

## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH PARNELL

Sunday Mass Times (Winter) ~ Saturday Vigil 5 pm, Sunday 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 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](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 workshops

Lisa-May, safeguarding co-ordinator for the Catholic Diocese of Auckland, is holding a workshop at Our Lady of the Assumption, 97 Galway Street, Onehunga, on Monday 21st July 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](mailto:office@parnellcatholic.org.nz)

### 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](https://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 №: 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."*

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 20TH JULY 2025

In this week's Gospel, we encounter the story of Mary and Martha, two sisters who welcome Jesus into their home. While Martha becomes preoccupied with the duties of hospitality, Mary chooses to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to His teaching. At first glance, this passage might seem to highlight a conflict between action and contemplation, but a closer look reveals something deeper about discipleship and the role of women in the ministry of the word.

Martha's concern with preparing and serving may seem noble, yet her distraction causes her to miss the significance of the moment: Jesus, the Word made flesh, is present and teaching. Mary, on the other hand, chooses to leave behind the expected role of a woman in her culture—serving quietly in the background—and takes the position of a disciple. Sitting at Jesus' feet was a posture reserved for students learning from a rabbi, a role traditionally reserved for men in Jewish society. In choosing this, Mary steps into a new identity: not merely a woman in service, but a full and faithful disciple of Christ.

This moment is significant because Jesus affirms Mary's choice. He gently rebukes Martha, saying, "Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." This response is a powerful endorsement of Mary's role as a minister of the word. Jesus not only allows but defends her place as a learner, a disciple, someone worthy of receiving and reflecting on divine teaching.

Mary's decision reminds us that following Jesus requires more than activity; it requires attentive presence and openness to His word. Her example encourages all believers to prioritise relationship with Christ over mere busyness. Moreover, her actions challenge cultural stereotypes, especially those that confine women to supporting roles. Mary's example elevates the value of listening, learning, and responding to God's word with the heart of a true disciple.

In a world often driven by doing, Mary's choice invites us to slow down, listen deeply, and embrace the transformative call of discipleship. Her story is a reminder that everyone, regardless of role or gender, is called to sit at the feet of Jesus and be changed by His word. - *Fr Stephen Berecz*

### Caring Sunday: Please support Bishop Steve's Caring Foundation's annual appeal

& help those in poverty be seen, heard, & helped. A donation to Bishop Steve's Caring Foundation is needed more than ever this year as our brothers & sisters battle with the cost-of-living crisis, job losses & food & housing insecurity. To make your donation, please scan the QR code available in the Church, donate through the Caring Foundation website [www.caringfoundation.org.nz](http://www.caringfoundation.org.nz) or donate directly to BNZ 02-0100-0242648-00 using your surname & initials & "Caring" as references. You can also donate directly into our parish bank account with your pledge number & "Caring" as reference.

## Liturgy of the Word

**Gen. 18:1–10a** Abraham said, “Lord, do not pass by your servant.”

**Psa. 14/15:2–4b, 4d–5 R. 1a** He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

**Col. 1:24–28** I am making known the mystery hidden throughout the ages, now revealed to his saints.

**Luk. 10:38–42** Martha welcomes Jesus into her home. “Mary has chosen the better part.”

**Next weekend:** Genesis 18:20–21, 23–32; Psalm 137/138:1–3, 6–8; Colossians 2:6–14; Luke 11:1–13.

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 Stephen Berecz  
Sunday 9.30 am Fr Stephen Berecz

### Mass Times this week in Parnell

Saturday 9 am

### Reconciliation Times this week in Parnell

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

### 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.

### Safeguarding Programme Parish Feedback

The aim of the New Zealand Dioceses is to provide a consistent vision to create & foster a secure physical, emotional, & spiritual culture in our faith communities, enabling everyone to enjoy the fullness of life in Jesus Christ. Creating safe environments involves active participation & responsibility taken by all parishes. It requires collaboration, vigilance & a proactive approach through policies, procedures, & practices. Lisa-May, safeguarding co-ordinator for the Catholic Diocese of Auckland, is asking for feedback on the Safeguarding programme in your parish. The form is available from your parish safeguarding co-ordinator Nathaniel Hood at the parish office (email [office@parnellcatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@parnellcatholic.org.nz) or phone 09 373 3132). Online responses go straight to Lisa-May: <https://forms.office.com/r/a0uNT5q5it>

### Middlemore Hospital Chaplaincy Volunteering

Are you interested in learning more about Catholic Hospital Chaplaincy including the qualities & understanding important to be effective in the role? All are warmly invited to a Diocesan Information Seminar on Sat 16 August, at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 10am–12.30pm, 30 New Street, Ponsonby. For more info, please contact Deacon Stephen Fraser (021 439 407)/John Metherell (021 086 52 181). Refreshments provided.

### World Youth Day Auckland 2025: Signs of Hope

Saturday 2nd August 10am–8.30pm. Calling all young people aged 13–35 (and their awesome youth leaders)! Join over 1,500 young Catholics at Victory Convention Centre for World Youth Day Auckland 2025—a massive, joy-filled day of faith, community, & HOPE. Get ready for dynamic speakers, uplifting praise & worship, powerful prayer experiences, delicious (free) kai, Mass with Bishop Steve Lowe, & a huge celebration of our Catholic faith. Follow the link for more details & to register: <https://events.humanitix.com/wydak25>

### Prayer Retreat for Women

“Prayer & the Interior Life” Friday 31st October 6pm–Sunday 2nd November 3pm 2025—with time for Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, Personal Prayer & Spiritual Direction. Early bird registration & details here: [www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz](http://www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz)

### Catholic Young Adults Ball Sat 13 Sept 7–11pm

By popular demand, we are thrilled to bring back the Young Adults Ball 2025! With a dash of Gatsby glamour, the theme for this year is “the roaring 20s”. Earlybird tickets \$110 (until 20 July) Standard tickets \$130 (until 31 Aug or sold out) 18+ event Follow link for more details & to register: <https://events.humanitix.com/young-adults-ball>

### St Michael's Bishop Robert Barron Video Series

Join us as Bishop Robert Barron takes us on a journey of the lives of four pivotal saints who have helped shape our Church & advance civilization by challenging the status quo. Live the stories with the assistance of Dr Dan Stollenwerk, Catherine Lipski & Vernon Tava. 4xWednesday evenings from 30th July. 7–8.30pm in the crypt at St Michael's Parish. For further information & to register: <https://www.remueracatholic.org.nz/winter-programme>

### Mary MacKillop's feast day is fast approaching

this year the Sisters & Josephite Affiliates & Companions will offer a Vigil Prayer based on the theme of Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope on Thurs 7 August at 5.30pm in their Chapel. This will be followed by a light Finger-food Tea. It is important to register for this evening for catering purposes. Please let Sr Julian Langton know by 1 August. Refer to the flyer in the foyer for more info.

### Regular Taizé prayer

will be offered on Friday 15th August at 7pm in the Mary MacKillop Chapel followed by a cuppa.

### Annual Pilgrimage to Sacred Josephite sites

in Central Auckland will take place on 14 August. In the Jubilee year with the Theme Pilgrims of Hope, this is a good opportunity to Walk in the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop who spent time in Auckland on a number of occasions. Please see flyer in the foyer for more info. If you intend registering for this pilgrimage it is important to book early so that you won't miss out.

### A Pilgrimage to Rome with Beate Matthies

Tuesday, 22 July 2025, 7–8.30pm, St John the Baptist Church, Mairangi Bay. <https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/a-pilgrimage-to-rome-2/>

### St Mary's College Auckland 175th Jubilee

Labour Weekend (Friday 24th–Sunday 26th October) 2025 marks 175 years since the Sisters of Mercy arrived in NZ & founded St Mary's College. Past pupils, teachers & friends are invited to a weekend of celebrations, including a cocktail function, school tours & displays, & a family picnic & Mass at the school. On Saturday 25 October, the Gala Jubilee Dinner will be held at the RNZ Yacht Squadron. For more info about the Jubilee events please contact [pastpupilsstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:pastpupilsstmarys@gmail.com)

### Enrol at Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College

Study anywhere, at your own pace, with the support from qualified lecturers. Semester 2 starts 21st July. To see courses offered in Semester 2, go to [www.tekupenga.ac.nz](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz)

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

Kerry Addis, Sr Elizabeth Brown Russell, Lucy Antoci, Elizabeth Wright, Lyndsay Freer, 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, Thisi 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:*

Gloria Alder, John Cardozo, Joseph Tan, Manuel London, Brucie Ngapera, Philip Daniels, Sandy McInnes, Savio Louis Pinto, Brian Farrell, Bonny Bonifasius, Brendan McFadden, Akash Anthony, Teofilo Damasco, Murray Adlington, Jennifer Spencer, Mary Matijasevich, Lyn Wolfram, Gordon Russell, Selwyn Winters, Albie Wiggs, Cathy Mika, Marietta Brochner, Rebecca Rivers, Glenette Menzie, Anne Shanley, Sr Jean Sinclair, Sr Peggy Browne DOLC, Wenceslas Anthony, Molly O'Keefe, Epiena Lomu, Br Brian O'Kane, Fr Aquinas McComb OP, Harold Plumley, Glenis Manning, Taito Etevis McCabe, Megan Small, Maureen Hammond, Fr Chuck Gallagher SJ, Nena Dizon, Maria Lainez, Mary Neal, Anurag Jose, Fr Patrick McHugh, Mary Kurian, Agnes Pile, Nena De Guzman, Terese Van Damm, Doug Knight, Fr Gerry Cushlow, Jim Whelan, Keith Hamlin, Alphons Mary Joseph, Br Paul Kent, Kevin Murphy, Mabel Hogg, Ruth Dimadulae, Romeo Abcede, Rosa Almeida, Edwin Escandor, Ann Johnson, Elizabeth Price, Geoffrey Walton, Fr MacDonald MHM. *Eternal rest grant to them.*

### Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College

is offering a micro-credential tailored for leaders & managers of Catholic organisations such as diocese, parish, school, charitable organisation, or healthcare facility. [j.cortez@tekupenga.org.nz](mailto:j.cortez@tekupenga.org.nz)

### Monte Cecilia Housing Trust—Vacancies

Monte Cecilia Housing Trust supports families experiencing homelessness across Auckland & is seeking a new Chair & a Trustee (appointed by the Bishop) to join its Board. These are meaningful governance roles for those who share a commitment to Catholic social & housing justice. Monte Cecilia provides transitional, & long-term housing, along with wraparound support to help whānau move toward independence & wellbeing. If you have leadership experience—or a heart for this mission—please contact Mel Keane at [info@amytea.co.nz](mailto:info@amytea.co.nz) Applications close 23rd July.

### The Little Sisters of the Poor

at the St Joseph's Home & Hospital in Tweed Street, Herne Bay are looking for some volunteers to take their residents out on a weekly drive around Auckland. They would like to have a no. of drivers so the commitment is not every week. The bus is a Ford Transit manual gear, 11-seater & has a hoist at the back for embarking & disembarking of residents. Our residents look forward with anticipation to the outing each week & enjoy interaction with the driver. Please phone us if you feel you could volunteer for this activity. Currently we operate on a midweek afternoon, between 1–4 pm, making a stop for a cup of tea along the journey. Please contact Sr Maureen 09 361 4600.