

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH PARNELL

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

No weekday Masses until further notice except public holidays.

Saturday 9 am Mass & 9.30 am Reconciliation.

Public Holidays 9 am Mass. (See below for Christmas timetable.)

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

Christmas Time at St John the Baptist

Tuesday 24 December Christmas Vigil Mass 8 p.m. (Carols start 7.30 p.m.)

Wednesday 25 December Christmas Day Mass 9.30 a.m.

Thursday 26 December Feast of St Stephen Mass 9 a.m.

Wednesday 1 & Thursday 2 January Mass 9 a.m. (Weekend masses as usual)

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 a.m.) 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 & dignity. We foster an environment which is welcoming, & in which all our parish whānau, including our tamariki, rangatahi, kuia & kaumātua, feel safe. If you have any complaints or concerns, our Safeguarding Co-ordinator is Nathaniel Hood & you can contact him by phone 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

To find out more about what's going on for Catholic tertiary students in Auckland, please contact Daniel Story at daniels@cda.org.nz & check out [instagram.com/aucklandcatholicstudents/](https://www.instagram.com/aucklandcatholicstudents/)

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^o: 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."

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 17TH NOVEMBER 2024

This week, in Mark's Gospel, is a vivid and powerful passage where Jesus speaks about the events that will occur at the end of time, often referred to as the "Second Coming." This discourse, filled with apocalyptic imagery, is both a warning and a promise, urging believers to remain vigilant and hopeful.

In these verses, Jesus describes a time of cosmic upheaval: "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken". This dramatic language underscores the magnitude of the events that will accompany the end of the age. It portrays a complete transformation of the current order, emphasizing that God's intervention will be unmistakable and profound.

Amidst this cosmic chaos, Jesus assures His disciples of His return in glory: "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory". This image of the Son of Man arriving in the clouds is a powerful testament to Jesus' divine authority and the ultimate triumph of God's kingdom. It is a moment that will leave no doubt about God's victory over sin, death, and all forms of evil. Jesus' glorious arrival will be the final proof of God's victory, fulfilling the promises of Scripture and validating the faith of believers.

The passage also includes the lesson of the fig tree: "When its branch becomes tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates". This metaphor encourages believers to be observant and discerning, recognizing the signs of the times and remaining steadfast in faith. It is a call to live with an awareness of God's imminent intervention and the fulfilment of His promises.

Jesus concludes with a reminder that, although the exact day and hour of His return are unknown, the certainty of His coming is unwavering: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away". This assurance calls believers to trust in the enduring truth of Jesus' words and to live in hopeful anticipation of His return.

In reflecting on this passage, we are reminded that Jesus' glorious arrival at the end of time will be the ultimate demonstration of God's victory. It invites us to remain vigilant, faithful, and hopeful, trusting in the certainty of God's promises and the eventual fulfilment of His divine plan.

- Fr Stephen Berecz

Remembering our Dead this November

We remember in prayer our deceased friends & family. Please write their names on the cards provided & place them in the wooden box designated for this purpose. The box will be placed before the altar during Mass.

Liturgy of the Word

~ Daniel 12:1–3 At that time your people shall be delivered.

~ Psalm 15/16:5, 8–11 **R 1** Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

~ Hebrews 10:11–14, 18 By a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

~ Mark 13:24–32 The Son of Man will gather the elect from the four winds.

Next weekend: Daniel 7:13–14; Psalm 92/93:1–2, 5; Revelation 1:5–8; John 18:33b–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 Tony Dunn
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 noon
Sat 8 am

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. Full training & support will be provided.

Hope Reigns: A new prayer resource for Advent

Now available from the parish office, this year's 25-day Advent resource, Hope Reigns, seeks to help you prepare for the birth of Emmanuel, God with us. If you would like a copy, please contact the parish office. Koha invited.

2025 Columban Calendars now available

and can be purchased from the Parish Office for \$17 each. Please bring cash or email the parish office for details if you'd like to pay online.

Bible Diary 2025 for daily Prayers, Readings

& Reflections, Saint of the Day. \$20 each. See flyer in the church notice board for details. To order your copies, contact Fr Prakash 0225852875 email prakashreddycmf@gmail.com.

Xmas Morning Tea at Marist Convent

Sun 8 Dec 11 am (following 10 am mass at St Mary's Mt Albert for those attending). Marist Convent Kitenui Ave, Mt Albert. The Marist Ex-Students Association committee would love you to join us for a Xmas Morning Tea with the Sisters at the Marist Convent. All ex-students & staff are welcome. Full details about this event can be found at <https://events.humanitix.com/christmas-morning-te>. Or contact Felicity O'Driscoll via email maristexstudents@gmail.com.

Anniversary Mass 2025

Registrations now open for Coach Trip 12 Jan 2025. We are excited to invite you to join us on pilgrimage for this 1-off day-trip by coach to attend the Anniversary Mass at Tōtara Point. Leave Pompallier Diocesan Centre at 6am & expect to arrive back at Pompallier Diocesan Centre at 6:30–7pm. Hydration & lunch will be provided. Cost per person \$15. All welcome! For more info, contact Dcn Steve on stephenf@cda.org.nz.

Ngā Tapuwae 10th to 12th January 2025

Come & join us in experiencing the footsteps of Bishop Pompallier, Kupe & the Poyntons with other pilgrims together sharing our Catholic & Māori heritage. This will be a guided pilgrimage. Accommodation \$80/night/person will be shared living, experience & eating on the Marae. Own transport required. Contact Dcn Steve above.

Catholic 30s & 40s Meetup—12 Dec 6.30pm

Ponsonby international foodcourt + Franklin road lights. Any questions at all, contact Marie-Claire aklcatholicssinglesocialgroup@gmail.com.

Please help bring Xmas cheer to families in need

This Xmas, Monte Cecilia Housing Trust is working to provide Xmas packs for the families we support, & we need your help. We are seeking donations of children's Xmas presents (we prefer if you don't wrap them as it makes it easier for us to work out who best to give them to) & non-perishable food items to create special packs that will bring joy to families living in our housing this holiday season. If you are able to contribute, your donation will go directly to making Xmas a brighter time for families in need. Donations can be dropped off at our main office (30 Windrush Close, Māngere) during office hours (Mon–Thurs, 9am–5pm, & Fri 9–4). We welcome your support in any way you can give. If you wish to support us, please deliver your donation by Thurs 5 Dec. Alternately, if you wish to support Monte Cecilia directly with a financial donation, you can do that via <https://montececilia.org.nz/donate>.

Cathedral Christmas Market 5 December

5–7.30pm. Cnr St Stephen's Ave/Parnell Rd. Parnell Business Assoc. will be hosting the Cathedral Xmas Market, curated by Parnell Village Square.

Beacons of Light

Installation for the second year. This will take place in the week commencing 18 November and feature artists James Watkins from International Art Centre, & Tony Ogle, as represented by Parnell Gallery. We look forward to their stunning artwork being lit up in Heard Park.

St Michael's Remuera next Parish Holy Hour

Adoration & Benediction Fri 22 Nov 7pm.

Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College

accepting enrolments for 1st semester 2025 23 Sep–22 Nov 2024. Courses offered: Bachelor of Divinity, Graduate Diploma in Theology, Diploma & Certificate in Christian Studies, & a new micro-credential on Managing Church Organisations.

Interested in studying Theology?

The Theology Programme at the University of Otago offers a wide range of courses & qualifications, all available via distance learning. We offer courses in Biblical Languages, Biblical Studies, Chaplaincy, Christian Thought and History, and Pastoral Studies/Ministry. For further info go to www.otago.ac.nz/theology or ph 0800 80 80 98 or 03 479 8639. See <https://tinyurl.com/theologyotagovideo> for a brief video or find us on FB www.facebook.com/theologyotago

Sister Eveleen Retreat House may need you!!

Vacancy for a live-in host interested in serving God through the gift of hospitality?? We have a vacancy for a live-in Retreat House Host (RHH), paid 10 hours a week, accommodation provided.

The RHH works with the Director to provide a hospitable welcome to guests & a presence at the house when the Director has left for the day. Please see our website for more info or get in touch with us enquiry@sistereretreat.com.

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

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 Coughney, 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 & whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Michael O'Halloran, Caroline McLean, Ada Harris, Leciso Baldo, Eddie Ierenino, Sr Helen O'Neill rsm, Margaret Wilke, Dame Sr Pauline Engel rsm, Stephanie Hoyle, Linda Ward, Oscar Lacuna, Lorenza Inigo, Betty Robinson, Molly Novak, Mark Farac, Kevin Ryan, Gerry Dooley, Linda Ward, Vili Filo, Tony White, James Waldron, Sr Cecilia Maher rsm, Don Gordon, Evelyn McGilly, Michael Goodwin, Gail Layborne, Isabel Acuna, Patrick Keenan, Zinaida Ponomareva, Fr Hans Bachman, Steve Munro, Br Clarent Glynn FMS, Alfred Santos, Fr Humphrey O'Leary CSsR, Richard Tapley, Albert Reardon, Ong Siew Eng, Anthony Yco, Josebelle Filipino, Fa'asima Muliumu, Fifita Ramaula, Florence McCarthy, Antonio Guzzo, Fr Dominic O'Neill. *Eternal rest grant to them.*

Catholic Women's League, Ōrākei

invites men & women to our Xmas Party on Wed 27 Nov, St. Joseph's Church. Mass 10.30am followed by morning tea in the hall, Xmas Carols, Xmas crackers, hats & Xmas Trivia Quiz, festive lunch, Xmas cake, Pavlova, mince tarts & more. Cost: \$40. A lucky no. on entry. 3 raffle tickets for \$5. Support CWL's charities. For details & confirmation, ring Tina Raines 021 940 950/5212499. Email tinairaines@orcon.net.nz. RSVP by 19 Nov.

An Advent Reflection Day

will take place on Saturday 7 December from 10am–2pm in the Meeting Room at Mission Bay (30 Holgate Road, Kohimaramara). We are invited to come into the quiet; to deepen our awareness of Emmanuel—God is with us. Registrations by Thursday 5 December to Sr Jill McLoughlin Ph 0210710277 email: MBSpirituality@sosi.org.

Taizé Prayer

will be offered again after a lull! You are welcome to join us in the Mary McKillop Chapel (56 Selwyn Ave, Mission Bay) on Friday 6 December 7pm for an evening of reflective music, prayer and silence.

Retreats & Events at St Francis Retreat Centre

For more info/dates & to book visit 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) Tue 26 Nov/Thu 5 Dec **24Hr Quietude**—For those who seek a short retreat—Fri 7pm–Sat 7pm (\$120pp incl accommodation + food) Nov 22nd/23rd.

Pilgrimage with the Saints Tour 2025

Fr Chris Friel (Timaru) will lead this 17-day tour of Portugal, Spain & France in June. For full details & itinerary, email Pilgrimage Tours in Auckland at info@travlink.co.nz or phone 0800 99 7788.