

## 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."*

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 1ST DECEMBER 2024

The Gospel this week captures a central theme of the Advent season: watchfulness and preparation for the coming of Christ. These verses point to both the second coming of Jesus and our need to remain spiritually alert, resisting the distractions and burdens of daily life that can pull us away from God's presence.

In verses 25–28, Jesus speaks of signs in the natural world—distress among nations and upheavals in the heavens—that signal the coming of the Son of Man. These descriptions are apocalyptic and can evoke fear, but Jesus encourages his followers to respond with hope rather than despair. He tells them to 'stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' This is a call to courage and trust in God's promise of salvation. During Advent, this hope resonates deeply as we prepare to celebrate Christ's first coming and anticipate his return.

Verses 34–36 remind us of the importance of vigilance. Jesus warns against being weighed down by distractions and the worries of life. These distractions can numb our spiritual sensitivity and make us unprepared for the day of the Lord. Advent is a time to step back from the chaos and busyness of life, to realign our priorities, and to focus on what truly matters. By staying awake and praying, we open our hearts to God's presence and ensure we are ready to meet Christ, both in the small moments of daily life and in his ultimate return.

The Advent season calls us to live with joyful expectation, but also with intentional preparation. It invites us to let go of the burdens and insensitivities that weigh us down, whether they are material distractions, anxieties, or complacency in our faith. Instead, we are encouraged to keep our eyes on God's promises and live with a sense of purpose and anticipation.

In this season, may we heed the message of Luke's Gospel—to stay watchful, prayerful, and hopeful, trusting in the coming redemption and renewing our hearts to receive Christ anew.

*- Fr Stephen Berecz*

### Families with Primary School Children for Vigil Family Mass

If you would like your primary school age child to be part of the Christmas Eve mass which is being held at St Michael's Catholic Church at 5pm on Sunday 24th December and celebrated by Fr Stephen Berecz, please email [louisespora@gmail.com](mailto:louisespora@gmail.com). We will be performing a nativity play and a song as well as having children read prayers etc.

Children must be available for a practice on Sunday 15th December and Sunday 22nd from 11.00–12.15pm, in St Michael's church.

Please email the child's name and age, by Wednesday 11th December.

*- Louise Spora & Sarah Beshay*

## Liturgy of the Word

~ **Jeremiah 33:14–16** I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David.

~ **Psalms 24/25:4–5a, 8–10, 14 R 1b** To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

~ **1 Thessalonians 3:12–4:2** May the Lord strengthen your hearts when Christ comes among us.

~ **Luke 21:25–28, 34–36** Your redemption is drawing near.

**Next weekend:** Baruch 5:1–9; Psalm 125/126; Philippians 1:3–6, 8–11; Luke 3:1–6.

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 Tony Dunn  
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).

### 9am Mass & 9.30 Reconciliation cancelled 14 Dec

There will be no Saturday 9 am Mass or 9.30 Reconciliation at Parnell on 14th December.

### Ellerslie Parish Advent Retreat

at Our Lady Of Our Immaculate Conception from Monday, December 2nd to Friday, December 6th. Preached by Fr. Richard Shortall SJ from Hamilton. Morning Session: 8am—Mass & Novena. 8:30–9am—Retreat Talk. Evening Session: 6:30—Mass & Novena. 7:15–7:45—Retreat Talk.

### Local Youth Ministers Wanted!

The Catholic Diocese of Auckland is looking for self-motivated leaders to become paid Local Youth Ministers, working across both a secondary school and parish. This is a unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people! To learn more and to apply, please visit:

[www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/).

### Opening Mass of the 2025 Year of Jubilee

31 December 2024 11 pm. Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph. Join Bishop Steve to pray in the new year and mark the opening of the Year of Jubilee. A year where we are called to be Pilgrims of Hope.

### 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 on [stephenf@cda.org.nz](mailto:stephenf@cda.org.nz).

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

### 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).

### 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).

### 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>.

### Retreats & Events at St Francis Retreat Centre

Time Out Days—For those who seek a day retreat—9:30am–2:30pm (\$30 includes lunch) Thu 5 Dec. For more info/dates & to book visit [stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz](http://stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz) or call 09 625 6651.

### Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass

on Friday 6th December 7:00pm 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. All Welcome.

### 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.

### 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.



### Christmas Timetable at St John the Baptist

TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER

**Xmas Vigil** Mass at 8pm (Carols start @ 7.30pm)

WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER

**Christmas Day** Mass at 9.30am

THURSDAY 26 DECEMBER

**Feast of St Stephen** Mass at 9am

SATURDAY 28 DECEMBER

Masses at 9am & 5pm

SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER

**Feast of the Holy Family** Masses at 7am & 9.30am

WEDNESDAY 1 JANUARY 2025

**Feast of Mary Mother of God** Mass at 9am

THURSDAY 2 JANUARY 2025

Mass at 9am

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

Ti (Lopeti), 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 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, Zelma Farnsworth, Fr David Halstead OP, Gladys Vivovich, Desmond Clarke, Patrick Mullin, Pio Jacobs, Eileen Porteous, Clive Brock, Abbey Russel, Yasmin Ryan, T.F.P. Hanrahan, Peter Jay Seto Ma, Jude Fenandes, Rose Nebrao, Catherine Clarke, Irene Rocca, Ong Hua, Geoffrey Phillips, Isaura Sodder, BJ, Elizabeth Daly, Geb Aranas, Joachim Kim, Rachel Fox, Rebecca Castro, Maria Baek, Patricia Perkins, Barry O'Meagher, Grant Dunn, Jimmy Maninang, Bonnie Malpas, Lou McElwee, Mollie Coleman, Irene Pereira, Stoyanka Genora, Kieran Hegarty, Doris Myers, Francie O'Sullivan, Alicia Artunduaga, Melwy Castellino, Joan Gravatt, Karen Ward, Andrew Carucan, Joan Coleman, Case Bakker, Rodrigo Fernando, Mary Mullally, Domingos Jose, Betty White, Joan Joseph, Catherine Petry, Don Thompson, Bishop Jean Baptiste Pompallier, Jean Epalle SM, John Harriman, Francis Terry, Delphine Victor Moreau SM, Ronald Terry, Margaret Cheyne, Sin Lin Dale Chong, Marie Thomson. *Eternal rest grant to them.*