

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

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."

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 15TH DECEMBER 2024

The Third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*, the Sunday of rejoicing. It came from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon in the Latin Missal that says, "Gaudete in Domino semper," translated as "Rejoice in the Lord always." As we draw closer to Christmas, the liturgy invites us to cry out to God with joy and gladness. We should rejoice because our salvation is at hand. As we make time for external preparations, we do also our best to be spiritually prepared.

The first reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah clearly sets the mood and theme of our celebration. "Shout for joy, O daughter of Sion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem." Joy and gladness come from knowing that God is in their midst. The Lord has forgiven their sins. He has come to save his people. And he is happy to renew his love for them.

St Paul spoke similarly in his letter to the Philippians, assuring them of God's nearness. He encouraged them to intensify their kindness and to approach God with great confidence when they pray. He wrote this while he was in prison undergoing hardships. He testified to the fact that Christian life is not without trials and hardships. But all these will lead to true peace.

In the gospel, John the Baptist became like a concierge or a customer service representative, answering the people's queries and giving them direction where to go and what to do. His response is practical but very challenging. It is a call to simplicity and contentment, to be just and to love our neighbour. Easier said than done, but not impossible.

This Advent season, we heed John the Baptist's challenge of translating renewal into concrete deeds. We strive to be kind, honest, and truthful in our day-to-day living. Let us do it intentionally and wholeheartedly and not as an obligation. When we do it freely, it will never be a burden but a source of joy. Let us light the third candle in our wreath, the candle of joy, and let its light permeate our hearts and the whole world.

- Fr Gilbert Ramos

Liturgy of the Word

~ **Zephaniah 3:14–18a** Daughter of Zion, the Lord will rejoice over you with gladness.

~ **Isaiah 2–3, 4b–6** Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

~ **Philippians 4:4–7** The Lord is close at hand.

~ **Luke 3:10–18** The crowds asked, “What should we do?”

Next weekend: Micah 5:2–5a; Psalm 79/80:1a, 2, 14–15, 17–18 R 3; Hebrews 10:5–10; Luke 1:39–45.

For Sunday and weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.com AND/OR www.livingtheword.org.nz

Presiding Priest this Sunday

Saturday 5 pm Fr Philip Sullivan
Sunday 7 am Fr Philip Sullivan
Sunday 9.30 am Fr Philip Sullivan

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

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

Saturday 9 am Mass and 9.30 Reconciliation at Parnell resume 21st December.

2025 Columban Calendars now available

These 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.

Start Anew in Christ: Lent Resource for 2025

Fr Stephen is considering purchasing a set for the 2025 Jubilee Year if there is sufficient interest. If you would be interested in receiving a copy, please contact the parish office. Find out more at archdiocesanministries.org.au/len-resource/.

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.

Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women

is excited to be launching a new initiative called Dovecotes. We invite you to prayerfully consider joining us by forming a Dovecote in your parish. All it needs is for two or more women, to support each other to deepen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ, through regular shared prayer. Our leaflet called ‘Welcome to Dovecotes’ available from your parish, contains all the relevant information. It's also on our website:

www.dove.org.nz or email Gloria Stafford:

dovenational.leader@gmail.com.

See the Need. Be the Hope!

Catholic Caring Foundation's Christmas Appeal. Please support the Caring Foundation's Christmas appeal through your donations & prayers. Your donation will have double the impact! Please feel free to take home our Christmas newsletter & see where your donations are making a difference.

www.caringfoundation.org.nz or call

(09) 360 3012.

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.

Anniversary Mass Road Trip 12 January

leaving 5.30 am, Pompallier Catholic Centre, 30 New St, Ponsonby. Join us for a one-off day trip to join all the New Zealand bishops in celebrating the first Mass prayed by Bishop Pompallier at the home of the Poynton family in January 1838. This visit to Tōtara Point in the Hokianga will leave promptly at 5.30am. We will regather after lunch at 2:30pm for the return trip. We expect to arrive back at Pompallier Diocesan Centre at between 6:30pm & 7pm. Our bus is full but those wishing to join the convoy in their own cars/vans are welcome. Please contact Deacon Steve for further information stephenf@cda.org.nz.

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.

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

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference

is seeking an experienced journalist to support its communications efforts in 2025 & beyond. This new position will assist the Church in sharing its stories & in keeping the Catholic & wider community informed about the life, mission & ministry of the Church. A background in religious journalism would be advantageous, as would experience in media monitoring. Please send expressions of interest to communications@nzcbc.org.nz no later than January 12. The role could be filled sooner than January 12 for the right candidate, so please contact the Bishops Conference promptly.

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 77 88.

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 & parish. This is a unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people! To learn more & to apply, please visit:

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/.

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 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 & 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.

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

Mary Jean Laffey, 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:

Frederick "Nick" Bible, Georg & Edeltraud Thaller, Hugo Ruckgaber, Ann Moy, Fr Don Cowan, Michael O'Halloran, Don Valerio Fontanilla, Jan Laurent, Anita Butkovich, Lancette Heron, Charlie Pride, Larry Downes, Vincent Santos, June Yuong, Olga Wolk, Marge Rameka, Ivan Selak, Josephine Aitchison, Vilma Adique, Santos Adique, Karen McDonald, Aileen Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth Hood, Consolotrix Redillos-Ageas, Baby Eli, John Body, Catriona Jackson, Wim Van Het Bolscher, Jude Fernandes, Murray Tanner, Betty White, Adrian de la Santos, Lance Christian, Mary Kearns, Rosemary Weatherstone, Br Sean Hanaray FMS, John Fabling, Msgr Paul Cronin, Mary Henley, Chris Hughes, Janine Haywood, John Shea, Peggy Griffiths, Cornelius Bakker, Frederick (Buster) Bell-Booth, Julita Binuya, Milagros Logarta, Doris Myers, Ella Swanson, Don Thompson. *Eternal rest grant to them.*