

## 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 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."*

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 2ND MARCH 2025

The Gospel this week presents Jesus' teachings on judgment, hypocrisy, and the importance of integrity in speech and actions. Through parables, He warns against spiritual blindness and emphasizes the necessity of self-examination before correcting others. His message underscores the profound truth that human relationships are built on trust, and trustworthiness is often in short supply.

One of the key ideas in this passage is the importance of sincerity and honesty. Jesus reminds us that our words and actions reveal the true nature of our hearts. We may attempt to present ourselves in a certain way, concealing our flaws and weaknesses, but ultimately, our speech and behaviour will betray our true selves. This is particularly relevant in a world where many wear masks, striving to maintain an image rather than embracing authenticity. No matter how carefully we attempt to hide our thoughts and intentions, they will eventually emerge through conversation and interaction.

Jesus' parable of the blind leading the blind serves as a cautionary reminder that those who seek to guide others must first ensure their own spiritual clarity. A teacher or leader who lacks self-awareness or fails to acknowledge personal shortcomings cannot effectively guide others. This is especially important for those called to preach and teach moral values. The challenge of preaching lies in the balance between instructing others and recognizing one's own faults. It is uncomfortable to be reminded of personal failings, yet Jesus does not suggest abandoning the responsibility of teaching. Instead, He calls His disciples to be both learners and teachers, ensuring they remain humble and self-reflective.

Jesus' analogy of the speck and the plank in the eye further highlights the need for self-examination. It is easy to point out the flaws in others while ignoring our own significant shortcomings. True spiritual leadership requires humility and integrity, recognizing that no one is beyond reproach.

Finally, Jesus' teaching on good and bad trees producing corresponding fruit reinforces the idea that inner character manifests in outward actions. If our hearts are filled with goodness, our words and deeds will reflect that. Conversely, if we harbour malice or hypocrisy, it will inevitably be revealed.

This week's Gospel serves as a powerful call to cultivate sincerity, humility, and self-awareness in both our words and actions, ensuring that what we preach aligns with how we live.

*- Fr Stephen Berecz*

## Liturgy of the Word

**Ecclesiasticus 27:4–7** Do not praise people before they speak.

**Psalms 91/92:1–2, 12–14** Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

**1 Corinthians 15:54–58** God has given us the victory through Jesus Christ.

**Luke 6:39–45** From what is in the heart, the mouth speaks.

**Next weekend:** Deuteronomy 26:4–10; Psalm 90/91:1–2, 10–15; Romans 10:8–13; Luke 4:1–13.

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 Philip Sullivan
Sunday	9.30 am	Fr Philip Sullivan

### Mass Times this week in Parnell

Wednesday	6 pm
Saturday	9 am

### Reconciliation

Saturday	9.30 am
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### St Michael's Remuera Mass times this week:

Sun	8am, 10am, 5 pm
Mon–Tue	7am, 12pm
Ash Wed	7am, 9.15 (school liturgy), 12pm, 7.30
Thu–Fri	7am, 12pm
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.

### Ash Wednesday at St John the Baptist Parnell

Mass with Ashes this Wednesday 5th March 6 pm.

### Combined Services of the Ashes

with Bishop Steve Lowe (Catholic) & Bishop Ross Bay (Anglican) at Holy Trinity Cathedral (Anglican) in Parnell, 7.30 pm, Wednesday 5th March. All are welcome to attend this Ecumenical event.

### Calling all Auckland University Students!

Ash Wednesday: an ecumenical service of the word & ashes. All welcome to join us as we pray, break open the Word, & receive the Ashes together in our ecumenical Christian traditions at MacLaurin Chapel with Auckland Catholic Tertiary Chaplaincy. Presiding: Rev Petra & Fr Frank, with Auckland Catholic Tertiary Students. Wednesday 5th March at 12.10pm. 18 Princes Street.

### 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–11.15am, 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).

### 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.remueracatholic.org.nz/lenten-programme](http://www.remueracatholic.org.nz/lenten-programme)

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

### 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.

### 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).

### 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.

### 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/).

**Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass Friday 7th March** 7pm at St Mary's Parish, 20 Kitenui Ave, Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass, followed by veneration of St Faustina's relic. All Welcome.

**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.

**Éamon Butler is offering a reflection morning** on the theme: The Humility & Gentleness of Jesus. As we approach Lent this may be helpful as a reminder of what we are all called to. The session will take place on Saturday March 8th from 9.30am until 1pm at Mary MacKillop Centre in Meeting Room 2 (in the main house), 56 Selwyn Ave, Mission Bay. Registrations to Sr Jill McLoughlin by March 5th [MBSpirituality@sosi.org.au](mailto:MBSpirituality@sosi.org.au). Mob: 021 0710277. Tea & coffee will be provided.

### 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".

### 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.

### 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 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:* Jill Hopgood-Luyppers, Marie Quinn, Tony Glassey, Clare Alice Owen, Sr Alei Leilua SMSM, Zofia Wolk, Alois Ayan, Doris D'Cruz, Hannah de Beer, Fr Andrew Sequeira, Dominic Smith, Sr Fidelis Walter, Hannibal & Miriam Adique, Dennis Widdowson, Robert Amputch, Flavia Dias, Pathma Apoo, Henry Vackhouse-Smith, Margaret Magness, Carolina Birondo, Natividad Abcede, Derek Joseph, Carl Burrows, Manuel Eugenio, Flocefina Lucas, Marie Ion, Albino Achas, Kath Ulrich, Josephine Gegan, Samson, Joseph Thomsen, George Foss, Zeldia Moloney, Lomano Halayahu, Tien Pik Ing, Lawson La Brooy, Antonio Musgnj, Judy Dacre, Graham Hyndman, Kim Jung Ha, Janet Dyer, Beatriz Ruiz, Maureen Davey, Thomas Setyo, Anna Teong, Salvador & Ana Maria Robles, Joseph Park, Anacleto Seares, Alfred Pereira, Michael O'Flarherty, Brian Clooney, Linda Doran Estrella "Lily" Owen. *Eternal rest grant to them.*