

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 SVDP Food Support team at:

0800 680 090 or 815 6122

Email: foodbank@svdpak.org.nz



May God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ send
you grace and peace.

Do I give thanks that I
have been enriched ?



PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARNELL

"Prepare a way for the Lord."

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 3 DECEMBER 2023

Wait!

This first Sunday of Advent, we begin a new liturgical year. Advent season is a period of waiting, a preparation time for the coming of Christ. We joyfully recall Christ's first coming and in great hope look forward to His second coming. Advent is not an anticipated Christmas. It is a special time to wait, prepare, reflect and pray.

The first reading expresses Israel's great longing for the Lord. The prophet Isaiah used images like polluted rags and withered leaves to describe the guilt and sinfulness of the people. In their weakness and helplessness, they turn to God and long for His coming. In response to their cry, the Lord came as a Father. The Responsorial Psalm aptly articulates Israel's longing in prayer, "Lord, make us turn to You, let us see Your face and we shall be saved."

St Paul's expression of gratitude is similarly a perfect reminder and an attitude to adopt during this season. Acknowledging God's generosity helps us to look forward, with greater confidence, to even greater gifts to be revealed. God's faithfulness is then our strength and our shield.

Be watchful and be alert! This Gospel message should not be a threat but an encouragement to be ready at all times. Jesus is inviting us to live life to full. We may remember the Parable of the Talents and the Parable of the Faithful and Unfaithful Servant from the Gospel of Matthew. Mark, in this part of his Gospel, emphasizes our responsibility to be good stewards. This is the key to a meaningful, happy and successful life. We should not live in fear. But life is too precious to be wasted on laziness or vices. We do not know when the time will come so seize the day. Time waits for no one. Do what you need to do, now.

This Advent season, let us actively wait and prepare for the coming of the Lord. This entails doing our best to prepare a worthy dwelling place in our hearts for Jesus. May our families pray and work together to create a true spirit of communion. May our communities participate in this preparation by developing a good support system that enables individuals to flourish according to their capabilities, to bring out the best in everyone.

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

Liturgy of the Word

~ **Isaiah 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7** We acknowledge You as our eternal redeemer, yet we've strayed and become sinful.

~ **Psalm 80** Lord make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

~ **1Corinthians 1:3-9** Christ Jesus our Lord is the revelation we long for.

~ **Gospel Mark 13:31-37** Jesus advises his disciples to stay vigilant as no one knows when He will return.

Next Week's readings: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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 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

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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.

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.

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. The Mass this weekend comes to us from our very own Parish led by Fr Stephen Berecz.

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

Congratulations to Fr Stephen

During the week, Fr Stephen celebrated 32 years since his ordination to the Priesthood. The whole Parish Community of Parnell warmly congratulates Fr Stephen on this very special occasion.

Christmas Timetables for St John the Baptist

Sunday 24 December

9.30am Mass (no 7am Mass)
Christmas Vigil Mass at 8pm
(Carols start at 7.30pm)

Monday 25 December ~ Christmas Day

Masses at 7am & 9.30am

Tuesday 26 December

Feast of St Stephen - 9am

Sunday 31 December

7am & 9.30am Mass

Monday 1 January ~ Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God—Mass at 9am only

Tuesday 2 January

Mass at 9am

*No weekday Masses except on the dates indicated. The regular Saturday 9am Mass will resume on **6 January**.
Reconciliation also resumes on the same day and follows afterwards at **9.30am**.*



Sacramental Programme for 2024

In February 2024 we will commence a 1st Communion/Confirmation programme for primary/Intermediate aged children here in the Parish. If you have a child in this age group and are interested please email the parish office with your contact details and attach a copy of your child's baptismal certificate. The first meeting will be held on Sunday 18 February 2024 after the 9.30am Mass.

Parish Coordinator Vacancy - St Luke's Flatbush

The Parish of St Luke's in Flat Bush is on the hunt for a Parish Assistant to join the team. Applicants must have the right to work in NZ and have a NZ drivers licence. For more info, please contact the Parish Priest, Fr Craig Dunford by email office@flatbushcatholic.org.nz

Marriage & Family - Volunteers Needed

We are looking for couples who have been married for 5 plus years and have about 2 - 6 hours a week free to guide couples through a Catholic marriage preparation course. Contact Gerry on 02102247442 or gerrys@cda.org.nz.

Feed A Family Appeal— by The Society of St Vincent de Paul is launching this week. This is an opportunity for you to connect with a family, and make a difference in the lives of our vulnerable communities this Christmas.

There is Direct Credit or Internet Banking

Society of St Vincent de Paul AK
ASB Bank 12-3017-0500224-00
Ref: Feed A Family. Ref: Fullname

Or visit Givealittle

<https://givealittle.co.nz/org/vinniesaukland>

To contact St Vincent de Paul and for receipts email admin@stvinnies.co.nz or phone 09 815 6122.

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Please join a community on Zoom this Advent from the holiness of your home:
Saturday evenings to ponder the Advent Sunday Gospels; **Wednesday mornings** in silent Meditation; **Wednesday evenings** to reflect on Pope Francis message for us that "it is confidence that must lead to love". Register with diannaf@cda.org.nz

Taize Prayer for Advent

Friday 8 December at 7pm, Mary MacKillop Chapel, 56 Selwyn Ave, Mission Bay.
Light refreshments afterwards. All welcome.

G.I.F.T.

Christmas Mass Sunday 10th December at 4pm in Good Shepherd Church, Balmoral.

This will be followed by a light meal.
All disabled people and their whānau and support workers most **WELCOME!**

Monte Cecilia Housing Christmas Appeal 2023

We are asking for donations of children's toys and non-perishable food, which can be dropped off at our 30 Windrush Close office in Mangere. No gift is too small, as we have over 1,200+ children living within our Transitional & Community houses, so every little bit helps. For more info call 0800 624 848, or email us at info@montececilia.org.nz

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 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, Dennis Obillos.

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

Zelma Farnsworth, Fr David Halstead OP, Gladys Vivovich, Desmond Clarke, Patrick Mullin, Pio Jacobs, Eileen Porteous, Clive Brock, Abbey Russel, Yasmin Ryan, T.F.P. Hanrahan, Peter Jay Seto Ma, Jude Fenandes, Rose Nebrao, Catherine Clarke, Irene Roca, Ong Hua, Geoffrey Phillips, Isaura Sodder, BJ, Elizabeth Daly, Geb Aranas, Joachim Kim, Rachel Fox, Rebecca Castro, Maria Baek, Patricia Perkins, Barry O'Meagher, Grant Dunn, Jimmy Maninang, Bonnie Malpas, Lou McElwee, Mollie Coleman, Irene Pereira, Stoyanka Genora, Kieran Hegarty, Doris Myers, Francie O'Sullivan, Alicia Artunduaga, Melwy Castelino, Joan Gravatt, Karen Ward, Andrew Carucan, Joan Coleman, Case Bakker, Rodrigo Fernando, Mary Mullally, Domingos Jose, Betty White, Joan Joseph, Catherine Petry, Don Thompson, Bishop Jean Baptiste Pompallier, Jean Epalle SM, John Harriman, Francis Terry, Delphine Victor Moreau SM, Ronald Terry, Margaret Cheyne, Sin Lin Dale Chong, Marie Thomson
.. Eternal rest grant to them..