

## 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 (9 am & 9.30 cancelled Sat 14 Dec).

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

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)

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

### 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](mailto: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](http://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<sup>o</sup>: 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."*

### CHRIST THE KING ~ 24TH NOVEMBER 2024

Recently, we witness the rising to power once again of president-elect Donald Trump. Some people are happy, celebrating Trump's victory while there are also some who have expressed their fears, worries and anxieties. Many only see power in the worldly sense. Let us not forget that public office is a public trust. Those entrusted with offices must at all times, be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty and efficiency. Public officials must always act with patriotism and justice and lead modest lives. And, if I may add, most importantly, they must put God first so that their leadership will always be guided by his gracious help.

Today marks the end of the liturgical year. We, the Church, celebrate the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. We proclaim to the whole world the true kingship of Christ. Surely, not in terms of pure authority, dominance, control and power as the world sees it but in humble and loving service to humankind.

All the readings this Sunday pertain to Christ, the King. We believe in God's Kingdom where Jesus seats at the right hand of the Father. He is the Son of man in the vision given to Daniel who received dominion, glory and kingship because of his faithfulness. He is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth as revealed to John. But why would many of the Jews not see all these? And why was Pilate, seemingly, lost and confused? Actually, he was lost and confused.

Jesus made it clear that his kingdom does not belong to this world. So, is it out of this world? NO! In fact, the kingdom of God has already begun here in this world, in our world. We are all journeying towards its fulfilment. God will reign on the earth and also in our hearts, in his perfect time.

In Baptism, we become priests, prophets and kings for Christ. To be king does not mean to have all the authority and power in the world. That is reserved only to Christ. We owe him our obedience. Although he deserves dominion and power over all, he humbled himself, took the form of a slave and became the least and servant of all. That is the kind of kingship we are all called to. To be humble, obedient and loving servants. This is exactly the reason why many Jews could not and would not accept Jesus as king. This is where Pilate got lost and confused. Their hearts are full of desire to have power and control. If only, they paid closer attention to how Jesus wanted to build God's kingdom, his reign in the hearts of all peoples, they would probably long to see that happening soon. For it will inaugurate the new and perfect world that God intended for all of us.

Blessings! - *Fr Gilbert Ramos*

### Remembering our Dead this November

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

## Liturgy of the Word

~ Dan 7:13–14 His dominion is an everlasting dominion.

~ Ps 92/93:1–2, 5 The Lord is king; he is robed majesty.

~ Rev 1:5–8 The ruler of the kings of the earth has made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God.

~ Jn 18:33b–37 You say that I am a king.

**Next weekend:** Jer 33:14–16; Ps 24/25:4–5a, 8–10, 14 R 1b; 1 Thess 3:12–4:2; Lk 21:25–28, 34–36.

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 Philip Sullivan  
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  
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### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Deacon Steve on [stephenf@cda.org.nz](mailto: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 Deacon Steve above.

### 2025 Year of Jubilee: Opening Mass 31 Dec 11pm

St Patrick's Cathedral. Join Bishop Steve to pray in the new year & mark the opening of the Jubilee.

### 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>.

### 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.

### 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](mailto:MBSpirituality@sosi.org).

### 30s & 40s Meetup @ Franklin Rd Xmas Lights

The final Auckland Catholic single 30s & 40s meetup for 2024 will be on Thursday 12 December at 6:30pm. We will gather at Ponsonby International Food Court for dinner & then stroll down Franklin Road, the most festive street in Auckland. Please email Marie-Claire if you are planning on attending so she knows who to look out for: [akcatholicsinglesocialgroup@gmail.com](mailto:akcatholicsinglesocialgroup@gmail.com).

### Retreats & Events at St Francis Retreat Centre

For more info/dates & to book visit [stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz](http://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.

### Parnell Business Association: Beacons of Light

As seen in NZ Herald Travel Alerts and ArtNow, our 'Beacons of Light' installation has returned to Heard Park. This year, the beacons are adorned by works of art by renowned landscape painter Tony Ogle, represented locally by Parnell Gallery, and esteemed cubist painter James Watkins, who is also Gallery Manager at Parnell's International Art Centre. Each artist has selected five artworks which will stand at 2.5 metres tall and be illuminated by night. Make sure you visit the park in person to experience the magic for yourself!

*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:*

Tony Vela, Felicity Anna Dorbu, Andrew Sheedy, Alicia Chain, Sr Maureen O'Brien rsm, Michael Swann, Frank Neeling, Paulene Brommer, Msgr John Broadbent, Chew Sin Tan, Fay Hudner, Billy Plumb, Ann Mathias, Sr Maureen McBride RNDM, Fr Brian Fletcher, Heather Szarbo, Ray Columbus, Mary Ellison, Pat Langdon, Mary Carr, Stephanie Aspite, James Ropata, BJ Nathan, Norman Holland, Helen O'Shea, Phyl Dromgoole, Peter Wood, Erlinda Gonzales, Clare Free, Margaret Williams, Rachel Fox, Jim Waldron, Ian Stephenson, Margaret Williams, Mary Mulally, Jerry & Bridie Collins, Gavin Michie, Br Kieran O'Sullivan, Jack Waddell, Rhonda McMahon, William McCoy, Walfrido Fantins, Rodrigo Fernando, David Pfahlert, Catherine Brockley, Alexander Kerebs, Louis Luzuriaga, Bienvenido Kanapi, Richard Petricevich, Rosita Uy Lim, Bernardita Navarro, Bartolomeo Cas. *Eternal rest grant to them.*

### Theology on Tap—guest speaker Caitlin West

Dr Caitlin West, host of international hit podcast "Crash Course Catholicism" is crossing the ditch to speak about connecting faith and culture. Tuesday 26 November at De Post Mt Eden.

### 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](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/theologyotago).

### 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](mailto:info@travlink.co.nz) or phone 0800 99 7788.

### 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](mailto:enquiry@sistereretreat.com).

### Cathedral Christmas Market 5 December

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