

## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH PARNELL

Sunday Mass Times ~ Saturday Vigil 5 pm, Sunday 9.30 am

NO 7 AM SUNDAY MASS MAY–AUGUST

No weekday Masses until further notice except public holidays.

Saturday 9am Mass & 9.30am Reconciliation resume 4 May.

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 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)

### 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."*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ 28TH APRIL 2024

### Being Fruitful is Fun

All through the Easter season, we have reflected on the 'I AM' statements of Jesus. The person of Jesus is manifested not by the 'leadership of titles' but by the 'leadership of images'. Jesus spoke of himself in images/metaphors as the 'Bread of Life' (Jn 6:35), the 'Light of the World' (Jn 8:12), the 'Door' (Jn 10:9), the 'Good Shepherd' (Jn 10:11,14), the 'Resurrection and the Life' (Jn 11:25), the "Way, the Truth and the Life" (Jn 14:6) and finally, today's Gospel is on the 'Vine' (Jn 15:1,5).

In the Old Testament, Psalm 80 is a communal prayer to God to 'visit this vine and protect it'. Israel was represented as the 'vine' planted by God's right hand. But, with the people turning against the covenant, its walls were broken down! This 'vine' was destroyed and trampled upon. In Isaiah 5:1-7, often referred to as the 'song of the vineyard', once again brings in the theme of God's relationship with Israel and Judah.

Jesus reinstates and heals this relationship in the Gospel of today, "I am the Vine, and you are the branches". The key to this relationship is the invitation to 'abide in Me'. You and I are God's chosen and appointed ones to be fruit-bearers! With Jesus we bear 'fruit that will last'. United to 'Jesus the Vine' our fruit-bearing becomes fun! "These things I have spoken to you, that My JOY may remain in you and that JOY may be full" (Jn 15:11). Apart from Jesus, we are fruitless, we wither and are thrown into the fire. Jesus calls us into an active fruit-bearing partnership.

But there is a flip side to fruit-bearing. God is also the 'Vinedresser' who owns us and cares for us. Bearing much fruit is not devoid of pain! Discipleship comes with a cost. God is also an active 'pruner'. He prunes anything that hinders our growth and usefulness. He trims our weaknesses and stifling tendencies. Pruning is an opportune moment, and every gardener knows it. Pruning doesn't stifle it, it enhances growth.

A disciple who is 'pruned' by the master Vinedresser, can lovingly obey God's commandments. Pruned disciples are given a new identity. We are called 'Friends' and no longer 'servants'. This human-divine partnership is not an empty promise. "No greater love than one lay down his life for his friends". Jesus laid down his life for friends like you and me. God promises to give us all that we ask of Him. He created us to glorify Him with bearing lasting fruit.

Our only desire then is to obey God, to remain in His love, to receive from Him and to produce lasting fruit. Truly, with Jesus, Fruitfulness is Fun! - Fr Glenford Lowe

## Liturgy of the Word

~ Acts 9:26–31 Barnabas described for them how on the road Saul had seen the Lord.

~ Psalm 21/22:25b–27, 29–31 I will praise you Lord, in the assembly of the people.

~ 1 John 3:18–24 This is his commandment: we should believe in Jesus and love one another.

~ John 15:1–8 Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

**Next weekend:** Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48; Psalm 97/98:1–4; 1 John 4:7–10; John 15:9–17

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 5 pm Fr Stephen Berecz

Sunday 7 am Fr Stephen Berecz

Sunday 9.30 am Fr Stephen Berecz

### \*NO 7 AM SUNDAY MASS MAY–AUGUST 2024\*

This weekend 28 April will be the last 7 am Mass at Parnell until it resumes 1st September.

### Mass Times this week in Parnell

Saturday 9am Mass and 9.30am Reconciliation both resume next weekend 4 May.

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### St Michael's Remuera Parish Mass times:

Monday–Friday 7 am & 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.

### The archives of the Auckland Catholic Diocese

will be providing a presentation, exhibition of items related to Bishop Pompallier and a tour of Bishops House for parish groups. The presentation and tour will take approximately an hour on a Saturday morning. Bookings will be essential. If you are interested in joining a group to visit and connect with our rich heritage, please inform the office [office@parnellcatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@parnellcatholic.org.nz)

### Let's Talk About Mary

8 May 7.30pm Poynton Room, Pompallier Diocesan Centre and on zoom. In May traditionally the month of Mary join Sr Sian for an opportunity to explore Mary, missionary disciple. Please register [pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz](mailto:pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz)

### Relics of Saints Tour in Auckland

This promises to be a spiritually enriching experience. More details:

[www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/calendar/](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/calendar/)

### 2024 Bishop's Appeal

Thanks all those who have already supported the appeal. Please continue to pray for our seminarians and vocations to the priesthood. Please support our seminarians as they follow Christ the Good Shepherd in their priestly vocations [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/donate](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/donate).

### Thinking about the priesthood?

Come and meet with seminarians and priests exploring your vocation in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. This is a great opportunity to connect, share experiences, and support one another on your journey of faith. 4 May at noon—[www.aucklandvocations.org.nz](http://www.aucklandvocations.org.nz) for more details.

### Homestays for pre-seminary students

The Diocese has a few students from Vietnam discerning vocations to the priesthood. They are learning English with a view to entering our seminary at the start of 2025. They need homestay hosts for the next 8–10 months. The Diocese will cover the full cost of their board. If you can offer them a supportive home with a room of their own and would like to find out more, please email [alisonm@cda.org.nz](mailto:alisonm@cda.org.nz) or phone 09 360 3003.

### Jubilee Bursary Semester 2, 2024

For Theology and RE courses at tertiary level. Applications close Thursday, 6 June 2024 please contact: [michellej@cda.org.nz](mailto:michellej@cda.org.nz)

### University Ministry Coordinator—

Catholic Diocese of Auckland. Are you a self-motivated relationship-builder who can be the driving force behind a new project? We're looking for someone who answers "Yes!" to become our full-time University Ministry Coordinator. You'll be part of a tight-knit team implementing a bold new strategy for ministry to young people in the Diocese of Auckland. To learn more, please visit: [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/)

### Marriage and Family Life Ministry at the Diocese

is seeking married couples of 5 years or more who would like to train as Marriage Educators to prepare engaged couples for marriage in the church. This is a very rewarding and significant role in the church. Enquiries Gerry on 021 02247442 or [gerrys@cda.org.nz](mailto:gerrys@cda.org.nz)



### Ministers of the Word & EMOs

The Liturgy Centre is offering liturgical ministry workshops across the deaneries, which will cover training/refreshers for Ministers of the Word & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. These workshops will consist of context, prayer, & practical formation in these areas. Participants will only need to attend 1 of these workshops. All will receive a certificate at completion, which will be posted to their parish & 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). 5 May | South (St Anne Manurewa); 19 May | North Shore (St Joseph Takapuna). Register via [aucklandcatholic.org.nz/liturgy-prayer/formation/](http://aucklandcatholic.org.nz/liturgy-prayer/formation/) or contact your parish office/priest.

### Fr Chris Skinner Concert Rescheduled

Mary MacKillop Chapel, Mission Bay Sunday 5th May. Suggested Koha \$10

### Female flatmate wanted

A single room in our spacious, warm flat in Epsom will be available in late May. Flat with 2 Catholic women, close to St Michael's, near train and bus, secure carpark. Please contact Theresa for more information: 0273891941, [pattysplace77@gmail.com](mailto:pattysplace77@gmail.com)

**The Israel-Palestine Conflict—A Perspective** from Prof. Mazin 18 May, 1pm, St. Mary's Parnell. The talk will be livestreamed. Professor Mazin is a Palestinian Christian and works at Bethlehem University where New Zealander Brother Peter Bray was Vice-Chancellor till very recently. Professor has exceptional knowledge about the situation & has a sharp, clear understanding of the issues.

*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 Coughley, 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, 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 & those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Vera Wiseman, Thomas Mulligan, Sr Kathleen Franich sm, Sr Rosemarie Lawson rsj, Anna Scoullar Jones, Rody Balones, Hannibal & Gloria Adique, Josefina Abecede, Alexander Martinez, Fr Bruce Munday, Teh Kah Chin, Virginia Boak, Antonia Fepuleai, Tom Brown, Liam Cogan, Ray Potbury, Marie Anthony, Darin McKay, Lotte Jensen, Stephen Roberts, Maria Hunt, Josefina Abacede, Janet Coutinho, Nestor Sadiarin, Evangeline Escobillo, David Smyth, Carlos Yudi, Eileen Ham, Laila Osunsade, Dino Cornelio, Elizabeth Bond, Joan Davenport, Francisco Pardiillo, Sr Mary Gaines RSJ, Sr Imelda Windle OP, Mike Bakker, Sr M Vianney rsm, Br Paul Scott FMS, John Newman-Watt, John Eman, Lawrence McNamara, Frank Fahy, Pauline Saltman, Jacinto Macarubbo, Rodrigo de los Santos, Clive Cooper, Fr Pat Logue MHM, Fr Tony Ives, Br Thomas Lynch FMS, Fr Denis O'Sullivan, Damiana Abalos, Dudley Jenke.*

**Catholic 30s & 40s Singles Meetup, Dinner & Karaoke—11 May.** At 7:30pm, we will meet at Pasta & Cuore in Mt Eden for dinner, and then, for those who feel brave, go on to karaoke! Please note that numbers are limited for this meetup—due to the maximum dinner booking at the restaurant—so anyone interested needs to get in quick! Any questions at all, do get in contact. Marie-Claire [aklcatolicsinglesocialgroup@gmail.com](mailto:aklcatolicsinglesocialgroup@gmail.com)

**North Shore Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women** invites all women to come and learn more about THE GIFT over two sessions at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 336 Wairau Road, Glenfield. There will be two sessions about the Holy Spirit over two Saturdays, 11th and 18th May 2024 at 10 a.m. Please bring your own lunch. For more info. please contact Sylvia Hartley 021 088 22990 or email [aldonsylvia@gmail.com](mailto:aldonsylvia@gmail.com)

### Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass

on Friday 3rd May 7:00pm at St Mary's Parish, 20 Kiteui Ave, Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass, followed by veneration of St Faustina's relic. All Welcome.

### Upcoming Retreats & Events

#### at St Francis Retreat Centre

For more info/dates and to book visit [www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz](http://www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz) or call 09 625 6651:

**Time Out Days—**For those who seek a day retreat—9:30am–2:30pm (\$30 includes lunch) | Wed 15 May | Thu 27 Jun

**24Hr Quietude—**For those who seek a short retreat—Fri 7pm–Sat 7pm (\$120pp incl. accommodation + food) | May 17th/18th | July 12th/13th