

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.

Assumption 15th August 2025, 6 pm.

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.

Upcoming Safeguarding workshops

Lisa-May, safeguarding co-ordinator for the Catholic Diocese of Auckland, is holding a workshop at St John the Baptist East Coast Bays, 87 Hastings Road, Mairangi Bay, on Tuesday 26th August 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

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."

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 27TH JULY 2025

In Luke's Gospel this week, Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray, offering them what we now know as the Lord's Prayer. This passage highlights the deep relationship between God and those who seek Him in prayer. Jesus doesn't just give a formula—He reveals a God who is intimately kind, generous, and attentive to His children.

At the heart of this teaching is the understanding that prayer is rooted in the kindness of God. Jesus begins by inviting the disciples to call God "Father," a term that conveys both intimacy and trust. This is not a distant or harsh deity, but a loving parent who welcomes even the imperfect prayers of His stumbling children. The disciples, who often misunderstand Jesus and struggle in their faith, are still invited to pray boldly and confidently. This reflects a crucial truth: we do not need to be perfect to approach God in prayer. His kindness makes room for our weakness.

Jesus then shares a parable about a persistent friend who asks for bread at midnight. While the friend may initially refuse, persistence leads to a response. The point is not that God is reluctant like the friend in the story, but that if even flawed human beings will eventually respond to need, how much more will our good and loving God respond to us? Jesus assures us that everyone who asks receives, and those who seek will find.

The ultimate gift promised in this passage is not material wealth or easy answers, but the Holy Spirit. Jesus tells His disciples that the Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask. This shows us that the greatest answer to prayer is not necessarily a change in our circumstances, but the presence and power of God within us. The Spirit becomes the sustaining force for the disciples' mission and for our journey as believers.

In this passage, Jesus teaches us that prayer is not a performance or obligation but a relationship of trust with a generous Father. It is through prayer that we receive the Spirit—the ultimate resource that equips us to live, serve, and witness in God's name. ~ *Fr Stephen Berecz*

Liturgy of the Word

Genesis 18:20–21, 23–32 Do not be angry, O Lord, if I speak.

Psalms 137/138:1–3, 6–8 Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

Colossians 2:6–14 God made us alive with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses.

Luke 11:1–13 Ask, and you will receive.

Next weekend: Eccles. 1:2, 2:21–23; Ps. 89/90:3–6, 12–14, 17 R. 1; Col. 3:1–5, 9–11; Luk. 12:13–21.

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

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday 15th August 2025. Mass will be celebrated at 6 p.m. here in St John the Baptist Parnell Parish.

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/wyda25>

Auckland Inter-Faith Council Dialogue & Learning

Series: “Power of Relationships in a Multi-Faith World”. Information | Discussions | Workshops | Entertainment | Socialising Saturday, 9th August 2025, 11am–3pm @ Bahá’i Centre, 712 Beach Road, Browns Bay. Guest Speaker: Elena Villafana Sylvester, Strategic Partnerships Manager, UNICEF Aotearoa. A light lunch will be provided. RSVP by 4th August 2025, Email your attendance to: nzaifc@gmail.com. For more information, please visit: www.aucklandinterfaithcouncil.org.nz

Interfaith Peace prayer service for peace

in Gaza, the Holy Land, Ukraine, and all war-torn places. 2pm Saturday 9 August. St Mark's Catholic Church, 334 Pakūrangā Rd. All Welcome.

ALONE AGAIN? A weekend away

to help those suffering the heartache of Separation, Divorce, or Widowhood on 5–7 September. The Beginning Experience is a non-profit organization that provides support for the grieving single again, and offers an opportunity to turn the pain of loss into an experience of positive growth. The cost for 2 nights' accommodation, meals, and materials and follow up event is \$350 with EARLY BIRD cost \$325 if paid by 30 JULY. For further information please phone Karena evenings on 021 -802-352. www.beginningexperience.org.nz

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass Friday 1st August

7 pm 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.

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

Catholic Young Adults Ball

Saturday 13 September 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”. Standard tickets \$130 (until 31 August or sold out). 18+ event. Follow link for more details & to register: <https://events.humanitix.com/young-adults-ball>

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. The bus is a Ford Transit manual gear, 11-seater & has a hoist at the back for embarking & disembarking of residents. 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.

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 1st 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.

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

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. 4x Wednesday 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>

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, 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, Thilisi 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:

Matthew Chen, Wendy Peters, Cristina Lelis, Kovacs Arpad, Paul Barnao, Maurice Caddell, Margaret Craddock, Simon Cotton, Pat McKinnon, Laura Divinagracia, Matthew Chen, Nada Druskovich, Halsey Ellie, Nikola Druskovich, Patrick Tarr, Rodolfo Banzon, Manuel Navarro, Fr Peter Prendergast, Michael O'Shea Snr, Makere Hurley, Warren Rogan, Finbar Drohan, Martha Moore, Eddy Wroblewski, Oscar Miranda, Nenea Dizon, Vern Peters, Mary Wollaston, Mikio Tsukamoto, Alison Laurent, Pat Sheehan, Jenny Fox, Douglas Peacocke, Thomas Johns, Margaret Dowell, Elpido & Teresita Delvalle, Elfren Ciron, Sr Elizabeth Hickey RSJ, Maureen Hammond, Peter Dillon, Jocelyn Quinnell, Jane Fromont, Sr Marcelle Walsh, Anthony James, Teresa Romognino, Peter Collins, Deidre Airey, Msgr James Hackett, Nancy Fahy, Jose Sanicas, Justin Hassan, Tony Marinovich, Bonnie Miles, Katherine Donnelly, Kevin McNamara, Kevin Mallon, Michael Coleman, May De Goldi, Fr Vince Moody. *Eternal rest grant to them.*