

**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.

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."*

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 9TH FEBRUARY 2025**

In Luke's Gospel this week, we witness a transformative encounter between Jesus and Simon Peter that reveals profound truths about discipleship, trust, and the promise of spiritual reward. This passage recounts how Jesus, teaching by the Sea of Galilee, instructs Simon to cast his nets after a fruitless night of fishing. Simon, though sceptical, obeys and is astonished by the miraculous catch of fish that follows. Overwhelmed by this divine intervention, Simon acknowledges his unworthiness, yet Jesus reassures him with the promise, "From now on, you will be catching people."

This narrative reminds us that a rich reward awaits those who accept Christ's call to ministry. Peter's obedience to Jesus, despite his doubt, demonstrates the abundant blessings that flow when we trust God's guidance. In the same way, we are invited to let Christ into the "boats" of our lives, surrendering our plans and efforts to His divine will. His promise is not one of material gain but of a life enriched by purpose, grace, and the joy of participating in His mission.

Allowing God to act as the guide and director of our decisions is both a challenge and an invitation to deep faith. It requires us to relinquish control and trust in God's providence, even when His plans diverge from our understanding. Like Simon, we may initially resist, doubting our own worthiness or fearing the unknown. However, this passage reminds us that God's call is not based on our perfection but on His power to transform and equip us for His work.

We are all called to minister within the Church in unique and special ways. Whether as teachers, healers, leaders, or servants, every role contributes to the body of Christ. Like Simon, our "yes" to Jesus can lead to extraordinary outcomes that ripple beyond our comprehension. This story encourages us to reflect deeply on how we can participate in God's mission today. What "nets" do we need to cast in faith? How might our response to God's call bring others closer to Him?

The Gospel assures us that when we trust in Christ and embrace our calling, we participate in a divine purpose that leads to true fulfilment and lasting spiritual reward.

*- Fr Stephen Berecz*

**Shine TV Mass Recording at Parnell**

All are invited to participate in the recording this weekend (Sunday 9th February) of our 9.30 mass. This is for broadcast the following week. Mass is broadcast every Sunday at 2 p.m. on Shine TV channel 25 or Sky channel 201. It is also uploaded at 5.30 p.m. on Saturday night to the Auckland Catholic Diocese Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/aucklandcatholic>

## Liturgy of the Word

Is 6:1–2a, 3–8 Here I am; send me!

Ps 137/138:1–5, 7c–8 In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

1 Cor 15:1–11 I preach what the other apostles preach, and on our preaching is your faith founded.

Luk 5:1–11 Peter, James and John left everything, and followed Jesus.

Next weekend: Jer 17:5–8; Ps 1:1–4, 6 R. 39/40:4; 1 Cor 15:12, 16–20; Luk 6:17, 20–26.

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 Michael McCabe  
Sunday 7 am Fr Tony Dunn  
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.

### 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.

### 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).

### 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.

### 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](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.

### 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.

### 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/).

### 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.

### Interfaith Creek Cleanup in Whenuapai

Join the Auckland Interfaith Council on Sunday, February 23rd, starting at 12.30 p.m. This is a fantastic opportunity for people of all ages (8 to over 70 years old) to unite across faiths & make a real difference in our community. Auckland City Council has recommended that we tackle a creek in Whenuapai that has a large quantity of debris. They will support and help us. [nzaifc@gmail.com](mailto:nzaifc@gmail.com).

### 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>.

*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 Sanchez, 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:*

Sione Papali'i, John Papali'i, Craig Baguley, Rodney Denham, Ann Sayegh, Catherine Dervan, Jack Finlay, Colin Amodeo, Bunt Hart, Fr Ikenasio Vitaliano, Beatriz Young, Johnny Hitiiaa, Eric Thepeaut, Vanessa Ellin, Nonie Kiely, Msgr David Price, Letty Gonzales, Kevin Richards, Kevin Black, Dennis & Eric Mallard, Kristian Ramos, Peter Speedy, Jennifer She, Robert Sloan, Vida Delegat, June McCabe, Margaret Fitzgerald, Armando Maniti, Rojas Das-son, Claire Howley, Walter Nicholls, Joan Delargey, Kevin Ryder, Mariana Ramsey, John O'Connor, Margaret McFadzien, Calmar Gelling, Irene Stemberidge, Taitotusa Fenoti, Patricia Gildea Wild, Bernard Kelly, Marcelino Paderanga, Metui Latu, Monika Menartowicz, Justiniano Senior, Emilia Molinyawe, Phyllis Donegan, Marie Hawthorne, Carlina Veltron, Dellwyn Whiteford, Quentin Kelly, Bishop George Michael Lenihan DD, Bernardo Flores, Dominic Galosi OFM, Henri Belliard SM, Patricia Robinson, Frank Monteiro. *Eternal rest grant to them.*