

## 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."*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 6TH APRIL 2025

The Gospel this week recounts the powerful story of the woman caught in adultery, a passage that beautifully illustrates Jesus' mission to save rather than to judge. This moment in the Gospel highlights Jesus' boundless mercy and His challenge to all sinners to embrace a new way of life.

The scribes and Pharisees bring before Jesus a woman caught in adultery, hoping to trap Him into contradicting the Law of Moses, which prescribes stoning for such offenses. If Jesus supports the punishment, He appears harsh and unmerciful; if He opposes it, He seems to disregard the Law. However, Jesus responds with divine wisdom, turning the question back onto the accusers: "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her". This statement shifts the focus from the woman's guilt to the universality of sin, reminding everyone present that no one is without fault. One by one, the accusers leave, convicted by their own consciences.

This passage powerfully demonstrates that Jesus did not come to judge the world but to save it. Instead of condemning the woman, He offers her forgiveness and a chance for renewal. His words, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more", reveal both His mercy and His call to transformation. Jesus does not ignore sin but seeks to redeem the sinner, guiding them towards repentance and a renewed life.

This encounter challenges all believers to consider their own responses to sin and judgment. Just as Jesus extends grace to the woman, He invites us to show compassion and forgiveness to others. At the same time, He calls us to personal conversion, urging us to turn away from sin and live in alignment with God's will.

Ultimately, this passage encapsulates the heart of Jesus' mission: He delivers us from condemnation and offers us a path to redemption. It is a reminder that God's mercy is always available, but with it comes a challenge—to leave behind our old ways and to walk in the path of righteousness. ~ *Fr Stephen Berecz*

## Liturgy of the Word

Is 43:16–21 I am about to do a new thing: I will give drink to my chosen people.

Psa 125/126 The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Php 3:8–14 I have suffered the loss of all things, & I regard them as rubbish, so that I may attain Christ.

Jn 8:1–11 Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone.

Next weekend: Lk 19:28–40; Is 50:4–7; Psa 21/22:7–8, 16–19, 22–23 R. 1; Php 2:6–11; Lk 22:14–23:56

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.

### Rite II Reconciliation at St Patrick's Cathedral

In preparation for Easter we encourage you to attend our Rite II Reconciliation Tuesday 8 April at 7 pm in the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph. Discounted parking is available at the Wilson's Carpark on Hobson Street using the ParkMate App—visit <https://www.stpatricks.org.nz/about-the-cathedral/parking/> for instructions on how to download & use the App.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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

### Celebrating Ecumenism & ANZAC

St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church Council & the Armenian Society of New Zealand cordially invite you to attend the screening of the Historic Documentary – The Golden Chain of Mercy. This story is about Australian & New Zealand heroes & ordinary people, where in the shadow of World War I it unveils a poignant story of survival & compassion that transcends borders. Heroes who came with a mission to save lives, to sacrifice & to give love. Heroes who did extraordinary deeds, who responded to the desperate screams of the ones subjected to genocide, who showed a glimmer of hope through the sacrifice of ANZAC unit fighters, who extended the "golden chain of mercy" ring by ring to all peoples of the world. For a glimpse at the trailer of the documentary please click on the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjaq22kq9m0> Date: Wednesday 9th April | Time: 6:30 pm – Doors will open for mix & mingle & drinks. 7:20 pm – Introduction. 7:30 pm – Screening starts. Venue: Rialto Cinemas – Newmarket, Auckland. 167/169 Broadway, Newmarket, Auckland 1023 | Tickets. \$30.00 for adults. \$10.00 for children & young people <18 years of age. Note: PARENTAL GUIDANCE is recommended as the documentary contains archival footage of deceased persons. Please click on the following link to purchase <https://mytickets.co.nz/the-golden-chain-of-mercy>

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### 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)

### 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](mailto:cathryn@mercywellsprings.org.nz)

### 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 rsi 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, Kohimārama. Please see the flyer in the foyer for more details.

### 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/)

### Pleroma Christian Supplies

is looking for a passionate & dynamic Manager to lead our team in Ōtāne, Hawkes Bay. If you have a heart for Christian resourcing & leadership, this is a fantastic opportunity to make a meaningful impact in the Christian community while enjoying a fulfilling work-life balance. <https://www.seek.co.nz/pleroma-jobs>

**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.

### NEW DATE: PARNELL FOOD TRUCK NIGHT

Due to an unfavourable weather forecast, we have decided to postpone our Food Truck Nite to Thursday 10 March, 5–7.30pm. All your favourite food trucks will still be there, & Lee Gray Music will play some sweet tunes to see you through the evening. Sponsored by the Parnell Business Assoc, hosted by Holy Trinity Cathedral, & organised by The Food Truck Collective, this night promises amazing food, drinks, music, & entertainment. [www.parnell.net.nz/parnell-food-truck-nites/](http://www.parnell.net.nz/parnell-food-truck-nites/)



### 2025 Easter Timetable at St John the Baptist

**12–13 Apr** Palm Sunday *Regular weekend Mass times at 5pm Sat; 7am & 9.30 Sun*

**17 Apr** Holy Thurs 7.30pm; *adoration follows after the Mass, with Night Prayer at 9pm*

**18 Apr** Good Fri *Memorial of the Lord's Passion at 3pm*

**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*

*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 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: Blair McKenzie, Alfred Metzler snr., Fr John Tolan, Eileen Finlay, Rosemary Christy, Shawn Ireland, Ellie Blackwell, Sheila Leishman, Kathleen Vickers, Tom O'Sullivan, Francesca Goodwin, Anne Cortesi, Claire Brown, Alan Edwards, Mary Beatie, Jill Martin, Nena Alegre-Valenzuela, Patrick Bolton, Rachael Farrow, Mary Watson, Marie Wong, Wayne Browne, John Gillespie, Rosaura Rustia, Teresa Rocha, Iana Van der Fluit, Mary Davidson, Pamela Woodlock, Hannie Leahy, Robert Vasquez, Rom Pereira, Helen d'Souza, Walter & Lucy Pinto, Uti Gandy, Louise Gomes, Benjamin Martinez.*