

## 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."*

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 8TH DECEMBER 2024

Baruch is technically one of the "Minor Prophets" in the Old Testament. Minor because they are short in length, not because they are of no importance! In our first reading he brings a message of reconciliation and hope to the Jewish communities of the Greek-speaking Middle East at a time in which for them exile had become permanent. Even those returning to Jerusalem could not but have been aware that the Land of the Covenant was ruled by pagan Gentiles, first the Greeks, later the Romans. Baruch tells us of the renewal of Jerusalem, when her children will be brought back, overcoming every obstacle, to the presence of God on his holy mountain.

The message of course isn't just for them, it wouldn't be in the Scriptures if it were. It is for us as well. We too, in our time, are exiles, uneasily aware of all that separates us from the God who comes to us, to free us from our self-induced bondage of sin. Like Baruch's audience, we await God's saving action breaking into our lives.

In our Gospel St Luke gives us a picture of the irruption of God into history. He tells us of the political secular arrangement of the time. The rulers of the earth are in their places. Then, after this description of the political establishment, "the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness." Something new begins, done by God. Those civil rulers, at least initially, didn't care. "Just another nutter preaching out in the countryside. Happens all the time." Only those who heeded the Lord's word recognized what was happening.

Although the rulers remain ignorant—for now—they are to be fundamentally challenged, albeit in a non-political manner, by this new thing that begins with John the Baptist. The word of God, Luke tells us, comes upon John and his preaching of a baptism of conversion or repentance again connects him with the great prophets of Israel who called the people back from their alienation from and rebellion against God, to once again base their lives on living out God's commandments.

When, as John proclaimed, the Messiah began to move among his people, he reiterated that call. When Our Lord began his public ministry, his message was "Repent, the Kingdom of God is near!" So, we are invited once again in this season of Advent to allow ourselves to be brought back by the Lord. To hear and receive the Word that we might bear it. From hearers we are to become doers of the Word, displaying God's compassion in our lives. If this seems impossibly difficult, we might remember the other icon of Advent, with the Baptist: the young woman who was told by the angel that the Holy Spirit would come upon her, and the power of the Most High would cover her with its shadow. For nothing is impossible to God, even making saints out of such unlikely characters as ourselves, if only we would listen to his Word, respond to his call, and return to him.

*- Fr Christopher Denham*

## Liturgy of the Word

~ **Baruch 5:1–9** God will show your splendour, O Jerusalem, everywhere under heaven.

~ **Psalms 125/126** The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

~ **Philippians 1:3–6, 8–11** In the day of Christ, may you be pure and blameless.

~ **Luke 3:1–6** All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**Next weekend:** Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Isaiah 2–3, 4b–6; Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:10–18.

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

### Mass Times this week in Parnell

\*No 9 am Mass or 9.30 Reconciliation Sat 14 Dec\*

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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

### St Michael's Reconciliation times this week:

Sunday 7.30 am, 9.30 am, 4.30 pm

Saturday 8:30am

### 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.

### 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.

### Families with Primary School Children

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 5 pm on Sunday 24th December & 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.

### Caring Foundation Christmas Appeal

Give an impactful gift this Christmas! Every donation to the Caring Foundation's Christmas appeal will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$50,000. To find out how to donate, pick up our Christmas post-card today in the church foyer, or check out [www.caringfoundation.org.nz](http://www.caringfoundation.org.nz).

### 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.

### 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/).

### Ngā Tapuwāe 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).

### 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: [aklcatholicssinglesocialgroup@gmail.com](mailto:aklcatholicssinglesocialgroup@gmail.com).

### 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 & mark the opening of the Year of Jubilee. A year where we are called to be Pilgrims of Hope.

### 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.

### Marist Catholic Primary School, Herne Bay

A values driven central city Integrated Catholic Primary School. Marist, Herne Bay is an un-zoned local school serving the surrounding areas. For further information email Sarah Gleeson [principal@maristschool.co.nz](mailto:principal@maristschool.co.nz).

### Te Ara o te Tūmanako—The way of Hope

The theme for Jubilee 2025 is "Pilgrims of Hope" & this journey accompanied by Bishop Steve will be the "The Way of Hope". Beginning in Lyon & travelling along the way to meet the pilgrims of the past who have influenced our local & universal church, ending in Rome as they pass through the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica in Rome & receive the Jubilee blessing. See poster in foyer.

### 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 in 2025—9:30am–2:30pm (\$30 includes lunch) | Thu 13 Feb | Tue 11 Mar | Wed 16 Apr.

**Women's Prayer Retreat**—A reflective prayer retreat in the Catholic tradition for Women | Fri 28th Feb 6pm–Sun 2 Mar 3pm 2025 | Earlybird \$300 pp (before 8/2) | Standard \$330pp.

**Lenten "Homecoming" Retreat**—Reflecting on Rembrandt's painting and Henri Nouwen's book *The Return of the Prodigal Son* | Fri 11 Apr 6:30pm–Sun 13 Apr 7:30pm 2025 | Earlybird (before 22/3) \$300 | Standard \$330.

### Parish to Parish for Bed & Breakfast

Catholics throughout New Zealand & a few in Australia host Catholics in their homes, a wonderful way for Catholics to meet & enjoy the company of other Catholics. A contribution of \$50 for one person, & \$30 for each additional guest, this is per night. E.g. two people would pay \$80 per night. If you wish to purchase a book with the details of the hosts, the cost is \$15, includes postage; contact or order from Marie Anderson, 2 Brent Place, Christchurch 8053, phone 027 2800 611, email [marie.ian@xtra.co.nz](mailto:marie.ian@xtra.co.nz).

### 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>.

### 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, Antoinette Mascarenhas, Mary Ardley, Mary Jury, Peter Schoeman, Yasmin Ryan, Catriona Jackson, Ivan Selak, Wim Van Het Bolscher, Maria Baek, Kasanita Peauafi Bell-Booth, Betty Walsh, Doug Brebner, Rolando Lagman, Barry Young, Nancy Wackrow, Dorothy Chatterley, Jim McKay, Msgr Pat O'Corror, Henning Petersen, Fr George Duggan SM, Betty White, Vincent Buonanno, Joachim Kim, Alexander Lee, Lance Christian, Mary Kearns, Chris Hughes, John Fabling, Rosemary Weatherstone, Br Sean Hanaray FMS, Msgr Paul Cronin, Mary Henley, Janine Haywood, Peggy Griffiths, Cornelius Bakker, Don Thompson, Frederick (Buster) Bell-Booth, Julita Binuya, John Shea, Milagros Logarta, Ella Swanson. *Eternal rest grant to them.*