

## 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 except public holidays.

Saturday 9am Mass & 9.30am Reconciliation.

Parish Priest ~ Father Stephen Berecz

~ Email: [sberecz@gmail.com](mailto:sberecz@gmail.com)

Parish Secretary ~ Nathaniel Hood: 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 - Safeguarding

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 whānau, including our tamariki, rangatahi, kuia and kaumātua, feel safe.

If you have any complaints or concerns, our Safeguarding Co-ordinator is Nathaniel Hood and you can contact him 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).

### Ash Wednesday this week 14th Feb

All welcome to Mass this Wednesday at 6 pm with imposition of Ashes here at St John's. Alternatively, at 7.30 pm, there is a Combined Service of the Ashes with the Anglican Bishop, Ross Bay, & Bishop Steve Lowe at St Patrick's Cathedral.

### 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 SVPD Food Support team at:

0800 680 090 or 815 6122

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

### CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY MINISTRY

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

[www.instagram.com/  
AucklandCatholicChaplaincy](http://www.instagram.com/AucklandCatholicChaplaincy)

Email: [thechaplains@cda.org.nz](mailto:thechaplains@cda.org.nz)



## PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARNELL

*"Prepare a way for the Lord."*

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 11TH FEBRUARY 2024

In today's Gospel we read a profoundly moving encounter between Jesus and a leper. This narrative is not just a testament to Jesus' miraculous power to heal physical ailments but also a profound insight into His deep understanding of human suffering and His approach to healing that goes beyond the physical.

In the reading we witness a leper approaching Jesus, imploring Him for healing. Leprosy in biblical times was not just a physical ailment; it was laden with social and spiritual implications. Lepers were not only shunned by their communities but were also seen as bearers of divine punishment for sin. This man's illness was a source of profound physical suffering, social isolation, and spiritual despair. The heartbreak accompanying this disease was immense, as it severed individuals from their communities and made them subjects of scorn and fear.

Jesus' reaction to the leper is deeply telling. He is moved with compassion, understanding the full spectrum of the man's suffering. This compassion is not just for the physical ailment but for the profound emotional and spiritual pain that comes from being ostracized and labelled as cursed by God. Jesus' response is holistic—He sees the leper not just as a sick body but as a whole person, crushed under the weight of illness, social rejection, and spiritual anguish.

By reaching out and touching the leper, Jesus does something revolutionary and deeply symbolic. In that society, touching a leper was unthinkable; it rendered one ceremonially unclean. Yet, Jesus' touch was a powerful statement—He was willing to share in the leper's social and spiritual alienation to restore him. This action was a radical message of inclusion and acceptance. Jesus was not only healing the man's physical leprosy but was also restoring his dignity, his sense of belonging, and his spiritual well-being.

When Jesus commands, "be clean," it is more than a physical healing. It is a restoration of the man's total identity—his social, emotional, and spiritual life. Jesus gives back to the man what his condition had stolen – his humanity, his place in the community, and his relationship with God. The healing is comprehensive, addressing the deep-seated feelings of being despised and rejected, not just by society but also seemingly by God.

This passage is a vivid reminder that Jesus' ministry was deeply rooted in compassion and radical inclusion. It challenges us to see beyond the surface, to understand the complex nature of suffering, and to approach others with the same depth of compassion and bold love that Jesus demonstrated.

~ Fr. Stephen Berecz

## Liturgy of the Word

~ **First Reading: Lev 13:1–2, 45–46** As long as they are unclean they shall live alone outside the camp.  
~ **Psalm 31/32:1–2, 5, (10bc–)11 (R/. 7)** You are my refuge, O Lord, and the joy of my salvation.  
~ **1 Corinthians 10:31–33** Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.  
~ **Mark 1:40–45** Jesus touched the man with leprosy and he was cured.

**Next weekend:** Genesis 9:8–15; Psalm 24/25:4–5a,6,7b,8–9 (R/. 10); 1 Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:12–15  
For Sunday and weekday readings see: [mobilegabriel.com](http://mobilegabriel.com) AND/OR [www.livingtheword.org.nz](http://www.livingtheword.org.nz)

### Presiding Priest this Sunday

Saturday 5pm Fr Stephen Berecz  
Sunday 7 am Fr Stephen Berecz  
Sunday 9.30 am Fr Stephen Berecz

### Mass times this week in Parnell

Ash Wednesday 6pm with imposition of ashes  
Saturday 9am

### Reconciliation

Saturday 9.30am  
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### St Michael's Remuera Parish Mass times:

Monday–Friday 7am & 12 pm

### New Parish Bank Account

Please take note of our new Parish Bank Account. From 1 July 2023, new and one-off donations to the Parish should be to this New Account:  
**BNZ 02 0108 0705969 000**

### Altar servers needed in our Parish

If your son or daughter would like to serve at the altar for Mass, please speak to sacristan Peter Lye, or enquire at the Parish Office.  
Email: [office@parnellcatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@parnellcatholic.org.nz). Full training and support will be provided.

### Sacramental Programme for 2024

We are commencing 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 next Sunday 18 Feb after the 9.30am Mass.

### This week-end's Shine TV Mass recording

Special thanks to all participating in the recording of Mass on Saturday 10 February 9 am. It will be broadcast on the First Sunday of Lent (next Sunday) 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>

### Lent at St Michael's

In the lead up to Lent, St Michael's RE Committee invites you to a programme of five weekly talks by Fr Merv Duffy. This unique series is designed to enrich our understanding of Lent, deepen our faith, as well as explore the mysteries and significance of the Eucharist during this sacred season. This programme will be presented on Tuesday evenings at St Michael's beginning Tuesday 20 Feb 7.00pm–8.00pm. Register at St Michael's website <https://www.remueraatholic.org.nz/lenten-programme>

### Taizé Prayer

Friday 16 February at 7pm, Mary MacKillop Chapel, 56 Selwyn Ave, Mission Bay

### A Time for Every Season

Mary MacKillop Retreat Centre, 56 Selwyn Ave, Mission Bay. Led by Sr Jill McLoughlin Saturday 17 February 10am–1pm. \$35 waged/\$25 unwaged. Registrations to Sr Jill McLoughlin by Feb 14th [MBSpirituality@sosj.org.au](mailto:MBSpirituality@sosj.org.au) MOB 02109115260

### Living as Beloved Retreat

Mary MacKillop Retreat Centre, 30 Holdgate Road, Kohimarama. Led by Eamon Butler and Jeannie Blaker Thursday 22nd Feb 7pm–Sunday 25 Feb. \$420 Registrations by Feb 15th to [Eamon\\_david@hotmail.com](mailto:Eamon_david@hotmail.com) MOB 021 027 91424

### Christian Meditation

The Cathedral parish is hosting sessions on Meditation in the Christian tradition Mondays at 5.30pm register with Anita [anita@stpatricks.org.nz](mailto:anita@stpatricks.org.nz)

### Masterclass Young Leaders' Formation

Sunday 25 Feb. Youth leaders, you're invited to Masterclass, our quarterly event focused on equipping you for ministry. There will be relevant workshops, fantastic (free) kai, and opportunities to connect with other young leaders! 2:30pm–8:00pm, at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New Street, Ponsonby. Register at [masterclassCDA.eventbrite.com](https://masterclassCDA.eventbrite.com)

### Young Leaders' Commissioning Mass

Join us as we begin another grace-filled year of youth ministry in the Diocese! Our Commissioning Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Steve Lowe, who will commissioning our young leaders as they are sent out for ministry in 2024. This special mass will be taking place at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 25 Feb at 7pm. Please join us to support our young leaders.

### Rite of Election and Call to Ongoing Conversion

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/rite-of-election-2024/> Next Sun 18 Feb at St Patrick's.

### Women's Prayer Retreat

A reflective prayer retreat in the Catholic tradition for Women | Friday 16 Feb 5pm–Sunday 18 Feb 3pm | Standard \$330 (few spots left). For more info visit [www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz](http://www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz) or call 09 625 6651.

### Time Out Days at St Francis Retreat Centre

For those who seek a day retreat—9:30am–2:30pm (\$30 includes lunch) | Wednesday 21 Feb | Thursday 21 Mar | Tuesday 16 Apr

### "Homecoming" at St Francis Retreat Centre

A Lenten retreat reflecting on Rembrandt's painting and Henri Nouwen's book "The Return of the Prodigal Son" | Friday 22 Mar 7pm–Sunday 24 Mar 4:30pm | Earlybird \$300 (before 18/2) | Standard \$330

### Mass for Deaf resumes this Sunday 11 February

12 noon, 2nd Sunday each month. Followed by shared lunch. Poynton Room, 30 New St, Ponsonby. NZSL.

### Auckland Catholic Singles Group

The second 2024 Meet Up for Catholic Singles in their 30s and 40s will take place at 6pm on 24 February at the Lantern Festival held out at Manukau Sports Bowl: Te Irirangi Drive, Manukau City Centre. RSVP to Marie-Claire [aklcatholiccatholicinglesocialgroup@gmail.com](mailto:aklcatholiccatholicinglesocialgroup@gmail.com)

### Catholic Women's League Orakei invites women

and men to our Picnic/BBQ at Okahu Bay on Wednesday, 28th February. We begin with a mass at St. Joseph's Church, Orakei at 10.30am and after mass, we car pool to Okahu Bay. Should it rain, the event will be in the church Hall. Cost \$20 for food and charity. For more information, ring Tina Raines on 021 940 950/5212499. Email. [tinairaines2703@gmail.com](mailto:tinairaines2703@gmail.com)

### Sacred Heart College—Open Day

Enrolment Applications for Year 7 and Year 9 for 2025 are now open. A Sacred Heart education provides a foundation of faith and aspiration to succeed at the highest level in personal and professional life. Places are available in Years 7 and 9 in 2025, with Boarding available from Year 9. Applications are prioritised in accordance with our Enrolment Scheme. Scholarships are available. Join us for our Open Day on Wed, 28 Feb. Two sessions are being held, 10am and 1pm in our Auditorium, followed by tours of the College. Parking will be available at Gates 3 & 4, West Tamaki Road, Glendowie. Applications for enrolment close Fri 5 April 2024. For more info and to apply online, visit [www.sacredheart.school.nz](http://www.sacredheart.school.nz)

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

Scott Hickey, 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 Coughney, 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, Virgillia Velasquez, Shannon Kavanagh, Dennis Obillos.

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

Pa Mikare Ryan MHM, Margaret Schipper, Roberto Jongco, Anna Foss, Fr Graeme Alexander, Mary Dunn, Maureen Channon, John Mahoney, Corazon Carido, Nimia Suero, Kathleen Hughes, Maggy Collinge, Regina Orr, Collin & Keri Coutts, Bishop Barry Jones, Kim Jung Ha, Margaret Magnus, Claire Howley, Michael O'Flarherty, Odilia Amos, Russell McDowall, Alzira Fernandes, Vida Delegat, Kath Ulrich, Natividad Manalo-Abcede, Thomas Setyo, Romeo Abcede, Hannah de Beer, Philip Leishman, Patrick O'Byrne, Cathy Campbell, Sr M Joan Hopkinson rsm, Kathleen Grey, Sr Aileen Martin rsm, John O'Connor, Fr Ray Garchow OH, Alois Ayan, Monika Menartowicz, Justiniano Senior, Klara & Miha Pintaric ... *Eternal rest grant to them.*