

## 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).

### DIOCESAN YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

[www.facebook.com/AKCYM](http://www.facebook.com/AKCYM)

Contact Sam Brebner [samb@cda.org.nz](mailto:samb@cda.org.nz)



## PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARNELL

*"Prepare a way for the Lord."*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 17 DECEMBER 2023

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called "Gaudete Sunday", "Rejoice Sunday", both from the first word in Latin of the entrance antiphon of the mass, but also because it is when we are called to pause and look forward with rejoicing to the great feast so swiftly approaching. This is particularly symbolised by our Gospel being drawn from the same passage that we read on Christmas Day – the beginning of the Gospel of St John.

In it we hear of a "man called John" who was sent as a witness to the light. The last and greatest of the prophets whose call was to prepare the way of the Lord in the world and especially in human lives. To be the voice saying 'I am not the light' but calling others to turn to the light. It is still the prophetic call that the Church makes today – to make our relationship with God the centre of our lives. That was at heart the call of the prophets sent to ancient Israel as well. It was often not a popular message, no doubt seeming like tiresome nagging to those who had turned from the God of their fathers to false idols, especially the false idols our own society continues to worship: power, wealth, sex and national pride. And yet this nagging, then and now, is in fact a call to understand the source of joy.

The first sin of humanity was to stop asking, 'how do I relate to God?' and to wonder instead, 'how can I do without God?' In doing so, we not only lost God, but we also lost ourselves, for divorced from God our lives make no sense. Only in relation to him can we know our true identity. The beginning of accepting redemption from our sin is found in realising that in fact we cannot do without God, and in accepting that 'I am not' except insofar as I relate to God.

For us who are Christians we need always to ask again what that relationship with God, the ground of our being, should be. The answer will inevitably vary. The Christian calling can take many different forms, but we all share some of what characterises the mission of the Baptist. We have all been called; we are all sent into the world to proclaim, to cry in this wilderness, the good news that the relationship God has with his people is one of love, a love he showed by sending his Son. For those who will answer God's call, the promise is of eternal joy and happiness – which is truly a cause for rejoicing.

*Blessings ~ Fr. Chris Denham  
Dean, Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph*

### Liturgy of the Word

~ **Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11** Anointed by God, I am sent to bring hope to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, and proclaim freedom.

~ **Luke 1:46-50,53-54** My soul rejoices in my God.

~ **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24** Rejoice always, pray ceaselessly, and give thanks in all situations.

~ **Gospel John 1:6-8,19-28** Sent by God, John the Baptist testified to the coming Light, making clear he was not the Christ, Elijah, nor the Prophet.

**Next Week's readings: Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16; Psalm 88; Romans 16:25-27**

**Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

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 Stephen Berecz  
Sunday 7am Fr Stephen Berecz  
Sunday 9.30am Fr Stephen Berecz

#### Mass times this week in Parnell

Mon to Fri – No Mass until further notice

*Due to health reasons,*

*there will be no Saturday 9am Mass and 9.30am  
Reconciliation for the remainder of the year.*

*Both the Saturday Morning Mass and  
Reconciliation will resume next year on  
6 January 2024.*

#### 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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#### 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.*



### Latest from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland

The **Christmas 2023 Mass Times** have been published on the CDA website. Here is the link <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/christmas-masses-2023/>

To read about diocesan events in the last weeks and start filling your 2024 diary with opportunities for faith development, fun and diocesan life download the latest edition of CDA connect <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/CDA-CONNECT-Christmas23.pdf> - the link can also be found on the front page of the diocesan website.

#### Pompallier Centre Job Vacancy **Credit Controller & Administration**

This full-time role is to provide credit control and administration support to the Operations Manager for the collection of Attendance Dues for schools in the Auckland Diocese. To view the full advert and to apply, please visit our website [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz) under Diocesan Services and Staff Vacancies.

#### 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>

**NZ Catholic** - The latest edition is available in the main foyer for \$4 a copy .

### 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](http://diannaf@cda.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.

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)

#### Feed A Family Appeal

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.

*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 . . .*

Don Valerio Fontanilla, Jan Laurent, Anita Butkovich, Lancette Heron, Charlie Pride, Larry Downes, Vincent Santos, June Yuong, Olga Wolk, Marge Rameka, Ivan Selak, Josephine Aitchison, Vilma Adique, Santos Adique, Karen McDonald, Aileen Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth Hood, Consolatrix Redillos-Ageas, Baby Eli, John Body, Catriona Jackson, Wim Van Het Bolscher, Jude Fernandes, Murray Tanner, Betty White, Adrian de la Santos, Lance Christian, Mary Kearns, Rosemary Weatherstone, Br Sean Hanaray FMS, John Fabling, Msgr Paul Cronin, Mary Henley, Chris Hughes, Janine Haywood, John Shea, Peggy Griffiths, Cornelius Bakker, Frederick (Buster) Bell-Booth, Julita Binuya, Milagros Logarta, Doris Myers, Ella Swanson, Don Thompson .

*.. Eternal rest grant to them..*