

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH PARNELL

Sunday Mass Times ~ Saturday Vigil 5 pm, Sunday 7 am & 9.30 am

SUNDAY 7AM MASS RESUMES THIS WEEK 1ST SEPTEMBER

No weekday Masses until further notice except public holidays.

Saturday 9 am Mass & 9.30 am Reconciliation (no 9 am Mass 14th September).

Public Holidays 9 am Mass.

Parish Priest ~ Father Stephen Berecz ~ Email: sberecz@gmail.com

Parish Secretary ~ Nathaniel Hood: phone (09) 373 3132 ~ Email: office@parnellcatholic.org.nz
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 11.30 am) 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

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

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 left 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

Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Ministry

www.facebook.com/AKCYM

Contact Sam Brebner samb@cda.org.nz

Catholic University Ministry

FB: www.facebook.com/AucklandCatholicChaplaincy

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

IG: www.instagram.com/AucklandCatholicChaplaincy

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

Email: thechaplains@cda.org.nz

Mass: Deaf Friendly

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

- 9.30am 4th Sunday each month. Good Shepherd Parish, Telford Street, Balmoral. NZSL interpreter present. www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/deaf-ministry

No cash but keen to donate?

Donations to the Parish should be to this account:

Acc. name: St. John's Parnell Parish

Account N°: 02 0108 0705969 000

Set up through online banking
or visit your nearest branch.

Register with the Parish for receipt.



PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARNELL

"Prepare a way for the Lord."

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 1ST SEPTEMBER 2024

Mark's Gospel provides a significant insight into Jesus' teachings on true purity and the nature of genuine religion. This passage emphasizes that the mere keeping of external laws does not lead to God; rather, a heart truly converted and aligned with God's will is essential to follow the way of Jesus.

In verses 1–8, Jesus confronts the Pharisees and scribes, who criticize His disciples for not following traditional ceremonial washings. Jesus responds by quoting Isaiah, pointing out the hypocrisy of those who honour God with their lips while their hearts are far from Him. He condemns their legalism, emphasizing that their worship is in vain because they have replaced God's commandments with human traditions. This critique is not just about the specific tradition of handwashing, but a broader indictment of a religious mindset that prioritizes external rituals over inner transformation.

Jesus' challenge to the Pharisees underscores a critical point: adherence to external laws and rituals, in and of itself, does not bring one closer to God. Instead, what God desires is a heart that is genuinely committed to His ways. This calls for an internal conversion—a transformation that goes beyond outward compliance to the laws and touches the very core of a person's being.

In verses 14–15, Jesus further clarifies His message to the crowd. He declares, "Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them." This radical statement overturns the prevailing Jewish purity laws that focused on external sources of impurity. Jesus shifts the focus from external observances to the internal moral and spiritual state of an individual. True defilement, according to Jesus, arises from within a person, from the evil intentions and actions that emanate from the heart.

In verses 21–23 Jesus highlights that the root of moral corruption is internal, and thus, true purity requires a transformation of the heart.

This passage strongly advocates for a religion of the heart rather than one that is legalistic. Jesus favours a faith that is characterized by inner purity and moral integrity over one that is merely concerned with external observance of rules. The keeping of external laws, while not inherently wrong, becomes meaningless if it is not accompanied by a genuine conversion of the heart. Jesus calls His followers to go beyond superficial religiosity and embrace a deeper, more authentic spirituality that transforms their inner selves and, consequently, their actions.

This week the Gospel challenges us to examine the state of our hearts and to seek a true conversion that aligns our innermost being with the will of God. Jesus teaches us that genuine faith is not about rigid adherence to laws and traditions but about cultivating a pure heart that reflects God's love and righteousness. This calls for a continuous and sincere effort to align our thoughts, intentions, and actions with the teachings of Christ, fostering a faith that is vibrant, authentic, and transformative.

- Fr Stephen Berecz

Liturgy of the Word

~ **Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–8** You must not add anything to what I command you.

~ **Psalm 14/15** The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

~ **James 1:1–18, 21–22, 27** Be doers of the word, not merely hearers.

~ **Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23** You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.

Next weekend: Isaiah 35:4–7; Psalm 145/146:6c–10 R. 1; James 2:1–5; Mark 7:31–37.

For Sunday and weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.com AND/OR 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

Mass Times this week in Parnell

Saturday 9 am

Reconciliation

Saturday 9.30 am

~ ~ ~

St Michael's Remuera Mass times this week:

Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 5 pm
Mon–Fri 7 am, 12 pm
Sat 8 am

Saturday 9 am Mass cancelled 14 September

There will instead be a Mass at St John's 12 noon.

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.

Full training and support will be provided.

The Diocesan Faith Formation Team

are offering refresher education sessions across the regions of the diocese for the ministries of 1st Sacraments for Children & Baptism preparation. This is open to all educators & volunteers involved in these ministries. Please register on aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/formation/ to attend for your parish. For any further information please contact Dcn Steve Fraser on stephenf@cda.org.nz or 021439407.

ALONE AGAIN? A weekend away

to help those suffering the heartache of Separation, Divorce, or Widowhood on 6–8 September. The Beginning Experience is a non-profit organization that provides support for the grieving single again, & offers an opportunity to turn the pain of loss into an experience of positive growth. The cost for 2 nights accommodation, meals, & materials & follow up event is \$350. For further information please phone Lynda 0274898003 or Kelly evenings 0276864416

www.beginningexperience.org.nz.

St John the Baptist Statue Appeal

Thank you to all who have donated so far. In the first fortnight we raised 7,220 of the necessary \$10,450.

Ethnic Chaplaincies Rise Up & Shine Festival

to be held on Sat 21 Sept to Sun 22 September at the Malaeola Sāmoan Catholic Community Centre, 16 Waokauri Place, Māngere. A time of celebration with Food, Music, & Cultural Shows on Saturday 9am–3pm, & Thanksgiving Mass in the various languages & culture on Sunday at 1pm.

Positions available St Joseph's Takapuna

Following restructuring of the parish staff, two positions have become available: Executive assistant, a 25 hours per week role; & (b) Property manager, 10–15 hours per week. For position descriptions & to apply for a position, contact Fr Mark Napa frmark@stjoseph.org.nz. Applications close 27 September 2024.

G.I.F.T.

a very warm welcome to all intellectually disabled people, their whānau & support worker for our first session at the Pompallier Centre, 30 New St, Ponsonby on Sat 7th September from 1pm to 4pm. Come & see our fabulous new home! Please come to the back of the building, park near the tennis courts & come to the cafeteria/back door.

Cans for Christmas

is a Charity that has run for 10 years now—we coordinate Catholic Primary Schools & Colleges to collect canned food items for St Vincent de Paul. During the last 9 years we have collected 160,000 cans & \$10,000 for St Vincent de Paul Society to help those in need. Please join us by donating to our page—This money goes directly to St Vincent de Paul.



Long-Term Volunteer Opportunities

in the Australia-Pacific Region—The Cagliero Project, Salesians of Don Bosco. We are seeking long term (6–12 month) volunteers for departure in January 2025 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Sāmoa, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands & Mongolia. Applications close October 31st, 2024. Send us an enquiry—cagliero.org.au or hichaaba@salesians.org.au.

Card Crafting Workshop

will happen on Saturday 28th September. Meg Hills rsj is very skilled & gives excellent guidance on how to create your own personalised cards. The workshop is for those who have a small degree of experience in card-making. It provides an opportunity to design & create a variety of hand-crafted all-occasion cards that recipients will treasure. All materials are supplied. A maximum of eight people can attend this workshop. Please see the poster in the foyer for more information.

Enjoy a live-in retreat

beginning Friday evening October 4 at 7pm & finishing on Sunday 6 October at 4pm. This will be facilitated by Éamon Butler. The retreat is entitled Homecoming & will explore the parable of the Prodigal Son using Rembrandt's painting of the son's homecoming & insights from Henri Nouwen's book The Return of the Prodigal Son. There are limited spaces left for this retreat so please register soon if you wish to participate. All details are on the poster in the foyer.

Women of St Peters College evening 6th Sept

The St Peters College Old Boys & Friends Association, & the College would like to invite ladies who have an association with St Peters College, past or present, to our annual Women of St Peters evening which honours their contribution. RSVP to oldboys@st-peters.school.nz.

Bach to Brubeck on organ & oboe

SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER, 4PM Takapuna Methodist Church 427 Lake Rd Takapuna Entry by programme suggested koha \$25 proceeds for organ refurbishment fund.

Special Mass for Loss of a Child

A Mass will be offered for those who have experienced loss of a child. The Catholic Sacraments of Reconciliation & Eucharist help facilitate healing through fully knowing God's love & mercy. St Michael's Catholic Church, Beatrice Ave, Remuera Saturday 7th September 5.00pm. Reconciliation & Adoration from 4.30pm. For more information contact: Brenda Brightwell on behalf of St Michael's Parish, 027 6415615.

Catholic 30s & 40s Meetup @ Dice & Fork

On 14 September, the Catholic 30s & 40s singles group is meeting at Dice & Fork. Starting at 6:30pm, we will have dinner & drinks over a board game or two. From the classic, fight-inducing monopoly to the strategic challenge of Catan, Dice & Fork has a huge range of fun for everyone. All who are interested should email akcatholicinglesocialgroup@gmail.com as there is space for only so many because of the booking limit. Ngā mihi, Marie-Claire.

Invitation to all: Holy Cross Seminary, Ponsonby

would like to invite you to join in our celebration of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Bishop Steve Lowe will be presiding. Mass will be celebrated at 7pm on Monday, 2 September at Sacred Heart Parish, 16 Vermont Street, Ponsonby. Light refreshments will be served at Holy Cross Seminary, 44 Vermont Street after Mass.

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass

on Fri 6th Sept 7pm at St Mary's Parish, 20 Kitenui Ave, Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass, followed by veneration of St Faustina's relic.

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

Helen Mullin, Luke Sebastian Catiben, 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, 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 Sanchez, 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:

Frank Mufty, Peggy Bell-Booth, Julie Nicholls, Palaamo Kalati, Michelle Pereira, Basil Yap, Anne O'Sullivan, Diana Ross, Elizabeth Hales, James Gallagher, Sean O'Keefe, Kirk Badiola, Maurice Churton, Emile Kieler, John Lane, Bill Doyle, Francesca Goodwin, Miriam Adique, George Celedonio, Kath Allen, Mary Herbert, Patrick Smith, Terence Oliver, Soagia Faga, John La' Croix, Ryan Carduzo, Don Crawford, Aisla Duffy, John Jude, JoAnn Swartz, Luis Tura, Aisling Cooke, Juanita Banzon, Esther Gill, Jean Mullan, Teresita del Valle, Boris Shoj, Michael del Valle, Moira Bryant, Janette Currie, Bryan Lynch, Theresa Carroll, Elizabeth Ihaka rsm, Jack Smith, Geoff Bruce, Toi Rapiara, John Chambers, Ongo Kaihea, Fr Joe Foley, Joe Paraiso, Br Francis Erni OFM, Barry Russell, Jovita Antao, Maria Madalena, Eric Werder, William Thode, James Marinovich, Douglas Paterson, Kevin McBride, Ric de la Cruz, Mark Gleeson, Michael John Frederickson, Louie Beltran, Marita Beltran. *Eternal rest grant to them.*