

## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH PARNELL

Sunday Mass Times (summer) ~ 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. (January 27 Auckland Anniversary 9 am Mass.)

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) ~ \*PARISH OFFICE CLOSED 5-12 FEBRUARY 2025\*

### 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.

### 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.

**Upcoming Safeguarding workshops:** Lisa-May, safeguarding co-ordinator for the Catholic Diocese of Auckland, is holding workshops at St Mary's, Papakura, on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 11.30am; & at St Leo's Catholic School, Devonport, on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 7pm. Any parish volunteers who have yet to attend a workshop are encouraged to join. Contact the parish office for more info.

### **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 the Baptist Parnell  
Ecclesiastical Goods Trust

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."*

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 26TH JANUARY 2025

*Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.*

Pope Francis instituted the Sunday of the Word of God to be celebrated each year on the third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Today, we join the whole world in celebrating the gift of God's Word, the Sacred Scripture. We reflect deeply on our engagement with the Sacred Scriptures and, hopefully, rediscover how the Word of God becomes flesh in our day-to-day lives.

The first reading, from the book of Nehemiah, narrates the priest Ezra reading the Word of God to the Jews from daybreak till midday and they all listened attentively. These are the people who lost their connection to the faith because they had been exiled during the Babylonian Captivity. Imagine how the Word of God truly touched them. They were shouting "Amen, amen," bowing down and prostrating themselves before the Lord. They were weeping. And Ezra reminded them not to be sad but instead, they must celebrate for rejoicing in the Lord must be their strength.

St Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians spoke about the Mystical Body of Christ. Though it has many parts, through Baptism, all parts are one body. The variety of gifts does not undermine the unity, but rather, all contribute to build up and enrich the Body of Christ. It is very absurd when their interest in the Sacred Scriptures divides people. What is supposed to unite all, for there is only one Truth, becomes an instrument that some people use to isolate themselves from others, thinking that they possess the monopoly of truths. True unity is a sure sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel, after reading the passage from the prophet Isaiah about the coming Messiah, Jesus declares that he is the One on whom the Spirit of the Lord rests. He is the Anointed One. He fulfils all prophecies as they hear him read and preach. How blessed are those people who heard and witnessed it all. If we will listen attentively and take to heart the Scriptures being proclaimed and preached to us, we will be like those people during the time of the priest and prophet Ezra who were so deeply touched by God's Word. And like those people during the time of Jesus, we will hear him proclaim to us the Good News and we will truly be joyful. Each time we take the Word of God seriously and act on it, the Scripture passage is fulfilled in our hearing.

Blessings, - *Fr Gilbert Ramos*

**2025 Columban Calendars still 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.

## Liturgy of the Word

**Nehemiah 8:1–4a, 5–6, 8–10** The people understood the book of the Law as it was read to them.

**Psalms 18/19:7–9, 14 R. John 6:63** Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

**1 Corinthians 12:12–30** You form the body of Christ, yet each of you is a different part of it.

**Luke 1:1–4; 4:14–21** Today this scripture has been fulfilled.

**Next weekend:** Malachi 3:1–4; Psalm 23/24:7–10; Hebrews 2:10–11, 13b–18; Luke 2:22–40

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

Monday 27 Jan 9 am (Auckland Anniv.)

Saturday 9 am

### Reconciliation

Saturday 9.30 am  
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### St Michael's Remuera Mass times this week:

Sun 8 am, 10 am, 5 pm

Mon–Fri 7 am, 12 noon

Sat 8 am (w/ water, salt & candle blessing)

### 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.

### 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/lent-resource/](http://archdiocesanministries.org.au/lent-resource/).

### Remuera Parish Holy Hour

St Michael's next Holy Hour with Adoration, Benediction & communal prayer is on Friday 24th January at 7pm in St Michael's church.

### Water/Salt/Candle Blessing

Blessed water & salt can be used to bless objects, families and individuals, and to provide spiritual protection and healing. A special blessing of water & salt will take place at St Michael's Remuera during their usual Saturday Mass. Bring along a container of water and/or bag of salt or a candle on Saturday 1 February, 8 am Mass.

### Accommodation Needed

I am a health and wellness professional from the Catholic Parish of Hastings. I commence Biomedical studies at the University of Auckland in March. I urgently seek accommodation nearby or further afield, including long-term house-sits and rentals. Part-time work would also be welcome. Please contact Claudia, 0276ENERGY (0276363749).

### The Diocese is seeking

a talented and creative Multimedia Journalist (part time—20 hrs per week) to create engaging digital multimedia content (stories, photos, videos) that shares the news of the Diocese, Bishop, Parish, Schools and Agencies. These stories will also contribute to supporting the national Catholic News platform which delivers news, analysis, and commentary of interest to the Catholic Church community. For full details, please visit our website [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz) —Diocesan Services—Staff Vacancies.

### Young Leaders Masterclass Sunday 23 February

2pm–6pm, 30 New Street Ponsonby. Masterclass is back in 2025! If you're a youth ministry leader or young adult ministry leader, you're invited to our quarterly event dedicated to equipping, empowering and energising you for ministry. Our first Masterclass for 2025 will feature two workshops focused on helping you make the best possible start to your ministry year! Keep an eye on our socials, where we will announce our workshop presenters & topics. As always, there will be fantastic (free!) food & plenty of opportunities to connect with other young leaders. Build relationships, share experiences, & be part of a support network that will help you grow in your ministry.

Go to [www.facebook.com/AKCYM](http://www.facebook.com/AKCYM) or email [youthmin@cda.org.nz](mailto:youthmin@cda.org.nz) for more info & to register.

### Commissioning Mass Sunday 23 February 7pm

St Patrick's Cathedral. Join us as we begin another grace-filled year of youth ministry with our Young Leaders' Commissioning Mass! Bishop Steve Lowe will be celebrating the mass and commissioning our young leaders as they are sent out for ministry in 2025. If you're a youth ministry leader or young adult ministry leader, you're an essential part of this mass! We want to pray with you and for you, as you begin your ministry year. Please invite your whānau, your friends, and your wider faith community to join us as well. We invite Catholics from across the Diocese to join us for this celebration. Unite with our young leaders in faith, hope and joy as we commence another incredible year of youth ministry in the Diocese of Auckland!

Go to [www.facebook.com/AKCYM](http://www.facebook.com/AKCYM) or email [youthmin@cda.org.nz](mailto:youthmin@cda.org.nz) for more info & to register.

### Ethnic Chaplaincy Officers and Leaders Formation

Day, Sat. 22 February 2025, Pompallier Centre, 9:30am–12:00pm. Inviting all officer bearers, leaders in ministry, pastoral associates, and all chaplains to your Formation Day as we provide you updates on the Migrant Chaplaincies Norms on Community Establishments, Finance, Safeguarding. Registration is essential—follow the link on the diocesan website event page [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/event-1/ethnic-chaplaincies-leaders-formation-day/](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/event-1/ethnic-chaplaincies-leaders-formation-day/) Email us at [pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz](mailto:pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz) if you have any questions. We can email you the specific link.

### 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 & 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.

### Art Exhibition 2025—Trev 'Ofamo'oni

This invite to Good Shepherd Parish Hall Sundays in January 2025 is to welcome you to an exhibition of *Eikons* or Images of the Church as seen by West & East.

### This weekend Holy Name Parish in Warkworth

will move from their current church to a new church at Matakana. A commemorative book has been commissioned. People, parishes and groups are invited to share stories and photos and/or to place advertisements. For more information go to: <https://write-on-publishing.com/ascension/>.

### Jubilee Sing Jubilee

Join Tony Alonso, a Grammy nominated composer of sacred music & a scholar whose work responds to the diverse realities of contemporary culture. The following events are taking place to celebrate the Jubilee of Song: **Evening with Tony Alonso**, Thu 29 May 6.30, St Francis Xavier Church, Park Ave, Whangārei. Suggested koha \$10. Please visit the following link for registration:

[www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/event-1/an-evening-with-tony-alonso/](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/event-1/an-evening-with-tony-alonso/) **Conversation with Tony with drinks & nibbles**, Fri 30 May 6.30, Pompallier Diocesan Centre \$20.00. Please visit the following link for registration:

[www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/retreat-workshop-with-tony-alonso-copy/](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/retreat-workshop-with-tony-alonso-copy/) **Retreat Workshop with Tony**, Sat 31 May 1.30–4pm, Baradene College Auditorium, Victoria St. Koha. Please visit the following link for registration:

[www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/retreat-workshop-with-tony-alonso/](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/retreat-workshop-with-tony-alonso/) **Concert with Tony Alonso**, Sat 31 May 6.30pm, Baradene College Auditorium, Victoria St., \$10. Please visit the following link for registration: [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/a-concert-with-tony-alonso/](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/a-concert-with-tony-alonso/).

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

Hannah Rossiter, 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 Mellling, 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:*

Rocco Dimasi, Graeme Owens, Manuka Henare, Segundia Valleno Ayao, Bishop John Edmund Luck, Fr Eddie Mullen, Merv Healy, Peggy Baker, Catherine Hamilton, Doreen Colquhoun, Sarah Gordon, Bill Tyree, Ernest O'Brian, Edna Crimmins, Fr John Moss IC, Connie Ryan, Veronica Ayers, Joseph O'Keefe, Fr George Gillan, Gary Nausbaum, Margaret Stevens, Lina Nacario, Jenny Wallace, Frank Mc Geever, Sr Pauline Gallagher rsm, Sr Mary d'Apice rscj, Br Joe McDermott FMS, Harold Serpis, Lucy Vittachi, Mary Ann McKinney, Neil Collins, Walter Tipene, Peter Lynch, Fr Iosefo Rauvere, Tui Va'aa, Gloria Petica, Edison Pinto, Msgr J Lyons, Sr Moyra Dunn rsm, Catherine Cooney, Sr Analulu Tanuvasa sm, Ian Sharkey, Patricia Shaw, John Swinkels, Albino Achas, Laura Richardson, Ron Moody, Joy Bannister, Mei Li Tham, Brian Cory, Siri Nanyambara, Patricia Wooton, Sr Mary Concannon OP, Tony Green, Michael Page, George Palamattath, Allen Such, Raymond Stada, Cecilia Navera, Jennifer Conyers-McKenzie, Patrick O'Keefe, John Foley, Leo Creedin, Sr Patricia Hackett rsm, Eduard Ghilardi, John Laidler MHM, John Brennan, Carol Date Chong, Dennis Mallard, Eric Mallard, Michael Maher, Joseph O'Keefe, Fr Charlie Murray mhm, Michael Amos, Anita Geraghty, Rosa Zumaeta de Egusquiza, Fr John Flanagan, Fr Clement Evans. *Eternal rest grant to them.*