to fill our lamps with oil. When law replaces love or when rituals supersede true worship, or when unforgiveness rules the heart and one's life becomes closed to the prompting of the Spirit, then, beware of these red flags! You are running out of oil. The saddest words that Jesus ever spoke is found in today's gospel. "Sir, open the door for us!" But he called back, "I do not know you!" (Mt 25:12). The Lord's return is promised, and He invites us with these words, "So stay awake and be prepared, because you do not know the day or the hour of my return."

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

## Liturgy of the Word

- ~ **Wisdom 6:12-16** Wisdom is radiant and doesn't fade, easily found by those who seek her.  
~ **Psalm 63** My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.  
~ **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** Don't grieve without hope for those who've died.  
~ **Gospel Matthew 25:1-13** Jesus shares a parable about ten virgins waiting for a bridegroom.  
The message stresses readiness and vigilance.

**Next Week's readings: Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31 Psalm 127; 1Thessalonians 5:1-6  
Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30**

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 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



### Secretary Vacancy—St John the Baptist Parnell

We are currently seeking to employ a capable and self motivated Parish Secretary for effective day to day running of the Parish Office and to support the Parish Priest and other pastoral staff. Applicants should have good administration and written and oral communication skills, be highly competent in the usual Microsoft Windows applications, as well as WordPress website management and familiar with basic accounting procedures. For a full position description please contact the parish office at [office@parnellcatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@parnellcatholic.org.nz) or phone 373 3132.

**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](http://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

### Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy :

**The Gospel of Mark** with Kieran Fenn fms. Mondays, 13 and 20 November, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Free. Donations/Koha are appreciated. <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/10/10/the-gospel-of-mark/>

For more information visit: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.nz)

### Catholic Hospitality

In New Zealand and Australia, payment per night is \$50 for one guest and \$30 for each additional guest, e.g. a couple would pay \$80 per. night for bed and continental breakfast. To purchase the book, contact Marie Anderson, 03 3595541 or email [marie.ian@xtra.co.nz](mailto:marie.ian@xtra.co.nz)

### 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](mailto: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/](http://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](mailto:office@flatbushcatholic.org.nz)

## CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER—Wednesday,

**22nd November, 2023, Catholic Women's**

**League Orakei – Eastern Suburbs**

starting with Mass at 10.30am at St. Joseph's Church, Orakei then to the Hall for Morning Tea followed by a **talk by Father Patrick Brady**. Cost is \$35 pp. For info & bookings contact: Tina Raines 021 940 950/09-5212499 email:

[tinaraines2703@gmail.com](mailto:tinaraines2703@gmail.com)

### 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](mailto:liturgycentre@cda.org.nz) or visit our webpage: [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/gaudete](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/gaudete)

### Witnesses of Faith Event

**Thursday, 30 November, 7 – 9 pm. Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph, Auckland.**

The Pontifical Foundation, *Aid to the Church in Need* (ACN) invites you to a unique and inspirational event in support of the suffering and persecuted Church. A light supper will be served afterwards where you can meet the speakers. **More info and to register :** [www.aidtochurch.org/witnesses](http://www.aidtochurch.org/witnesses) or email [info@aidtochurch.org](mailto:info@aidtochurch.org)

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

**Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, Maureen Adsett, Fr Stephen Berecz, Bernadette Tan, 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 Muldery, 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 Abla, 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, Dennis Obillos.**

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

Rita MacDonald, Sir Ian Barker, Manus Gallagher, Robert Whiting, Anne Mendrano, Mark Farac, Melkiau Thavethoo, Toni Johnston, Vili Filo, Richard Tapley, Johnny McCarthy, Lilianna Monteiro, Peter Alvez, Robert Whiting, Marie Keeling, Ross Webb, Betty Dorothy Robinson, Ethel Kelly, Ruby Viskovich, Sr June Kirksmith RSCJ, Tereza Baricevich, Alex Pinfold, Vinka Marinovich, Donna Collins, Soane Filitonga, Shaun McKay, Francisco Rigour, Fr Bryan Winders, Jan Coleman, Essie Jones, Norman O'Sullivan, Anna Farac, Evelyn McGilly, Brian Dunkley, Clare Panther, Ligaya Reyna, Ian Snelligrove, Kieran Hegarty, Francie O'Sullivan, Rosemary Mohi, Dallys Horne, John Gordon, Trevor Miles, Helen Mclaughlin, Bishop John Cunneen .. *Eternal rest grant to them..*