

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH PARNELL
Sunday Mass Times (til end of May) ~ 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 and dignity.
 We foster an environment which is welcoming, and in which all our parish whānau, including our tamariki, rangatahi, kuia and kaumātua, feel safe. If you have any complaints or concerns, our Safeguarding Co-ordinator is Nathaniel Hood and 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.

Engaged / Planning a wedding?
 Catholic Diocese of Auckland-Approved Marriage Preparation Course.
 Book your Marriage Preparation Course early 1 year for NZ & 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

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 №: 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."

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ 25TH MAY 2025

In the Gospel this week, Jesus offers His disciples reassurance as He prepares to leave them, promising that they will not be abandoned. Instead, the Father will send the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, to dwell with them and continue guiding them. This passage highlights the Spirit's gift as one of presence, interpretation, instruction, and wisdom. Though Jesus will no longer be physically present, the Spirit becomes the living and active presence of God in the Church and in the hearts of believers.

This promise is both comforting and empowering. Jesus speaks of a peace that the world cannot give—a peace rooted not in circumstances but in the presence of God. The true gift of God, that of peace and joy, is freely given to us through the Spirit. It is this peace that sustains us through life's uncertainties and challenges. The Spirit does not simply comfort; the Spirit also leads, teaches, and reminds us of all that Jesus taught.

The Church, then, is called to continue the mission of Jesus in the power of the Spirit. With the abiding presence of the Spirit, the Church is equipped with the gifts of love, empowerment, and tranquillity. This divine presence is the very source of life and ensures the Church's continued effectiveness in every age.

Yet, the presence of the Spirit also calls for discernment. As Christians, we are challenged to notice the Spirit's movement among us—to return to the original gospel message and allow it to illuminate the needs and wounds of our present world. This call to discernment is not always easy, but it is necessary if we are to remain faithful to Christ's mission.

These words from Jesus fill us with hope. The promise of the Spirit as guide, advocate, and counsellor means that we are never alone. The Ascension of the Lord does not mark an absence, but rather the beginning of a new kind of presence. Jesus remains with His Church, and the Spirit continues to lead, strengthen, and inspire us to live out the gospel with faith and love. ~ *Fr Stephen Berecz*

Liturgy of the Word

Acts 15:1–2, 22–29 It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose on you no further burden than what is essential.

Psalm 66/67:1–2, 4–7 O God, let all the nations praise you!

Revelation (Apocalypse) 21:10–14, 22–23 The angel showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

John 14:23–29 The Holy Spirit will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

Next weekend: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 46/47:1–2, 5–8; Hebrews 9:24–28; 10:19–23; Luke 24:46–53.

For Sunday and weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.0com AND/OR 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:

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

No 7 am Mass at St John's end May–end August

The last 7am Mass this winter is today 25th May. 7am Sunday Masses will resume 6th September.

Sacred Heart College Vinnies Pyjama Drive

We are once again asking parishioners to donate warm, brand new children's pyjamas. These can be dropped off at mass or to the Secretary during office hours. These are distributed through Starship Hospital's Ronald McDonald House.

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.

Are you a catechist or volunteer in your parish?

All catechists, volunteers, and those who serve in their parish are welcomed to share in a day of refreshing with Dianna Fouhy and Dcn Steve Fraser as your retreat hosts. \$25.00 per person. 5 July 10am to 3:30pm. Details and registration at <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/event-1/be-refreshed-1-day-retreat-south/> Registrations essential. For further information please contact Dcn Steve on stephenf@cda.org.nz

Saint Teresa's School, Bluff

is to celebrate 25 years Jubilee. Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th October 2025. We would love to see you & do let your friends/relations know. Enquiries to Sonz125@hotmail.com

Jubilee of Song Jubilee Event

Pope Francis called us to celebrate a Year of Jubilee in 2025. 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: Have you registered yet? Watch Msgr Bernard invite us all <https://youtu.be/1fDNr2F-lzM> Here are the links:

An Evening with Tony Alonso, Thursday 29th May, 6.30pm, St Francis Xavier Church, Park Ave, Whangārei. Suggested Koha \$10 per person. <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/event-1/an-evening-with-tony-alonso/>

Then there are 3 events in Auckland:

A Conversation with Tony with drinks & nibbles, Friday 30 May 6.30pm, Pompallier Diocesan Centre \$20. <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/retreat-workshop-with-tony-alonso-copy/>

A Retreat Workshop with Tony, Saturday 31 May 1.30–4pm, Baradene College Auditorium, Victoria St. Koha. <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/retreat-workshop-with-tony-alonso/>

A Concert with Tony Alonso, Saturday 31 May 6.30pm, Baradene College Auditorium, Victoria St., \$10 per person. <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/a-concert-with-tony-alonso/>

Vacancy—Director, Catholic Enquiry Centre

For over 60 years, the Catholic Enquiry Centre has helped 1000s of people explore the Catholic faith &, in many cases, become Catholic. An agency of the Bishops Conference, the Centre is the first point of contact for enquirers seeking information about the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand, & supports Church communities in their mission of evangelisation. The Centre is seeking a new Director to lead a small team in continuing this important work. A personal commitment to the Catholic Church along with a proven history of sharing the faith & of leading a team will be necessary. Please send expressions of interest to secretariat@nzcbc.org.nz by 6 June. The role could be filled sooner for the right candidate, so please contact the Bishops Conference promptly.

The Ecumenical Day of prayer for Christian Unity

On Sunday 1 June 5 p.m. at the Anglican St Luke's Church in Mt Albert. Refreshments afterwards.

We are called to a greater participation at this years' service—nearby Catholic parishes come, bring your priest along. Join us to celebrate together as Churches.

Current of Grace, Auckland (CHARIS)

is having its annual Pentecost celebration on 8 June from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at St Luke's Church. 260 Chapel Rd, Flat Bush, Auckland.

Upcoming Safeguarding workshops

Lisa-May, safeguarding co-ordinator for the Catholic Diocese of Auckland, is holding a workshop at Good Shepherd, 27 Telford Avenue, Balmoral, on Wednesday 11th June 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: office@parnellcatholic.org.nz

Children's Library Book Drive

Cherise Korff asks for your support in sharing information about Wagonful Family Library. Since her family's return to Auckland in December 2023, she has observed a great need for a wholesome learning space that points children in the direction of Christ, be they homeschooled or publicly schooled, be they babies or teenagers. God has repeatedly drawn her attention back to this cause with Philippians 4:8–9 on her heart. Cherise is ready to say “yes” & take action, but will need your help. The first step in establishing this library is developing a library collection. If you have any further questions, please contact via email wagonfulnz@gmail.com or on 0210704770.

Upcoming Retreats at St Francis

Time Out Day 9:30am–2:30pm 11 Jun, 10 Jul. 24Hr Quietude Fri 7pm–Sat 7pm 11 Jul, 29 Aug Visit stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz for more.

Masterclass | 3:00pm 28 June 2025

Join us for Masterclass, our quarterly event designed to equip, empower, and energize you for ministry. Whether you're a seasoned leader or just starting out, Masterclass offers practical tools, spiritual nourishment, and a supportive community to help you thrive in your ministry. And did we mention plenty of time to connect with other young leaders while enjoying a free barista coffee on us?! As always, Masterclass will feature two relevant workshops led by experienced guest speakers: Workshop presenters and topics to be announced soon! After the workshops, enjoy a delicious free dinner, followed by an evening of worship and adoration. This is a perfect event to build relationships, share experiences, and be spiritually re-filled for ministry. Note: Due to limited space, workshop spots will fill up quickly. Be sure to register early! Free parking available. For more info and to register follow the link:

<https://events.humanitix.com/masterclass-25>

Jubilee Bursary Semester 2, 2025

For Theology and RE courses. Applications close Thursday, 5 June 2025 please contact: michellej@cda.org.nz

Study Theology at the University of Otago

The Theology Programme at the University of Otago offers many opportunities for the study of Theology, Biblical Studies, Church History, Ministry, & Pastoral Theology (including Chaplaincy). You can study either on-campus or across Aotearoa New Zealand through our distance study programme. We are committed to serving Christian communities throughout the country. Semester 2 starts on 14th July. For details of papers, go to: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/papers/> To enrol, go to <https://www.otago.ac.nz/study/enrolment/> To keep up to date, like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/theologyotago

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 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:

Monica Hunt, Marie Mole, Brian Gaynor, Bridie Mortimer, Joan Ward, Anna Thorpe, Susan Tye, Michael Burn, Sr Denise Fitzgerald rsj, Noel Doherty, Paul Reynolds, George Holmes-Kinsella, Bruce Birnie, Lorna Wright, Lionel Ribero, Maia Nguyen Thi Phoung, Rex McGovern, Angela O'Brien, Fr Frank Shannahan, Jacqueline McVey, Nancy Henderson, Sr Mary Gaines. *Eternal rest grant to them.*