

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

Parish Secretary ~ Nathaniel Hood: phone (09) 373 3132 ~ Email: office@parnellcatholic.org.nz

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. You may also contact the National Office for Professional Standards 0800-114-662. You may also contact the police III.

Upcoming Safeguarding workshop: Lisa-May, safeguarding co-ordinator for the Catholic Diocese of Auckland, is holding a workshop at Our Lady of Lourdes, 7 Glendale Road, Glen Eden, on Wednesday 19th March at 7.15 p.m. 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 No: 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."

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT~ 16TH MARCH 2025

Almost a repeat.

On the first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel told us that the Spirit led Jesus into the desert where He fasted for forty days and was tempted three times by the devil. This second Sunday of Lent, the scripture readings may sound almost the same, but with a little twist.

"If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." After fasting for forty days, Jesus was hungry. The devil gave a very logical suggestion. You are hungry, do something about it, eat. But Jesus knew the devil too well. He is not that kind Who would easily give in to the temptation of immediate physical gratification. St Paul, in our second reading today, reminds the Christian converts that the cross of Christ is a scandal to the Jews and folly to the Gentiles. He encourages them to be firm in their faith amidst sufferings. There are those who are enemies of the cross. "Their God is their stomach," and "their minds are occupied with earthly things." We must believe in Jesus who did not subject himself to any material things but instead brought all things into subjection to himself.

"I shall give to you all this power and their glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish. All this will be yours, if you worship me." The devil promised to give to Jesus glory and power, what he thought would make Jesus happy. He did not know that what truly makes Jesus happy is to follow the will of his Father. Jesus made it very clear that all shall worship and serve God alone. In the first reading, the book of Genesis says, the Lord God took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." The Lord sees through the heart of Abram. He knows what will bring joy to him. And he promised to fulfil it. God makes promises not to tempt us but to make us whole. He will fulfil it in the way he knows will truly make us happy.

"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' and 'with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" The devil challenged Jesus to put himself in danger to prove that his Father would really come to save him from it. The devil wanted to show himself to be on the side of Jesus, even quoting from scriptures. But Jesus knew it was not his time yet. The disciples who were with Jesus during the Transfiguration witnessed his glory. Peter attempted to prevent the inevitable but Jesus knew it was already time. At the right time, the devil actually came back as he saw an opportunity again. But Jesus did it for love, for you and for me.

Blessings.

- Fr Gilbert Ramos

Liturgy of the Word

Genesis 15:5–12, 17–18 The Lord made a covenant with Abraham, his righteous servant.

Psalms 26/27:1, 7–9, 13–14 The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Philippians 3:17–4:1 Christ will transform our humble bodies, conforming them to his glorious body.

Luke 9:28b–36 While Jesus prayed, the appearance of his face changed.

Next weekend: Exod. 3:1–8a, 13–25; Psa. 102/103:1–4, 6–8, 11; 1 Cor. 10:1–6, 10–12; Luk. 13:1–9.

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

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.

Morning Talks with Dr Dan Stollenwerk

“Who do you say that I am?” 4x Wednesdays from 19 March 10:45–12 p.m. at St Michael's Church, Remuera. No registration required. For more info: www.remueracatholic.org.nz/lenen-programme

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/

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/

Retreat Workshop with Tony, Sat 31 May 1.30–4 p.m., Baradene College Auditorium, Victoria St. Koha. Register at: aucklandcatholic.org.nz/retreat-workshop-with-tony-alonso/

Concert with Tony Alonso, Sat 31 May 6.30 p.m., Baradene College Auditorium, Victoria St., \$10. Register at: aucklandcatholic.org.nz/a-concert-with-tony-alonso/

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

offers a beautiful opportunity for healing to anyone who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion. The next Retreat will be held at Mary McKillop Centre, 11–13th April, 2025. For more info Contact Wendy Hill on 027 2549222 or email wendy@rachelvineyard.org.nz

Stations of the Cross

through our City Centre. Good Friday 18 April. Starting 9am at Albert Park. Finishing 11am at the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph.

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.

Bishops' Lent Appeal

The theme for the Lent appeal in 2025 is *Restoring hope: Your compassion in action / Kia puawai te Tūmanako*. The appeal is crucial to our mission. It provides the resources necessary to continue our life-changing work in Aotearoa, the Pacific & around the world. You can either use the single donation envelopes available in the foyer or visit www.caritas.org.nz for further ways to donate.

NZ Catholic Bishops Cttee for Interfaith Relations is meeting in Auckland this year. Before the members return to their respective Dioceses, they will attend Mass at St Francis de Sales church, Torbay, on Sunday, 16 March. If you would like to know more about the Committee and what their work is, please join us after the 10.30am Mass.

CWL Ōrākei–Eastern Suburbs

celebrates their Jubilee Anniversary on March 19 with a special celebratory mass at 10.30 a.m. 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”.

Evening Prayer Ritual 19th March

In this year where we are called to be Pilgrims of Hope, let's look to be inspired by Joseph who was a man of great hope and faith. The ritual begins at 5.30 p.m. in the Mary MacKillop Chapel, 56 Selwyn Ave, Mission Bay. All will be welcome to a light tea afterwards. It would be very helpful to know numbers for catering purposes. Please see the flyer in the foyer for more details.

Silent Weekend Retreat led by Éamon Butler

This may be helpful for your Lenten journey. The retreat is entitled *Hospitality of the Trinity* and it will take place on 21st March Friday evening until Sunday lunch 23rd March. Registrations for this retreat close on Monday 17th March. Please see the flyer in the foyer for more details.

Fr Chris Skinner sm

will provide a concert in the Mary MacKillop Chapel (56 Selwyn Ave, Mission Bay) singing many of his well-loved songs on Sunday 6 April at 2 p.m. There is no need to register for this day. Please see the flyer in the foyer for more details.

Next Taizé Prayer Friday 11th April at 7 p.m.

in the Mary MacKillop Chapel (56 Selwyn Ave, Mission Bay).

Ann Neven rsj is offering a half-day retreat

on the theme, *Creation & the Incarnation*. She will use the book *An Astonishing Secret* by another popular author, Daniel O'Leary. The date for this retreat is Saturday April 12th from 10am–1pm in the Meeting Room – Mary MacKillop Centre, 30 Holgate Rd, Kohimarama. Please see the flyer in the foyer for more details.

Divine Mercy Feast Sunday 27th April 5:30 p.m.

at St Benedict's Parish, 1 St Benedict's St, Eden Terrace. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Blessing of Images, Benediction, Holy Mass, Veneration of St Faustina's relic. You are warmly invited to attend this Feast Day Celebration. Bring your Divine Mercy images & artefacts to be blessed. Jesus told St. Faustina “My Heart rejoices on this Feast Day”. Free parking is available at Wilson Carpark, including free street parking on Sundays.

Jesus My Light Ministry

invites you to a Lenten Inner Healing retreat on the following days at St Dominic Church, Blockhouse Bay. Fri 4 Apr 6.30pm–9pm; Sat 5 Apr 9.30am–5pm; Sat 12 Apr 9.30am–5pm. A journey with Christ to release past hurts, nurture your emotional well-being and receive a deep sense of peace. Please bring your Bible, notebook and lunch. Tea & coffee will be provided. For more info please contact: Betsy Rego 021 165 3856.

Awaken

THE conference for Rainbow Christians & Allies in Aotearoa New Zealand. Come hang out with other rainbow people of faith & allies from across the country 4–6th April 2025. Keynote speakers Brit Barron (USA) & Stef Fenton (AUS). Tickets available now! awaken.diversechurch.co.nz

LIVING IN THE DIVINE WILL CONFERENCE

Sat. 22nd March & Sun. 23rd March 2025 at St. Thomas More Church Hall, 336 Wairau Road, Glenfield. SPEAKER: Tony Hickey from Manchester, U.K. Sat. 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. (Mass at 9:15 a.m.) Sun. 11:30 a.m. till 4 p.m. (Mass at 10 a.m.) Donation/Koha requested. Please B.Y.O. food.

Please pray for those who are sick, recovering from surgery or needing our prayers, especially: Christine McBride, RosaAnne Marshall, 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 Coughel, 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: Mike Collins, Edilberto Reyes, Brendan Finlay, Fr Leo Doyle, Sandra Mews, Yvonne Fernando, Sr Maureen Connolly OP, Nanay Nenita Peji, Lucila Cruz Angeles, Nelly Dosado, Ron Leonard, Kataraina Kanara, Margaret Bamfield, Marie Lovrich, Gary Menzies, Thea Heyen, Clive Squire, Julia Barangan, Pamela Law, Vincent Marinovich, Nelida Cordeta, Margaret Fontanilla, Akaka Leilua, Tomas Hector, Pacita Yap, Graeme Blackburn, Antonio Lacio, Benjamin Hoo, Theresa Wong, Clare Howley, Pamela Farry, Clem Paterson, Annie Reyndahl, Phyllis Green, Geoff Bennett, Ron Boyd, Gregorio Serrano, Sinead Fox, Nick McNamara, Peter Tran, Frank Cordtz, Ann Roper, Caroline Mitchell, Rev Joe Shepherd, Benjamin Martinez, Gordon Palairt, Nativitas Z Baylon, Ottilie Adeling, Noel Fernandes, Alice Marinovich, Zita D'Souza, Eulogio Avila, Mohi Hotene, Mary Whitener, Mary Rahman, Gary Viskovich, Edna Cororan, Marcia Macedo, John Sullivan, Irawan Kwik. *Eternal rest grant to them.*