

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH PARNELL

Sunday Mass Times (until end April) ~ Saturday Vigil 5 pm, Sunday 7 am & 9.30

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. 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. 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

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."

EASTER DAY ~ 20TH APRIL 2025

The Easter Day Gospel (John 20:1-9) recounts the moment Mary Magdalene finds the stone rolled away from the tomb and runs to tell Peter and the beloved disciple. They rush to the tomb, finding it empty, with the linen cloths lying there. This passage is rich with meaning and mystery, capturing the initial confusion and dawning faith of the first witnesses to the Resurrection.

At the heart of this passage is the extraordinary claim that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, has risen. The Resurrection—of the Lord and ours—is a challenge to faith. It defies human logic and expectation, forcing us to see beyond what our eyes can see and trust in the unseen power and promise of God. In the story, we see the beloved disciple reach this point of faith: "he saw and believed" (v.8), even though, as verse 9 states, "they did not yet understand the Scripture." This shows that faith often precedes full understanding; it begins with trust and openness to God's work.

Our faith in Jesus, 'pioneer and perfecter of our faith', is the ground of our hope. Through His resurrection, Jesus opens the way for us—not just to life after death, but to a new way of living now, transformed by grace. As the pioneer, He has gone ahead of us, showing that death does not have the final word. As the perfecter, He completes what we cannot; our faith, though small or uncertain at times, is brought to fulfilment in Him.

Hope is surely an Easter theme. The empty tomb is not a sign of absence, but of new presence—of life bursting forth where there was death. This hope is not wishful thinking, but a confident trust in the promises of God. As Christians, Easter invites us to step into this hope, to believe even when we do not fully understand, and to let the risen Christ shape our lives. Like the disciples at the tomb, we are called to see with the eyes of faith, and in doing so, begin to grasp the full joy of the Resurrection.

Blessings for Easter!

- Fr Stephen Berecz

Liturgy of the Word

~ Acts 10:34a, 36–43 We ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

~ Ps 117/118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23 R/. 24 This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

~ Colossians 3:1–4 Seek the things that are above, where Christ is.

or 1 Corinthians 5:6b–8 Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch.

~ John 20:1–18 According to the scripture: Jesus Christ must rise from the dead.

Next weekend: Acts 5:12–16; Psalm 117/118:2–4, 22–24, 25–27a R. 1;

Revelation 1:9–11a, 12–13; 17–19; John 20:19–31.

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 Seph Pijfers
Sunday 9.30 am Fr Stephen Berecz

Mass Times this week in Parnell

Easter Monday 9am
Easter Friday 9am (ANZAC Day)
Easter Saturday 9am
~ ~ ~

St Michael's Remuera Mass times this week:

Sunday 8am, 10am, 5pm
Mon–Friday 7am, 12 noon
Saturday 8am

2025 Easter Timetable at St John the Baptist

19 April Holy Saturday *Easter Vigil at 6pm*

20 April Easter Sunday *Regular Sunday Mass times at 7am and 9.30*

21 April Easter Monday *Regular public holiday Mass time at 9am*

25 April ANZAC Day *Regular public holiday Mass time at 9am*

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.

Flat mate wanted

To share a three bedroom house with one senior male guy. Royal Oak area next to a bus stop quiet and warm large bedroom available phone Ant 027-4191-300

School Attendance Due Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support with the payment of Attendance Dues for preference students attending both primary and secondary Catholic schools in the Auckland Diocese. Please visit the link <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools-2/> and see document attached for more details

The Upper Room Wednesday 7th May 6:30pm

Good George Mission Bay. Young adults, you don't want to miss the first Upper Room of 2025! This event is an awesome opportunity to grab a drink, chat to other young adults, and dive into some relevant topics that don't usually feature in your Sunday mass homily! And did we mention free bar snacks? We are excited to be joined by Fr Frank Bird as our guest speaker! Talk topic to be released soon. Stay tuned for more details on our socials! Join us for an unforgettable evening of fellowship and formation! Free on-street parking is available nearby. *Event is 18 years and over* Tickets: https://events.humanitix.com/upper_room

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.

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/

ANZAC – Let Us Remember Simpson's Donkey

Wed 23 April 2–3.30pm or 7.30–9.00pm

Presenter: Cathryn Wiles-Pickard rsm. Fee: \$35 or koha. cathryn@mercywellsprings.org.nz

Cathedral Parish Secretary

The Cathedral Parish of St Patrick & St Joseph is currently seeking a highly capable & motivated Parish Secretary for 36 hours per week, Tuesday–Friday 8.30am–5.00pm & half a day on Sundays. Days & hours maybe negotiable for the right candidate. They are seeking a talented person able to ensure the effective & efficient day-to-day running of the Cathedral office & to support the Dean of the Cathedral. This is a varied & busy role, & responsibilities include: Reception; Secretarial services; Office administration, Accounts (MYOB); Cathedral, Wedding & hall bookings; Parish newsletter, Rosters, website/social media management & music ministry administration. Applicants for this position must have NZ residency or a valid NZ work permit. To view the full advert, position description & how to apply, please visit the Diocesan website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz Diocesan Services, Staff Vacancies.

ENGAGED / PLANNING A WEDDING?

Catholic Diocese of Auckland–Approved Marriage Preparation Course. Book your Marriage Preparation Course early 1 year for NZ and 18months for overseas weddings. Register & Book here: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/our-courses/> For more information contact: Gerry at gerrys@cda.org.nz M: 021 02247442

Singles Ministry is holding a Meet & Connect

for Single Roman Catholics looking to find a partner on Sun 18 May. For more information kindly contact: Clytie: 021836705, Reena 0278387151

Invitation to join with Bishop Steve

on a Special Jubilee Pilgrimage Te Ara o te Tūmanako—The Way of Hope—29th September 2025 to 19th October 2025. Every 25 years the Church proclaims a Holy Year, a special gift of grace and mercy for all God's people. The theme for Jubilee 2025 is "Pilgrims of Hope." I invite pilgrims to join me on a pilgrimage from Lyon to Rome as we celebrate Jubilee 2025. On the way we will meet pilgrims of the past, who we now know as saints, but were once pilgrims of the past who have influenced our local and the universal Church and who will inspire us in hope as journey to the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica in Rome. For further information and bookings please contact Harvest Journeys NZ Call free 0800 819 156—harvestjourneys.com/pv2566 or info@harvestjourneys.com

St Joseph's Hāwera - 150 Years

St Joseph's Parish & School, Hāwera, will be celebrating 150 years over Labour Weekend, 24–26 October 2025. All past and present members of the parish & school community are invited to participate in the Jubilee celebrations. Registration Forms & Event Calendar are available at www.stjosephshawera150celebration.co.nz For further details email: stjosephshawerajubilee@gmail.com

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, Sere-na Coughie, 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, Thils Vern, Ivy Hi, Dina Miranda, Malu Beltran, Vivien Emery, Gil Mellinger, 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: Colin Beguelio, Florentino "Tony" Lazaro, Framina Davis, Coralie Eagle, Porfiria Caro, Gloria Mitchell, Len Fahey, Elma Penney, Anita Malcon, Harry Nash, Susana Soncuya, Marciana Bautista Abrogena, Queenie Taito Tusa, Patrick Regan, Angelina Licayan, Kay Black, Alan Edwards, Sr Margaret Fahey OP, Kathleen Morris, Peter Hynes, Patsy Dwyer, Fr Paul Philbert OP, Dorothy Lee, Teodora Uytinco, Tom Hall, Ricardo 'Jim' Castro, Ans Vogels, Danny Shanahan, Araceli Cruz, Glen Rigg, Katherine Toland, Miguelito Son, Peter Ryan, Barbara McKinney, Henry D'Souza, Leandro Gonzales, Hooi Peng Cheong, Denzil Menezes, Portia Robb, Br Kevin Hore, Gerard Reid, Lester Ramos, Apolonia Jumamoy, Caroline Mitchell, Marie Stanton, Sr Elizabeth (Margaret) Findlay, Larry Ross, Ben Abrigo, Maurice Schischka, Bonnie McCafferty, Bruce Christmas, Fr Pat Littlewood MHM, Fr Brendan Sherry, Fr Paul Duncan, Brian Cronin, Fr Tony Davies IC, Eileen O'Connor, Cliff Johnson, Michael Veen, Marie Heffernan, Philippa Geaney, Tito Gulong, Consolacion Mangahas, Apparicion Santiago, Frank Douglas, Clare Bennett, Dominic (Felix) Vaggioli OSB, Luz Dela Cruz, Yun-Ae Kim, Asuncion Lopez, Eileen Malone, John Fernandes, Philippa Geaney, Robert Beveridge.