

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

Saturday 9am Mass & 9.30am Reconciliation resumes on 6 Jan 2024.

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).

DIOCESAN YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

www.facebook.com/AKCYM

Contact Sam Brebner samb@cda.org.nz

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.

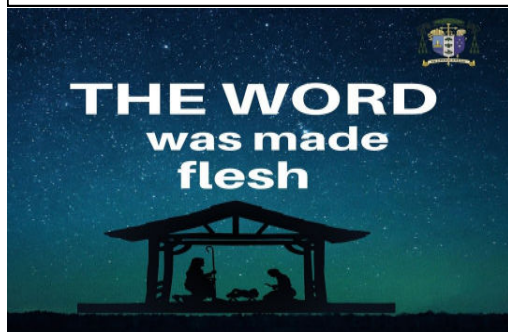
Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Contact the SVDP Food Support team at:

0800 680 090 or 815 6122

Email: foodbank@svdpak.org.nz

**THE WORD
was made
flesh**



PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARNELL

"Prepare a way for the Lord."

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ~ 24TH DECEMBER 2023

This Sunday the Gospel of Luke unfolds the Annunciation story, a moment of divine revelation that holds profound significance in the Christian narrative. At its core, this passage speaks to the essence of a new creation and the awe-inspiring wonder accompanying each birth.

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary, a humble young woman, announcing that she will conceive and bear a son through the Holy Spirit. This miraculous conception marks the beginning of the Incarnation, the embodiment of God in human form, a pivotal moment in the Christian story. Mary's response to this extraordinary message is one of humble acceptance and faith, saying, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

The essential point of the Annunciation Story in Luke is that of a new creation. In the conception of Jesus, we witness the divine initiating a transformative act, bringing forth something entirely new and unimaginable. This event signals God's redemptive plan for humanity, a plan rooted in the profound mystery of the Incarnation. Each birth, but particularly this one, carries the promise of renewal and the potential for a fresh start.

Moreover, the Annunciation challenges us to cultivate a joyful desire to be part of the new creation that God is bringing about. Mary's response exemplifies a deep trust and willingness to participate in God's unfolding plan. Her fiat, her "yes" to God's invitation, sets an example for us to embrace God's call with joy and surrender. In a world often marked by uncertainty and challenges, this passage encourages us to approach the divine with open hearts, ready to be transformed and used for God's purpose.

The wonder of the Annunciation invites us to marvel at the beauty of creation and the divine's continual work in our lives. Just as Mary's acceptance led to the birth of Jesus, our openness to God's call can lead to new beginnings and the unfolding of God's redemptive story in our lives.

*Christmas Blessings ~ Fr. Stephen Berecz
St John the Baptist Parnell*



Liturgy of the Word

~ **Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16** David wants to build a house for God. But instead God promises to build an everlasting dynasty for him.

~ **Psalm 89** Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

~ **Romans 16:25-27** God's plan of salvation for Jews and Gentiles has come to fulfilment in Christ.

~ **Gospel Luke 1:26-38** God's promise to David was fulfilled in Jesus.

Readings Christmas Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-6; Gospel John 1:1-8

Readings Feast of the Holy Family: Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3 Psalm 104; Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19
Gospel Luke 2:22-40

For Sunday and weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.com AND/OR www.livingtheword.org.nz

Thank You

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped in the various ministries here in our Parish for the past year. You help has been invaluable and enhanced the celebration of our Liturgy in many ways.

Thank you too to our generous parishioners who have continued to support our Church as well as our wider diocesan community here in Auckland. We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and safe travels for those who are going away.

God bless and we look forward to see you in the New Year.

The Printed copies of the Parish Newsletter will be back on the 21st of January 2024.

From Fr Stephen - New Parish Secretary

I am glad to announce that we now have a new parish secretary, Nathaniel Hood. Nat is also one of our Musicians here at St John the Baptist.

He will start training and working with Felina next year when the parish office re-opens.

From the 8th of January, office hours will be from 9.15am—3.15pm Monday to Friday.

~ ~ ~

Presiding Priest this Sunday

Saturday 5pm Vigil Fr Stephen Berecz

Sunday 9.30am Fr Stephen Berecz

NO Sunday 7am Mass this weekend.

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

St Michael's Remuera Parish Mass times:

Please visit their parish website

<https://www.remueracatholic.org.nz>

for the latest schedule of their Mass times during this period.

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.***



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.

Columban Calendars 2024

Is still 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.

Bible Diary 2024

For daily Prayers, Readings and Reflections, Saint of the Day. \$20 each. See flyer in the church notice board for details. To order your copies, contact Fr Prakash 0225852875 email prakashreddycmf@gmail.com.

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>



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

Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, Maureen Adsett, 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 . . .

Cardinal Thomas Stafford Williams, Leticia Gonzalez, Jan Laurent, Anita Butkovich, Luncette 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, Consolotrix Redillos-Ageas, Baby Eli, John Body, Catriona Jackson, Jude Fernandes, Murray Tanner, Adrian de la Santos, John Fabling, Mary Henley, Chris Hughes, Janine Haywood, Doris Myers, Ella Swanson, Don Thompson,

.. Eternal rest grant to them..

St Vincent de Paul- Feed A Family Appeal

You can still help 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 or phone 09 815 6122.

Latest from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland

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.

DPC Newsletter

Members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council together with Bishop Steve had their last meeting for 2023 last November. The latest newsletter is available to view here:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/DPC-November-2023-Newsletter.pdf>