

## 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.

(No 9 am Mass or 9.30 am Reconciliation Saturday 1st March 2025).

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)

### 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 a workshop 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."*

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 23RD FEBRUARY 2025

*"To err is human, to forgive is divine."*

Saul placed David at the head of his army but later on turned on him because of pride and jealousy. David became very successful while Saul became disobedient to God. Saul could not stand the women chanting, "Saul has slain his thousands and David his tens of thousands." Afraid of losing his throne, he, then, plotted to kill David. David had to flee and hide from Saul. In the desert of Ziph, David had the perfect opportunity to kill Saul when by night he found Saul and his soldiers lying asleep. David took Saul's spear but did not harm him. He believed that God anointed Saul and he respected that. He would not take his throne by force but let God to act in His own appointed time.

St Paul described the first Adam as mere living being and earthly. Due to pride and disobedience, the first Adam was estranged from God and became subject to death. The Spiritual One, the New Adam, Jesus Christ, through obedience, restored our life and our relationship with God. By sharing His life with us, we shall bear the image of the Heavenly One. Through Baptism, we died with Christ and were born again to new life with Him.

The Gospel about the love of enemies, perhaps, is the most challenging of all of Jesus' teachings. It is almost impossible. Yes, I said "almost impossible" because we have to leave a room for grace. And that is what it is all about. Love of enemies is made possible only by forgiveness and to forgive is divine. Love of enemies, a.k.a. forgiveness, is an act of God. David spared Saul's life because David was obedient to God. God already anointed him. David allowed grace to work in his life. The New Adam anointed all of us when we were baptised. Jesus made us channels of His grace. We will be able to love our enemies and forgive if we will allow the grace of God to take over our lives. It is not through our own will but through God's will.

As we pray the Our Father today, let us be more conscious in asking God to grant that His will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. - *Fr Gilbert Ramos*

## Liturgy of the Word

**1 Samuel 26:2, 7–9, 12–13, 22–25** The Lord gave you into my hands today, but I will not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.

**Psalm 102/103:1–4, 8, 10, 12–13** The Lord is kind and merciful.

**1 Corinthians 15:45–50** We have borne the image of the one of dust so let us bear the image of the one of heaven.

**Luke 6:27–38** Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

**Next weekend:** Ecclesiasticus 27:4–7; Psalm 91/92:1–2, 12–14; 1 Corinthians 15:54–58; Luke 6:39–45.

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 Philip Sullivan  
Sunday 7 am Fr Stephen Berecz  
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:

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.

### No 9 am Mass & 9.30 Reconciliation Sat 1 March

There will be no 9 am Mass or 9.30 Reconciliation at Parnell on Saturday 1st March 2025.

### 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).

### Auckland Interfaith Council: Creek Cleanup

Feb 23, 12:30pm start. Riverlea Reserve (at the end of Riverlea Road), Whenuapai. Contact: Paul 021676076 or email [nzaifc@gmail.com](mailto:nzaifc@gmail.com). Dress: Long pants (jeans or similar). Gardening gloves if you have. Shoes suitable for climbing up & down a bank. Hat & sun block. All are welcome.

### February 25th Lenten Reflective Evening 7–8pm

in the Mary MacKillop Chapel, 56 Selwyn Road, Mission Bay, led by Jill McLoughlin rsj.

### Friends of Symonds Street Cemetery

Volunteers Day on Saturday 1st March at Symonds Street Cemetery. Details on their website:

[www.symondsstreetcemetery.com/new-page](http://www.symondsstreetcemetery.com/new-page).

### Healing of the Family Tree Seminar

Two talks by Fr Rory Morrissey, on Zoom at 7.30pm–9pm on Wednesdays 19th & 26th March for info & preparation, followed by a special HFT Mass on Sat 29 March, at Sacred Heart Church, Ponsonby from 9.30am–11ish, followed by a cuppa. Register here for the zoom link: [bit.ly/ACCPGN-HFT](https://bit.ly/ACCPGN-HFT). More info email [aucklandccr@gmail.com](mailto:aucklandccr@gmail.com).

### Wings—Ngā Parirau this Lent

An invitation to grow your relationship with Jesus. Presentation of the First Year Programme of 'Wings' during Lent'. We will be reflecting on faith, & our own faith journey; grace & spirituality, & experiences of prayer; & introduced to the Old Testament & New Testament Scriptures. The Sunday Gospels of Lent provide a particular framework for our reflection. When: Saturdays in Lent: 2-4pm 8th; 15th; 22nd; 29th March 5th; 12th April 2025 Where: Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New St, St Mary's Bay, Ponsonby. Are you interested but cannot make the face-to-face meetings? An online presentation on Zoom may be offered if there is interest. Dates & times to be arranged. Contact Dianna Fouhy [diannaf@cda.org.nz](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz).

### Job Vacancy

The Diocese has a vacancy for a Religious Education & Catholic Character Advisor in our Catholic Education Services. The role's key functions are to promote the mission of Catholic schools to provide an Encounter with Christ, Growth in Knowledge of Christ, & Witness to Christ & to develop, strengthen, & support the leadership role of the Directors of Religious Studies & HOD's RE in Catholic schools in the Diocese. You must have a tertiary qualification in Religious Education or Theology & hold a current NZ Teacher registration. For full details & the position description, please visit our website [aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://aucklandcatholic.org.nz), under Diocesan Services & staff vacancies. Applications close 28 February 2025.

### Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass Friday 7th March

7pm at St Mary's Parish, 20 Kiteui Ave, Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass, followed by veneration of St Faustina's relic. All Welcome.

## 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. Register at: [aucklandcatholic.org.nz/event-1/an-evening-with-tony-alonso/](http://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. Register at: [aucklandcatholic.org.nz/retreat-workshop-with-tony-alonso-copy/](http://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. Register at: [aucklandcatholic.org.nz/retreat-workshop-with-tony-alonso/](http://aucklandcatholic.org.nz/retreat-workshop-with-tony-alonso/). **Concert with Tony Alonso**, Sat 31 May 6.30pm, Baradene College Auditorium, Victoria St., \$10. Register at: [aucklandcatholic.org.nz/a-concert-with-tony-alonso/](http://aucklandcatholic.org.nz/a-concert-with-tony-alonso/).

### CWL Ōrākei—Eastern Suburbs

celebrates their Jubilee Anniversary on March 19 with a special celebratory mass at 10.30am at St Joseph's Church, 16 Brenton Place. Join us in prayer for CWL Ōrākei moving forward. All are welcome for mass. No charge for attending mass. After mass we go to the hall for morning tea, a talk by CWL President & then we have a delicious light lunch & special sweet treats. Our charity is St. Vincent de Paul & other CWL charities. Cost is \$30. Ring to get more details on 5212499/021940950. Payment: Transfer money to Catholic Women's League Ōrākei Account: ASB Bank 12-3073-0079278-00. Print the word jubilee.

### Singles Ministry

is holding a Meet & Connect for Single Roman Catholics looking to find a partner on Saturday 29th March 2025. For more information kindly contact: Clytie 021836705, Reena 0278387151.

## Catholic singles 30s & 40s meetup

The first for the year will be held on 1 March. At 10am, let's meet at Island Gelato Co. near the downtown ferry terminal to catch the 10:30am ferry to Waiheke Island. The plan is to have lunch at Stonyridge Vineyard & aim to make one of the late afternoon sailings back to Auckland—which are roughly every half hour from 3pm. You'll need a Hop card to get on the ferry as well as the bus once we get to Waiheke. RSVP using the link: [www.icloud.com/invites/02ckhLtrKqXV1WYQyAv2kFVbEg](http://www.icloud.com/invites/02ckhLtrKqXV1WYQyAv2kFVbEg)

## Enrolment Applications open for Year 7 & Year 9

A Sacred Heart education provides a foundation of faith & aspiration to succeed at the highest level in personal & professional life. Places are available in Years 7 & 9 in 2026, with Boarding available from Year 9. Applications are prioritised in accordance with our Enrolment Scheme. Scholarships are available. [Register for our Open Day](http://Register for our Open Day) on Wednesday, 26 February 2025. Two sessions are being held, 10am & 1pm in our Auditorium, followed by tours of the College. Parking will be available at Gate 4, West Tāmaki Road, Glendowie. Applications for enrolment close Friday 4 April. [Apply online](http://Apply online) & visit [sacredheart.school.nz](http://sacredheart.school.nz) for more information.

### St Paul's College Open Day Information

We look forward to welcoming you to St Paul's College at our Open Day on Thursday 6 March. Two sessions are available starting promptly at 9.30am or 1.45pm. Assembly in the College Chapel followed by a tour of the College by Senior Students. Parking will be available on-site via the Moira St entrance.

## BARADENE COLLEGE Enrolments for Year 7, 2026

& for limited places in other Year levels are being accepted now & will close at 3pm on Friday 14 March, 2025.

*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:*

Ethel Taylor-Innes, Maureen Connolly, Jenny Fewtrell, Anthony Raki, Dawson Rata-Harimate, Msgr Des McCarthy, Steven Mulvey, Patricia Kirwan, Peter Cewidene, David Silich, Ruby Joseph, Rodney Melville-Smith, Carlina Beltran, John Divers, Raymond Mascarenhas, Farzana Shaikh, Kathleen McHugh, Pat Shepherd, Claire Howley, Regina Orr, Patrick O'Byrne, Cathy Campbell, Kathleen Grey. *Eternal rest grant to them.*