

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. (9 am Mass Thursday 6th February.)

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 ~ *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. 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 23rd February 11.30am; & at St Leo's Catholic School, Devonport, on Thursday 27th 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

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 the Baptist Parnell
Ecclesiastical Goods Trust

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."

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD ~ 2ND FEBRUARY 2025

The Presentation: An encounter of 'Hope and Fulfilment' - Fr Glenford Lowe

We often live our lives dominated by the past! Our yesterdays are more important than our tomorrows. Memories are our only treasure. The older we grow the stronger our attachment for our memories. Today's gospel presents us with Simeon & Anna, who oddly prefer the future. They cling on to the 'hope & fulfilment' of the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah. The young parents Mary & Joseph with the child Jesus encounter the old spirit-filled venerables Simeon (= *one who hears*) & Anna, daughter of Phanuel (= *face of God*) in the Temple.

Luke testifies on five occasions that Mary & Joseph did everything that the Law of Moses required. They fulfil two specific regulations of the Torah: the 'purification' of the mother forty days after the birth of a child (Lev 12:1-8) & the dedication of the firstborn to God (Ex 13:2, 12-16). The child Jesus is the fulfilment of the promises of the Old Testament. Simeon represents ancient Israel who patiently awaits the coming of the Messiah. Anna, on the other hand, represents a lifetime of service to God.

The infancy narratives in the gospel of Luke are filled with the songs of Zachariah, & Mary. Today, Simeon holding the infant Jesus in his arms, sings his *Nunc Dimittis*: "Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised..." He foretells who Jesus would be—the glory of the people of Israel & revelation to the Gentiles. His joyful song now adds a pinch of pain & sorrow! Jesus would also be a 'sign of contradiction', & with a gaze of caution he addresses Mary that a 'sword will pierce her soul'. Surely, where there is great love, there is great pain too. Joy & sorrow, acceptance & rejection, birth & death are part of the milestones between Bethlehem & Calvary. Mary had to ponder these things in her heart.

Anna, a daughter of the 'face of God' has made the Temple her dwelling for seven decades with daily fasting & prayer. Addressing the crowds in the Temple she praises God for the person of Jesus in who all ancient promises are fulfilled.

Simeon & Anna stay back in the Temple. Mary & Joseph take the child back to Nazareth. The HOME is the locus where the parents will now enable the child Jesus to mature, to be filled with wisdom, & to grow in favour with God & with people.

Like Simeon & Anna we are all called to WAIT on the Lord, & like Mary & Joseph we are all invited to MATURE like Jesus in stature, wisdom, & favour with God & people.

Shine TV Mass Recording at Parnell Sunday 9th February 9.30 a.m.

All are invited to participate in the recording next weekend of our Sunday mass. This is for broadcast the following week. Broadcasts resume this weekend, every Sunday at 2 p.m. on Shine TV channel 25 or Sky channel 201, also uploaded 5.30 p.m. Saturday night to the Auckland Catholic Diocese Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/aucklandcatholic>

Liturgy of the Word

Malachi 3:1–4 The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

Psalms 23/24:7–10 The Lord of hosts: he is the king of glory!

Hebrews 2:10–11, 13b–18 Jesus had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect.

Luke 2:22–40 My eyes have seen your salvation.

Next weekend: Isaiah 6:1–2a, 3–8; Psalm 137/138:1–5, 7c–8; 1 Corinthians 15:1–11; Luke 5:1–11.

For Sunday and weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.com AND/OR 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

Thursday 6 February 9 am (Waitangi Day)
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

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.

Office closure Waitangi Weekend

The parish office will be closed from Wednesday 5th–Wednesday 12th February. The church will be closed outside of Mass times during this period.

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/.

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).

Sale now on

for Annual Resources from the Liturgy Centre. Cost Price Sale. Be quick as limited numbers. Jubilee Prayer cards also available 10c each plus postage. Please order via: Annual <https://form.iotform.com/liturgycentre/annuals> or Resource Catalogue <https://form.iotform.com/liturgycentre/resources>

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 Cath-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—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 or email 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 or email 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/ Email us at pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz if you have any questions. We can email you the specific link.

Caritas is seeking International Programmes Lead

Based in Wellington with flexible working arrangements, this role offers the chance to shape international development programmes in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. The successful candidate will lead the design, development, and delivery of key programmes focused on justice, peace, and human dignity. This is a rewarding role for a senior development professional who is passionate about supporting marginalised communities and tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. <https://www.caritas.org.nz/work-with-us>.

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/.

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 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:

Justinus A. Gunadjaja, Wanda Czarcinski, Graeme Owens, Manuka Henare, Val Bennett, Teresa Owens, James Lewis, Gregory Tan, Sr Veronica Keane rsj, Peter Gilmour, Malisa & Bernard Williams, Catherine Pinto, Maurice Williams, Mary Pratt, Neil Collins, Harold Serpes, Dorothy Serpes, Patrick Sigamoney, Ljubica Steinhauer, Basil Machado, Leo Divine, Irene Dermody, Br Tony Sisson cfc, Ian Johnson, John Lanun, John McHugh, Marjorie (Bobs) Gardner, Meliton Magbago Jr, Carol Franks, Fiona Gooder, Pat O'Connor, Peter Goddard, Carol Date Chong, Mary B Connaghan, Vicki Rommel, Marjory Hall, Catharina Kamp, Desmond O'Brien, Val Dawson, Pat Murphy, Edith O'Brien, Yasmine Baheshy, Helena Yiin, Valentina Angel, Desmond Graham, Thomas Scannell, Jean Spelman, Evelyn Considine, John Nienarber, Felipe Estrellanes. *Eternal rest grant to them.*

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/.

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/.

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/.

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.

Hou Mana Wai Mercy Wellsprings

February Programmes: Introduction to Christian Meditation; Monday & Thursday Weekly Meditation; Spiritual Direction & Dreams. Further information <https://mercywellsprings.org.nz> Contact cathryn@mercywellsprings.org.nz 021 187 6986.