

## 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).

### 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)

### 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](https://www.facebook.com/AucklandCatholicChaplaincy)

[www.instagram.com/  
AucklandCatholicChaplaincy](https://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."*

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 25TH FEBRUARY 2024

### *From the land of Moriah to Calvary.*

God asked Abraham to take Isaac, his only beloved son, to the land of Moriah and offer him up as a holocaust. God was testing him. And we know that Abraham passed the test. What we do not know is what was truly going on in the mind of God. Why did he have to do that to the poor, faithful old man? That is so cruel, and maybe, beyond any justification. Then, after toying with his emotions, God blessed Abraham in the end. Was that to compensate for all possible emotional, mental, moral, physical and spiritual damages God may have caused? Remember, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord." We will never really fully comprehend. But rest assured, in faith, God only wants what is best for us.

Here is the bigger puzzle. God spared Isaac but did not spare His own Son. God, willingly, handed over His only Begotten Son as a sign of His great love for us. And according to St Paul, "How will He not also give us everything else along with Him?" This God Who was so "cruel" to Abraham seems to be so obsessed with humanity that He is willing to sacrifice ALL, and He means ALL, for us. What have we done to deserve Him? Nothing. It is just that, it is God's nature.

Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James and John. This is a glimpse, a foretaste of the glory that is to be revealed. This is an assurance to all of Jesus' followers that everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property for God's sake will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life. Wait... Isn't this almost similar to the blessing and promise given to Abraham after God tested Abraham and he passed the test? So, too, Jesus' followers will have to go through the "test" and if they remain faithful, will also be blessed and rewarded.

It is only a glimpse, a foretaste. Jesus and the disciples had to come down from the mountain and Jesus had to tell them about his impending death and resurrection. This is something entirely new to the disciples. So as they carried on, they were to slowly understand what Jesus meant. And they had to be with Jesus and witness what he told them would happen. They, too, would go through it but not without faith and trust in Jesus. What He showed them would be their source of hope, strength and inspiration.

Blessings,

~ Fr. Gilbert Ramos

## Liturgy of the Word

~ **First Reading: Genesis 22:1–2, 9–13, 15–18** Abraham, our father in faith, was ready for sacrifice.

~ **Psalm 115/116:10, 15–19 (R/. 114/116:9)** I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

~ **Romans 8:31b–35, 37** God did not withhold his own Son.

~ **Mark 9:2–10** This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him.

**Next weekend:** Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 19:7–10 (R/. John 6:68); 1 Corinthians 1:18, 22–25; John 2:13–25

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 Philip Sullivan

Sunday 7 am Fr Tony Dunn

Sunday 9.30 am Fr Stephen Berecz

### Mass times this week in Parnell

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.

### Caritas Lenten Appeal 2024

The Time is Now! Ko tenei tonu te Wā!  
Money raised through the Bishops' Lent Appeal helps to fund both development and emergency relief work around the world.

You can either use the single donation Envelopes available in the foyer or visit <https://www.caritas.org.nz/> for further ways to donate.

### Carpark fines 14 February

Anyone attending mass on Ash Wednesday who may have been issued a fine for parking in the St John's carpark, please do not pay the fine. Contact fr Stephen or the parish office with your registration no. plate to have the fine waived.

### NZ Catholic for sale in church foyer again

Price \$4 (unchanged for 8 years). Some headlines for this issue: St Ignatius of Loyola Catholic College opens. Pounamu taonga for national shrine. Campaign for living wage for lowest-paid school workers. Chch Catholic women encouraged to form little communities.

As a promotion venture for this issue, the entire current edition is supplied here:

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/d4629192-9888-4a1c-9815-cd34d35c7953>

### Lent at St Michael's

St Michael's RE Committee's programme of five weekly talks by Fr Merv Duffy continues. 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 is presented on Tuesday evenings 7.00pm–8.00pm during Lent. Register at St Michael's website <https://www.remuercatholic.org.nz/lenten-programme>

### 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 Wednesday, 28 February. 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 Friday 5 April 2024. For more info and to apply online, visit [www.sacredheart.school.nz](http://www.sacredheart.school.nz)

### 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: [tinaraines2703@gmail.com](mailto:tinaraines2703@gmail.com)

### "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" | Fri 22 March 7pm–Sun 24 March 4:30pm | Standard \$330

### The Upper Room Young adults

This event is a fantastic opportunity to grab a drink, enjoy some (free) bar snacks, meet other young Catholics, and dive into some relevant topics. Our guest speaker for this Upper Room is Danielle Mourits. Thursday 7th March 7pm at Good George Mission Bay. Tickets \$10. Go to our Facebook page @AKCYM or email [felicity@cda.org.nz](mailto:felicity@cda.org.nz) for details.

### SUMMIT Young Leaders' Weekend

Young leaders are you ready for an incredible weekend of FORMATION, FELLOWSHIP and being spiritually FILLED? We can't wait to see you at the SUMMIT 22–24 March at Sonshine Ranch Clevedon. Go to our Facebook page @AKCYM or email [felicity@cda.org.nz](mailto:felicity@cda.org.nz) for details.

### Ministers of the Word and EMOHCs

The Liturgy Centre is offering liturgical ministry workshops across the deaneries, which will cover training/refreshers for Ministers of the Word and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

These workshops will consist of context, prayer, and practical formation in these areas. Participants will only need to attend ONE of these workshops. All will receive a certificate at completion, which will be posted to their parish and presented at mass on a chosen date/time. Each session will be held on a specific Sunday at a parish within the designated deanery, from 1pm–3pm (with light lunch provided).

3 Mar | Central/City (Good Shepherd Balmoral)

10 Mar | West (Our Lady of Lourdes Glen Eden)

14 Apr | East (St Mark Pakuranga)

5 May | South (St Anne Manurewa)

19 May | North Shore (St Joseph Takapuna)

Register via the link below or contact your parish office/priest: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/liturgy-prayer/formation/>

### Mums and Bubs

Preschoolers learn a lot through music and movement. This is a group for preschoolers and caregivers to unite and have fun with music for little ones held at St. Thomas More Church hall, 336 Wairau Road, Glenfield 10am–11 am. Morning tea available. Contact Sylvia Hartley on 021 088 22990 or email [aldonsylvia@gmail.com](mailto:aldonsylvia@gmail.com)

*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 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, Thils 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 ...*

Jill Hoppood-Luyppers, Marie Quinn, Tony Glassey, Clare Alice Owen, Sr Alei Leilua SMSM, Zofia Wolk, Alois Ayan, Doris D'Cruz, Hannah de Beer, Fr Andrew Sequeira, Dominic Smith, Sr Fidelis Walter, Hannibal & Miriam Adique, Dennis Widdowson, Robert Amputch, Flavia Dias, Pathma Apoo, Henry Vackhouse-Smith, Margaret Magness, Carolina Birondo, Natividad Abcede, Derek Joseph, Carl Burrows, Manuel Eugenio, Flocerfina Lucas, Marie Ion, Albino Achas, Kath Ulrich, Josephine Gregan, Samson, Joseph Thomsen, George Foss, Zeld Moloney, Lomano Halayahu, Tien Pik Ing, Lawson La Brooy, Antonio Musgni, Judy Dacre, Graham Hyndman, Kim Jung Ha, Janet Dyer, Beatriz Ruiz, Maureen Davey, Thomas Setyo, Anna Teong, Salvador & Ana Maria Robles, Joseph Park, Anacleto Seares, Alfred Pereira, Michael O'Flarherty, Brian Clooney, Linda Doran Estrella "Lily" Owen ... *Eternal rest grant to them.*