

## 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. On weekdays or Saturday morning, you have fifteen minutes after Mass only.

### 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 St Mary's, 117 Onewa Road, Northcote, on Wednesday 30th April at 7 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 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."*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 30TH MARCH 2025

Today's Gospel presents one of Jesus' most profound and moving parables: the Parable of the Prodigal Son. This passage encapsulates the essence of God's boundless mercy and the transformative power of repentance. Jesus shares this parable in response to the Pharisees and scribes who criticize Him for welcoming sinners. Through this story, Jesus conveys that God's mercy is extended to all who turn to Him with a contrite heart.

At its core, this parable speaks to all people, regardless of where they see themselves in the story. Some may relate to the younger son, who strays from his father's house, squanders his inheritance, and falls into desperation. His journey illustrates the destructive consequences of sin but, more importantly, the possibility of redemption. The great point Jesus highlights is the mercy of God toward the sinner who humbly acknowledges the need for divine help in order to rebuild a decent life. The father's response to his son's return—running to embrace him, clothing him, and preparing a feast—demonstrates God's unrelenting love and eagerness to forgive.

The older son, on the other hand, represents those who struggle with self-righteousness and resentment. He cannot comprehend the father's joy and resents the mercy shown to his brother. Yet, the father invites him to rejoice, illustrating that God desires all His children to embrace the joy of reconciliation. The movement from spiritual death to a renewed—and treasured—life in communion with God should evoke a celebration in the community. This serves as a reminder that our faith communities should be places of welcome and encouragement for all who seek to return to God.

None of us knows whether someday we may be like the prodigal—lost, broken, and in need of mercy. Lent is a sacred time to reflect on our own spiritual journey, to turn away from sin, and to seek reconciliation with our heavenly Father. May we appreciate our Lenten journey as we turn to the heavenly Father through union with His Son's passing from death to life, embracing the joy of renewal and divine love.

*- Fr Stephen Berecz*

## Liturgy of the Word

**Joshua 5:9a, 10–12** Having entered the promised land, the people of God celebrated the passover.

**Psalm 33/34:1–6 R. 8a** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**2 Corinthians 5:17–21** Through Christ, God has reconciled us to himself.

**Luke 15:1–3, 11–32** This brother of yours was dead, and has come to life.

**Next weekend:** Isaiah 43:16–21; Psalm 125/126; Philippians 3:8–14; John 8:1–11.

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 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.

### Carpark fines Ash Wednesday

Anyone attending the mass on Ash Wednesday who may have been issued a fine for parking in the St John's carpark, please do not pay the fine. Contact the parish office with your plate number to have the fine waived.

### Stations of the Cross

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

### St Gianna's Mothers & Children's Group

Welcoming all mothers & their children (Under the age of 5). Come & meet likeminded mothers, deepen your friendship with God, & enjoy a free lunch! The morning starts with an element of formation & group discussions while your children enjoy a safe area to play. Followed by Mass & a free lunch. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month 10am–1pm. Commencing 29th April. At St Gianna's Home for Mothers & Babies in Pukekohe. Contact Amie for more details: 027 350 8227 [werthenextgen@gmail.com](mailto:werthenextgen@gmail.com)

### Singles Ministry

is holding a Meet & Connect for Single Roman Catholics looking to find a partner on Sunday 18th May to 2025. For more information kindly contact: Clytie: 021836705, Reena 0278387151

### 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)

### 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.

### 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 1.30–4 p.m., 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 6.30 p.m., 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/)

### 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](mailto:wendy@rachelvineyard.org.nz)

### Divine Mercy Conference 23–25 May, Auckland

Fr Chris Alar—Keynote Speaker. Divine Mercy NZ is excited to be bringing back to New Zealand Fr Chris Alar MIC from the US plus several other international speakers. Divine Mercy Conference 2025 will be in a real sense an encapsulation of all that has gone before, & yet more, & to the point—how that is lived out, witnessed, in the 3rd Millennium. Please join us for this important event in the Jubilee Year. Registrations are essential; [www.divinemercyconference2025.co.nz](http://www.divinemercyconference2025.co.nz) Pat Barrett 03 359 2087 [info@divinemercy.co.nz](mailto:info@divinemercy.co.nz)

### 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.

### 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. Free parking is available at Wilson Carpark, including free street parking on Sundays.

### Food truck night at Holy Trinity Cathedral

Back for the 3rd year in a row! On Thurs 3rd April, from 5–7.30pm, come for delicious food, refreshing beverages, & live music by The Burtones. [www.parnell.net.nz/parnell-food-truck-nites/](http://www.parnell.net.nz/parnell-food-truck-nites/)

### 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).

### 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.

### Monte Cecilia's Easter Appeal

Receiving a chocolate egg on Easter is something many of us took for granted during our childhoods. But for many of the low-income families living in Monte Cecilia Housing Trust, accommodation it's a tough expense to justify during a difficult period in their lives. So, we're putting out the call for Easter eggs, whether big or small, hollow or filled with marshmallow, we know our kids will love them all. Donations can be dropped off at our 30 Windrush Close office, or you can help us with a monetary donation through our website, which we can then use to purchase eggs from local stores. Put a smile on a young face today, & help our kids take part in a wonderful tradition!

**Prayer through Art—Mandala: Sunday 30 March** 11.30–3.30. Presenter: Cathryn Wiles-Pickard rsm. \$35 or koha. 104 The Drive, Epsom. 021 187 6986. [cathryn@mercywellsprings.org.nz](mailto:cathryn@mercywellsprings.org.nz)

*Please pray for those who are sick, recovering from surgery or needing our prayers, especially:*

Christine McBride, RosaAnne Marshall, 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 Coughrey, 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:*

Eileen Finlay, Paul Assinder, Mike Collins, Elizabeth Beckham, Bernadette Hague, Sheila Leishman, Tom Kiely, Peter Dew, Fr Denzil Meuli, Lyn Inslay, Leentje Meeuws-Marten, Alan Grey, Kuinimeli Taito Tusa, Dylan Miika, Sue Wynne Davis, Olinda Dias, John Gillespie, Brian Watt, Edna Peters, Ross Jennings, Frank Neven, Sean Nugent, Mary Davidson, Ron Boyd, Eugene Mooney, James Little, Peter Tran, Lau Yuk Wan Fong, Denis Stitch, Tom Dennehy, Len James, John Rose, Jim Redmond, Nick McNamara, Frank Cordtz, Caroline Mitchell, Rev Joe Shepherd, Ann Roper, Pamela Law, Mohi Hotene, Benjamin Martinez, Gordon Palairat, Nativitas Z Baylon, Ottilie Adelinger, Noel Fernandes, Pacita Yap, Zita D'Souza, Eulogio Avila, Mary Whitener, Mary Rahman, Gary Viskovich, Edna Cororan, Marcia Macedo, Sinead Fox, John Sullivan, Irawan Kwik, Julia Barangan, Nelida Cordeta. *Eternal rest grant to them.*