

## 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)

### 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](mailto:foodbank@svdpak.org.nz)

### Mass for Deaf

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

### 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)

### 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)

### 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).



## PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARNELL

*"Prepare a way for the Lord."*

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 10TH MARCH 2024

John's Gospel illustrates the depth of God's love for humanity and the radical nature of divine mercy. This passage, which includes the well-known verse, 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life', emphasizes that it is not humanity's love for God, our good deeds, or even our belief in God that is the foundation of our salvation, but rather, it is God's immense love for us. This love is so profound that it led to the ultimate act of mercy: the giving of His only Son for the salvation of the world.

In reflecting on this, a critical question arises, especially for church leaders: What are the implications of understanding and embodying this kind of radical divine mercy in their ministries? This passage challenges traditional notions of merit and worthiness in the context of divine love and grace. It presents a God who loves unconditionally and who extends mercy not as a reward for good behaviour, but as a free gift borne out of profound love.

For leaders in the Church, this underscores the call to be agents of this same indiscriminate and unconditional mercy. It challenges them to look beyond the confines of law, doctrine, and tradition, and to embrace a more inclusive and compassionate approach that mirrors God's love for all people. This approach can sometimes seem at odds with established norms or expectations within the Church, leading to the provocative question: 'Can a Pope (and a God) be too merciful?' (Taken from a headline in La Croix International)

This question touches on a fundamental tension within Christian theology and ecclesiology. On one hand, there is the recognition of God's boundless mercy, a mercy that transcends human understanding and conventions. On the other hand, there is the human endeavour to interpret and institutionalize this mercy within the structures and doctrines of the Church. This tension can sometimes create discomfort or even conflict within the Church, especially when the expressions of mercy challenge longstanding practices or beliefs.

In contemplating whether a Pope or any church leader can be "too merciful," it is essential to revisit the core message of the Gospel—that God's love and mercy are not constrained by human standards. This radical mercy was exemplified in the life and teachings of Jesus, who consistently reached out to those on the margins of society, challenged societal norms, and offered forgiveness and inclusion where others preached condemnation and exclusion.

Church leaders, in striving to be true to the Gospel, are called to emulate this radical mercy. This may require courageously re-examining and, where necessary, reinterpreting traditional teachings and practices in light of the fundamental Gospel message of unconditional love and grace. It challenges them and us to be bearers of hope, especially to those who feel excluded or marginalized by the Church.

The Gospel of John reminds us that God's love and mercy are at the heart of the Christian faith. For Church leaders and communities, this means being open to the movement of the Spirit, which may call for a merciful approach that transcends conventional boundaries and expectations, reflecting the boundless nature of God's love and mercy. ~ **Fr. Stephen Berecz**

## Liturgy of the Word

~ **2 Chronicles 36:14–17a, 19–23** The wrath and steadfast kindness of the Lord are shown by the exile and restoration of the people.

~ **Psalm 136/137:1–6** Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

~ **Ephesians 2:4–10** Even when we were dead through our trespasses, God made us alive.

~ **John 3:14–21** God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that we may have eternal life.

**Next weekend:** Jeremiah 31:31–34; Psalm 50/51:1–2, 10–13; Hebrews 5:7–9; John 12:20–23

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 7am Fr Tony Dunn  
Sunday 9.30am Bishop Steve Lowe

### 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.

### Morning tea after Mass

We welcome Bishop Steve Lowe to preside at Mass this weekend Sunday 10 March at 9.30am. Fr Stephen has organised a little morning tea down at Notting Hill Café after the Mass. You are most welcome to attend.

### 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.

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH PARNELL

### EASTER MASS TIMETABLES

#### 24–24 March Palm Sunday

Mass with blessing of the Palms at 5pm, Sat 23rd March, 7am and 9.30am, Sun 24th March

#### 28 March Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm. Adoration follows after the Mass with Night Prayer at 9pm

#### 29 March Good Friday

Memorial of the Lord's Passion at 3pm. Shared ministries with EOHSJ

#### 30 March Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil at 6pm

#### 31 March Easter Sunday

Regular Sunday Mass times at 7am and 9.30am

#### 1 April Easter Monday

Regular public holiday Mass time at 9am

### Vacancy Northland Region Corrections Facility

(Ngāwhā) – Catholic Prison Chaplaincy. We are seeking to employ a suitably qualified person to work as a member of Tira Tūhāhā Prison Chaplaincy Aotearoa Chaplaincy Team, which delivers Ecumenical Chaplaincy services to men in prison at the Northland Region Corrections Facility. The position is a permanent part-time position of 20 hours per week—days to be determined but with the expectation of some Sundays per month for Sunday Services. Applications close 5 April. Please go to our website [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz) under Diocesan services & staff vacancies.

### 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 contact Felicity from Ministries to Young People at [felicity@cda.org.nz](mailto:felicity@cda.org.nz) for details.

### Good Friday Stations of the Cross Procession

On Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, we will be gathering once again for our traditional Stations of the Cross procession through Auckland CBD. We invite you and your faith community to join us for this powerful public witness of faith through the streets of Auckland. The procession will begin at Albert Park Rotunda at 9am and will conclude at St Patrick's Cathedral at 11am. For queries contact Sam from the Ministries to Young People team or email [samuelb@cda.org.nz](mailto:samuelb@cda.org.nz).

### Woodcraft & Reflections on Stations of the Cross

Join us where it all began: in the parish hall of Maria Assumpta, Beach Haven. Bill Verryt will display his carvings, and we will pray the Stations of the Cross with the reflections by Beate Matthies. Saturday, 23 March 2024, 10–11.30am. Free. <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/02/27/stations-of-the-cross-meet-the-artist/>

### Time Out Days at St Francis Retreat Centre

For those who seek a day retreat—9:30am–2:30pm (\$30 includes lunch) | Thu 21 Mar | Tue 16 Apr | Wed 15 May. 09 625 6651 or visit <https://www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz>

### "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 Mar 7pm–Sun 24 Mar 4:30pm. \$330. 09 625 6651 or visit <https://www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz>

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

**Peter Connolly, Dorothy Wagstaff, 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, Adelaide 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, 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:*

**Edilberto Reyes, Brendan Finlay, Fr Leo Doyle, Sandra Mews, Yvonne Fernando, Sr Maureen Connelly OP, Nanay Nenita Peji, Lucila Cruz Angeles, Nelly Dosado, Ron Leonard, Kataraina Kanara, Margaret Bamfield, Marie Lovrich, Gary Menzies, Thea Heyen, Clive Squire, Julia Barangan, Pamela Law, Vincent Marinovich, Nelida Cordeta, Margaret Fontanilla, Akaka Leilua, Tomas Hector, Pacita Yap, Graeme Blackburn, Antonio Lacio, Benjamin Hoo, Theresa Wong, Clare Howley, Pamela Farry, Clem Paterson, Annie Reyndendahl, Phyllis Green, Geoff Bennett, Ron Boyd, Gregorio Serrano, Sinead Fox, Nick McNamara, Peter Tran, Frank Cordtz, Ann Roper, Caroline Mitchell, Rev Joe Shepherd, Benjamin Martinez, Gordon Palairet, Nativitas Z Baylon, Otilie Adelinger, Noel Fernandes, Alice Marinovich, Zita D'Souza, Eulogio Avila, Mohi Hotene, Mary Whitener, Mary Rahman, Gary Vis-kovich, Edna Cororan, Marcia Macedo, John Sullivan, Irawan Kwik. *Eternal rest grant to them.***

### The Book of Job: 5 things to know before reading

Wednesday, 20 March 6–8PM (2x 1hour talks). Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College, 40 Vermont Street, Ponsonby. Speaker: Dr Israel McGrew. All welcome.

### 30s & 40s Meet Up: Takapuna Beach Hike

At 9am on 23 March, we're meeting on the footpath outside Hauraki House, located at the end of Hauraki Road in Takapuna, where the beach begins. RSVP to Marie-Claire [akcatholicsinglesocialgroup@gmail.com](mailto:akcatholicsinglesocialgroup@gmail.com). More details can be found on our Facebook group page: [Auckland Catholic Singles Social Group | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AucklandCatholicSinglesSocialGroup/).

Upcoming meetup: Tickets will need to be purchased for Bach's B minor mass on 14 April at the Auckland Town Hall. Seats in the stalls are \$45 and can be found here: [Tickets: Bach Musica NZ presents Bach B Minor Mass & Brandenburg Concerto No 3, Auckland | Sun, 14 Apr 2024, 5:00 pm | Ticketmaster NZ](https://www.ticketmaster.co.nz/tickets/Bach-Musica-NZ-presents-Bach-B-Minor-Mass-&-Brandenburg-Concerto-No-3-Auckland-Sun-14-Apr-2024-5:00-pm)

### Sacred Heart College: applications for enrolment

Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 for 2025 are now open. An education at Sacred Heart College provides a foundation of faith and aspiration to succeed at the highest level in personal and professional life. Places are available in Years 7, 8 and 9 in 2025, with Boarding available from Year 9. Applications are prioritised in accordance with our Enrolment Scheme. Scholarships are available. Applications for enrolment close Friday 5 April 2024. Apply online [sacredheart.parents.school.nz/enrolment](https://sacredheart.parents.school.nz/enrolment)