

**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)

**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 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](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."*

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 9TH MARCH 2025

**In the Desert: the Triumph of Love**

Man's sojourn began with his choice to sin and being expelled from the Garden of Eden to a barren land. But God did not give up on man. The desert was a biblical place of extremes: of encounter and exile, of divine promise and human deceit, of covenant-making and of covenant-breaking too! God worked out a plan through the saving action of Jesus Christ to restore us to our original innocence. Paradise was our birthright, and Calvary was the womb to bring us back. To reach Calvary, Jesus had to first get back to the "desert" to confirm his true identity as the "beloved of the Father", to usher in the "kingdom of God" and to align his life's mission with his Father's will to "seek and to save the lost".

Satan targets Jesus' identity by setting up three traps to discredit his Father's identity of Jesus as the "beloved one" and to perform spectacular acts. This temptation will return on Mount Calvary to abandon the cross.

Satan uses "hunger" as this human trap to deflect Jesus' attention and to gratify his hunger pangs. Do the spectacular and live for the moment! Jesus proposes *love of self* as a benchmark to live fruitfully. Jesus over comes the trap by affirming that the "Eternal Word" is truly life-giving food.

Jesus' ministry was to be the "Servant of all", and Satan couldn't digest it for sure. Once again, do the spectacular and live for the moment! But Jesus, who would propose that *love of neighbour* is inseparable from the love of God, could never think of dominating over the forsaken. Jesus' mission was to empower the weak and captives and be the servant of all.

Jesus was the true lamb that was to be sacrificed for the sanctification of the world, and Satan wanted nothing of it. Jesus ushered in that *love of God* revolves around true worship—adoration and praise, even amid suffering in our lives.

Satan is devoid of love! Jesus is *love* personified. Jesus finally wins the desert storm!!! - *Fr Glenford Lowe*

## Liturgy of the Word

**Deuteronomy 26:4–10** This is how the chosen people are to confess their faith.

**Psalms 90/91:1–2, 10–15** Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

**Romans 10:8–13** This is how believers in Christ profess their faith.

**Luke 4:1–13** Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness: there he was tempted.

**Next weekend:** Genesis 15:5–12, 17–18; Ps 26/27:1, 7–9, 13–14; Philippians 3:17–4:1; Luke 9:28b–36.

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

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.

### SUMMIT Young Leaders Weekend 28–30 Mar '25

Youth ministry and young adult ministry leaders, get ready for an incredible weekend of formation, fellowship and being spiritually filled! SUMMIT is a weekend specifically for YOU, featuring engaging keynote sessions, workshops equipping you with practical ministry skills, plenty of opportunities to pray and to be RENEWED, a whole community of fantastic leaders to connect with, mass, adoration, campfires and a whole lot more! SUMMIT is a highlight of young leader formation in the Diocese of Auckland each year. Don't miss it. This year, we are very excited to announce that our guest speakers are Mark Lysaght, the Director of NET Ministries in Australian and New Zealand, and Kym Keady, the Director of Ignite Youth. Earlybird registrations are \$120 until Wednesday 12 March.

Standard registration is \$140. Register here: <https://SUMMIT25.eventbrite.com> Please note this is an 18+ event.

### 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](http://bit.ly/ACCPGN-HFT) More info email [aucklandccr@gmail.com](mailto:aucklandccr@gmail.com).

### 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/)

### Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women

is moving to small parish-based groups called Dovecotes, where women may experience the warmth of fellowship, the power of prayer & the joy of worship. If you feel a need for a Dovecote in your area, please contact Gloria:

[dovenational.leader@gmail.com](mailto:dovenational.leader@gmail.com) or ph 0272456742. Or see our website [www.dove.org.nz](http://www.dove.org.nz)

### LENT @ ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, REMUERA

**Morning Talks** with Dr Dan Stollenwerk—"Who do you say that I am?" 4x Wednesdays from 19 March 10:45–12pm. No registration required.

**Evening Talks** with Fr Phil Bennenbroek 5x Tuesdays from 11 March 7–8:30pm. Register here: [www.remuercatholic.org.nz/lenen-programme](http://www.remuercatholic.org.nz/lenen-programme)

### 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.

**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.

### 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](http://www.caritas.org.nz) for further ways to donate.

### 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".

### Evening Prayer Ritual

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 5.30pm in our 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. Please see the flyer in the foyer for more details.

### 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 MacKillop Centre, 11–13th April, 2025. For more info Contact Wendy Hill on 027 2549222 or email [wendy@rachelsvineyard.org.nz](mailto:wendy@rachelsvineyard.org.nz)

### Calling all Auckland University Students!

There is a large, vibrant, Catholic student community in the Auckland CBD. Join us this year! To find out more please contact Daniel Story at [dans@cda.org.nz](mailto:dans@cda.org.nz) and/or check out our socials. Search "aucklandcatholicchaplancy".

### Divine Mercy Feast Sunday 27th April 5:30pm

at St Benedict's Parish, 1 St Benedict's Street, 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.

### 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](http://awaken.diversechurch.co.nz)

*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 Williams, 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, Thlisi 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:*

Brendan Finlay, Subulethchi Krishnan, Tony Porter, Sr Katrina Fabish rsm, Estrella Owen, Gia, Hannah de Beer, Marcus Gerbich, Msgr Michael Browne, Maria Choi, Kovacs Arpadne Magdolna, Maria Gheorghe, Neville Kerridge, Peggy Humby, Gabriella Marsh, Jessica Licayan, Margaret Davies, Patrick Buckley, Brendan Murphy, Sr Loreto Lennon rsm, Eddie Byrne, Halina Mercep, Clare Anthony, John Price, Barbara Wright, Philomena Moses, Mario Antonio, Joan Robinson, Teresa Wong, Hector Enriquez, Hilda Canova, Thelma Evans, Sr Imelda Lyons rsm, Kim Jung Ha, Janet Dyer, Catalino Cruz Jr, Albino Achas, Thelma Evans. *Eternal rest grant to them.*