

## 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).

### Shine TV Mass for the First Sunday of Lent

Today's Mass will be broadcast 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>

[www.youtube.com/aucklandcatholic](https://www.youtube.com/aucklandcatholic)

### 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 ride 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."*

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 18TH FEBRUARY 2024

Each year, as Lent begins, we hear of Jesus heading out into the wilderness to fast and pray, and there encountering the Devil, who tempts him. Before we rush to the great spiritual battle that concludes the story it is good to consider the setting.

The wilderness was often shown in the scriptures as a testing place; a place where the lack of everyday things forced people to consider the "big picture." But going back to the beginning, literally, the wilderness was where Adam and Eve went after leaving Eden. The place where life was hard, what they needed was gathered by the sweat of Adam's brow and Eve's experiences were full of discomfort. It is into that reality that Jesus goes, and it is not surprising therefore that there he meets the cause of that situation, the one who tempted Adam and Eve to turn away from the Lord. And the temptations that Jesus faces aren't something new and startling.

Which is not surprising. Evil cannot do anything new. If you look over the great sweep of history there is a dreadful sameness about what is wrong. Again and again the same faults, the same horrors. The prizing of material things and worldly power—those temptations that Satan tries on Jesus—leading to violence and abuse.

So the wilderness where Jesus is tempted is not just a random place, it is in fact the place to which the things that Satan offers lead. The question that is put to us at the start of each Lent therefore is: Do you want this, or do you want something more?

Hopefully, in the full meaning of that word, we want something more. Lent is a time for us to think about what we really want. Just as the things we give us for Lent tend to reveal to us our deeper needs, so the period of forty days as a whole can be an opportunity for us to step away from the busyness of our ordinary lives, in which all the things we do for work or leisure, all the routines we have in place, often distract us from facing what is really important in life.

That busyness stops us seeing both the deeper temptations we face to give in to patterns and habits of sin that damage us and damage those around us, and the deeper hunger we have for the life Christ offers to us and which can really make us free. So, we might pray that this Lent will help to make our choices clearer to us, that we might choose, not the wilderness of want and hard labour, but the joy that God has willed for us from the beginning.

~ Fr. Chris Denham

## Liturgy of the Word

~ **First Reading: Genesis 9:8–15** I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood.

~ **Psalm 24/25:4–5a, 6, 7b–9 (R/. 10)** Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

~ **1 Peter 3:18–22** The waters of the flood prefigured the baptism which now saves you.

~ **Mark 1:12–15** Jesus was tempted by Satan; and the angels waited on him.

**Next weekend:** Genesis 22:1–2, 9–13, 15–18; Psalm 115/116:10, 15–19 (R/. 114/116:9); Romans 8:31b–35, 37; Mark 9:2–10

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

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 today (18th Feb) after the 9.30am Mass.

### Faith Formation 3 x 1 day events.

New start day: 2nd March, 6th April, 4th May.  
Please register with Dianna Fouhy, [dianna@cdca.org.nz](mailto:dianna@cdca.org.nz), Faith Formation Team, Catholic Diocese of Auckland.

### 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.remueracatholic.org.nz/lenten-programme>

### Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College

is offering a course on Mission and Ministry for three Saturdays, 02 March, 06 April and 04 May 9am–4pm in Ponsonby Auckland. This can be for personal interest or credited towards Certificate in Christian Studies. Fee is \$374. Go to [www.tekupenga.ac.nz](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz) to enrol or for more info.

### St Mary's College Past Pupils Assoc. Ponsonby

is hosting a Cocktail Party on St Mary's Staff Room Deck overlooking the Harbour. The event will take place on Thursday March 14th 6–8pm, Tickets \$50. Contact Pat Goddard at [patgoddard@xtra.co.nz](mailto:patgoddard@xtra.co.nz) for information and tickets.

### Masterclass Young Leaders' Formation

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! Masterclass will be taking place on Sunday 25 February, 2:30–6:30pm, at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New Street, Ponsonby. Register at [masterclassCDA.eventbrite.com](https://www.masterclassCDA.eventbrite.com)

### Rite of Election and Call to Ongoing Conversion

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

### 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.

### St Michael's Parish Holy Hour

The next Holy Hour with Adoration, Benediction & communal prayer is on Fri 23 February at 7.00pm

### 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.

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

### NZ Catholic for sale in church foyers again.

Price \$4 (unchanged for 8 years). Some headlines for this issue: Kiwi and Anglican bishops gather in Rome and UK. New director for Hearts Aflame. Chch diocese seeks feedback on cathedral location options. Dunedin cathedral sanctuary angels get their wings. <https://indd.adobe.com/view/2face917-ff29-4b13-83b3-3010e8522ea0>

*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, 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 . . .*

Maureen Connolly, Jenny Fewtrell, Anthony Raki, Dawson Rata-Harimate, Msgr Des McCarthy, Steven Mulvey, Patricia Kirwan, Peter Considine, David Silich, Ruby Joseph, Rodney Melville-Smith, Carlina Beltran, John Divers, Raymond Mascarenhas, Farzana Shaikh, Kathleen McHugh, Pat Shepherd, Claire Howley, Regina Orr, Patrick O'Byrne, Cathy Campbell, Kathleen Grey ... *Eternal rest grant to them.*

### 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

### 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)

### 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.