

## 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)



## PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARNELL

*"Prepare a way for the Lord."*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 10 DECEMBER 2023

### **JB – GOD'S VOICE BREAKS AGAIN**

With prophet Malachi, the last book on the Old Testament, there comes a 400-year period of silence! The voice of God had not been heard in the land. There were no prophets. Silence covered the land. The spirit of prophecy had been quenched. God was heard only through the 'echo of his voice'. The prophecies of Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3 suddenly come alive. The towering figure of John the Baptist comes to the scene. All four evangelists testify to this truth.

JB is portrayed as an eccentric figure. The harsh wilderness was his abode. He looked rough and crude. He dressed strangely in a camel-hair garment and dined on locusts and wild honey. And yet, he drew a multitude of Judeans who clung on to his unusual message. John's message was radical, introspective, and purifying. Devoid of political power or position, JB spoke with an irresistible authority. JB performed no miracle, held no office, and belonged to no religious party. JB had a mission to accomplish and the only way to do it was to speak the truth. He was uncompromising. He called a 'spade a spade'. He was not afraid to confront anyone. He challenged people to change their ways, to repent of their sins and to be cleansed with the waters of baptism.

JB had a mission to accomplish. The angel had prophesied that he was to be a 'Nazirite' – one set apart for God's service. His voice had to be heard. He preached, "Prepare the way for the Lord". JB was not just a voice, he was a 'pointer' and 'unworthy' to stoop down to untie the Lord's sandals. Down the centuries the road to salvation had been pot-holed, barren, crooked and sinful. His voice roared again, "Make straight the way for the Lord". JB knew the limitations of his mission. He was just a forerunner. JB would baptize with water, while Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

While some repented and were baptised, others resented and resisted the call of the Baptist. The fords in the river Jordan were teeming with a multitude of people waiting for a personal spiritual revival. The wilderness was more than just a harsh place, it was the place of purification. It was the place where God first met his people. The wilderness was to be a new meeting place, a new encounter with the new Messiah Jesus!

This season of Advent offered to us is more than just a time to decorate our homes or to indulge in shopping or holidaying. Advent is an opportune time to get back to the wilderness – to introspect, to make straight the road, to confess our sinfulness and to encounter Jesus the Messiah. And like JB, you too are called to point others to Christ!

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

### Liturgy of the Word

~ **Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11** God promises comfort and forgiveness to Jerusalem, declaring an end to her trials.

~ **Psalm 84** Lord let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

~ **2 Peter 3:8-14** The Day of the Lord will bring transformation, urging us to live in holiness, awaiting a new righteous world.

~ **Gospel Mark 1:1-8** Isaiah prophesied a messenger, John the Baptist, who emerged in the wilderness calling for repentance and baptism for sin forgiveness.

**Next Week's readings: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11 Luke 1:46-50,53-54; 1Thessalonians 5:16-24**

**Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28**

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 Phillip Sullivan  
Sunday 7am Fr Tim Costello, SM  
Sunday 9.30am Fr Stephen Berecz

#### Mass times this week in Parnell

Mon to Fri – No Mass until further notice

#### The Saturday 9am Mass and

**9.30am Reconciliation resumes next weekend  
16 December 2023.**

\* We extend our gratitude to Fr Tim Costello, SM for presiding over our 7am Sunday Masses for the last 6 weeks while Fr Stephen recovers from his surgery.

#### 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**

#### 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.

#### 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.

### Christmas Time at St John the Baptist

#### Sunday 24 December

#### 4th Sunday of Advent

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

Mass at 9am

#### Sunday 31 December

#### Feast of the Holy Family

Masses at 7am & 9.30am

#### Monday 1 January

#### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass at 9am

#### Tuesday 2 January

#### Day after New Year (Public Holiday)

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**. Parish office is **closed** on the following dates:*

**December 26 & 27 2023,**

**January 2 & 3 2024.**

*Queries will be monitored remotely on other days during those two weeks.*

*Normal office hours resume on **Monday, 8 January 2024.***

### NGA TAPUWAE SELF DIRECTED PILGRIMAGE

Registrations are now open for Ngā Tapuwāe – A Self Directed Pilgrimage 2024. Our Northland pilgrimage sites will be attended by CDA staff to welcome you and share the stories at specific times on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024, but you will travel independently having organised your transport, accommodation, and food. All are welcome to participate. To register email, Dcn Steve Fraser on [stephenf@cda.org.nz](mailto:stephenf@cda.org.nz) or phone 021439407.

#### 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>

#### Feed A Family Appeal

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/vinniesauckland>

To contact St Vincent de Paul and for receipts email [admin@stvinnies.co.nz](mailto:admin@stvinnies.co.nz) or phone 09 815 6122.

### Prepare the Way of the Lord

Advent is a special time to reflect, to ponder the Word, and to 'Be still' and silent in the presence of God. 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](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)

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### 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](mailto:info@montececilia.org.nz)

### Please support the Caring Foundation's Christmas Appeal – donations doubled!

Give an impactful gift this Christmas! Every donation to the Caring Foundation's Christmas appeal will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$50,000. To find out how to donate, pick up our Christmas post-card today in the church foyer, or check out our website: [www.caringfoundation.org.nz](http://www.caringfoundation.org.nz)

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

**Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, Maureen Adsett, Bernadette Tan, Chonusi William, Shannon Kavanagh, 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, Dennis Obillos, 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 Sanchez, Rosita Galarg, Gavin Alexander, Benny Clynes, Eric & Rachel Smith, J. Harrington, Rodolfo Paragas, Virgilia Velasquez.**

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

**Antoinette Mascarenhas, Mary Ardley, Mary Jury, Peter Schoeman, Yasmin Ryan, Catriona Jackson, Ivan Selak, Wim Van Het Bolscher, Maria Baek, Kasanita Peauafi Bell-Booth, Betty Walsh, Doug Brebner, Rolando Lagman, Barry Young, Nancy Wackrow, Dorothy Chatterley, Jim McKay, Msgr Pat O'Corror, Henning Petersen, Fr George Duggan SM, Betty White, Vincent Buonanno, Joachim Kim, Alexander Lee, Lance Christian, Mary Kearns, Chris Hughes, John Fabling, Rosemary Weatherstone, Br Sean Hanaray FMS, Msgr Paul Cronin, Mary Henley, Janine Haywood, Peggy Griffiths, Cornelius Bakker, Don Thompson, Frederick (Buster) Bell-Booth, Julita Binuya, John Shea, Milagros Logarta, Ella Swanson ... Eternal rest grant to them..**