

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 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."

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 10TH AUGUST 2025

In Luke's Gospel this week, Jesus offers words of comfort and challenge to his disciples. "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." These are deeply consoling words. Be not afraid despite how desperate things might seem, God's Kingdom is upon us. The world may feel uncertain, unjust, or even violent, but Jesus assures us that God is present, active, and generous. The Kingdom is not a distant dream but a present reality breaking into the world through the lives of those who trust in God.

Jesus encourages his disciples to divest themselves of possessions not so that they would earn themselves some eternal recompense but rather that they would be signs of God's Kingdom. The sign of God's Kingdom is found in self-emptying and service and not in power and wealth. Detachment from material goods allows believers to live in freedom, generosity, and trust. By choosing simplicity, Christians embody the values of God's reign—justice, humility, and love. Wealth and power tempt us to secure our own future, but discipleship calls us to live ready and alert for God's coming, not grasping at control.

The parable of the watchful servants reminds us to live with a sense of readiness and responsibility. God's Kingdom is not something we merely wait for—it is something we participate in. We are called to serve faithfully, care for others, and be trustworthy stewards of the gifts we've been given. Jesus speaks of the master who returns and finds his servants alert and serving—such people will be blessed.

Ultimately, this passage invites us to deeper trust, generosity, and service. To live without fear, to give freely, and to watch in hope: this is the shape of discipleship and the heart of the Gospel.

- Fr Stephen Berecz

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.

Liturgy of the Word

Wisdom 18:6–9 By the same means by which you punished our enemies,
you called us to yourself and glorified us.

Psalms 32/33:1, 12, 18–20, 22 Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Hebrews 11:1–2, 8–19 Abraham was looking for the city designed and built by God.

Luke 12:32–48 You must keep yourself ready.

Next weekend: Jeremiah 38:1–2b, 4–6, 8–10; Ps. 39/40:1–3, 17 R. 13b; Heb. 12:1–4; Luk. 12:49–53.

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 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:

Sun 8 am, 10 am, 5 pm

Mon–Wed 7 am, 12 noon

Thurs 14th Aug 7 am, 12 noon, 7.30 (vigil)

Fri 15th Aug 7 am, 9.15 (with school), 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.

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>

Auckland Inter-Faith Council Notice of AGM 2025

The Executive Committee members of the AIFC are inviting you to join us for our AGM on Thursday, 21 August 2025, 7.30pm at All Saints Ponsonby, 284 Ponsonby Road Ponsonby. If you haven't renewed your membership yet or would like to become a member of the AIFC, you can do so anytime online or on the day.

Local Youth Ministers Wanted!

The Catholic Diocese of Auckland has launched a new initiative in 2025 to support young people on their faith journey. We are looking for self-motivated relationship-builders to become full-time & part-time Local Youth Ministers, working in a secondary school & parish. This is a unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people! To learn more & to apply, please visit: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/

Pastoral Coordinator St Patrick & St Joseph's

The Cathedral wishes to employ a person part-time for 25hrs/week as the parish Pastoral Coordinator. This role is to assist the Cathedral Dean to ensure that the pastoral & administrative needs of the parish are met. The role provides pastoral assistance & is responsible for the coordination of the Parish Education Programmes & assisting with Sunday morning Masses. Applicants should be active Catholics able to partake in the full sacramental life of the church, with theological formation (preferred) & ministerial experience. Good communication, planning & organisation skills are essential. Applicants for this position must have NZ residency or a valid NZ work permit. To view the full ad, position description & how to apply, please visit www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz Diocesan Services, Staff Vacancies.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC required—Part Time

Are you (or someone you know) passionate about sacred music & committed to building vibrant, faith-filled communities through music? St Patrick & St Joseph's Cathedral is looking for a dynamic & visionary Director of Music to help grow & shape our music ministry. This is a unique opportunity to work with our talented cantors & organists, choirs, & music groups. The Cathedral plays a vital role in the life of the Church in Auckland, & this position is a meaningful way to contribute to its mission & liturgical life. Whether the applicant's background is in choral direction, liturgical music, or music coordination & leadership, we'd love to hear from you! For more info or an informal conversation about the role, please contact Fr Craig at: frcraig@stpatricks.org.nz Applications close 15th August.

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.

The Catholic Diocese Pastoral Service Group

warmly welcomes everyone to join us for a day with David Wells on *A Pilgrims Journey in the Synodal Church*. This will be held at Sancta Maria Auditorium on 6th September 2025 10am–3.00pm. Lunch provided—please register. <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/event-1/pilgrims-of-hope-in-a-synodal-church/> David is an international speaker and theologian resident in the UK, & will be with us in Auckland to share his thoughts on journeying together as a synodal Church. For further info please contact Dcn Steve Fraser 021439407 or email stephenf@cda.org.nz

CWL Ōrākei—Eastern Suburbs

Women & men are invited to our Catholic Women's League charitable event on 27th August, 2025. Mass at 10.30am at St. Joseph's Church, Ōrākei. A talk by two Missionary Sisters of Mary (SMSM) about their mission work in Sāmoa since 1864. Cost includes morning tea & lunch is \$20. Please ring Tina Raines on 021 940 950 / 09-5212499 or email: tinaraines2703@gmail.com

Special Mass for Loss of a Child

A Mass will be offered as a source of healing for those who have experienced loss through miscarriage, stillbirth, prenatal diagnosis, abortion or loss of a child at any stage of life. This special Mass will help provide spiritual support & honour these precious children. Where: St Michael's Catholic Church, Beatrice Rd, Remuera. When: Saturday 6 September 2025, 5.00pm. Reconciliation & Adoration from 4:30pm. In offering our loss to the Lord, we ask for strength & healing, trusting in His infinite love and mercy, giving us hope and consolation. For more info contact: Brenda Brightwell, St Michael's Catholic Parish, 027 6415615.

Regular Taizé prayer

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

PARENT TALK AT ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

A talk by Jo Robertson called *Left to their Own Devices: Parenting in the Digital era*. It will explore the online world that kids navigate today, identifying potential risks & strategies for addressing them. Both in-person & live online tickets available. 7pm Monday 25th August at St Michael's Catholic School hall. \$15/ticket or \$25/couple. For more info & tickets visit https://events.humanitix.com/tricky_chats

Celebrating the Season of Creation

with an Ecumenical Prayer Service. Wed 17 Sept 7pm at the University of Auckland MacLaurin Chapel. Register by email to louisar@cda.org.nz

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

Lynnette Salvador, Kerry Addis, Sr Elizabeth Brown Russell, Lucy Antoci, Elizabeth Wright, 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 Justo, 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:

Michelle Leach, Anne Jennifer Medrano, Rodolfo Pelonio, Dr Warren Moran, Sr Isabelle Harding sm, Sr Maria Goretti Vaughan rsj, Mike Speedy, Skawomir Wujkowski, George Dyer, Laurie Neeson, Phyllis Murphy, Milan Grbin, Nancy Shanly, Fay Simpson, Fay Lobb, Elvira Navarro, Aretha Franklin, Roberto Jongco, Jeanette Stephenson, Wiki Sylva, Teofista Cruz, Helen Bridgman-Robinson, Allan Luke, Maria Yolanda, Boguslaw Januszkiewicz, Antonio Gomez, Molly Neal, Gustavo Jesus Bautista, Ramon De Jesus, Peter Collins, Dominic Marinas, Joseph Barrett, James Mortimer, Hendrika van Dam, Henry Wesley, Catrina De Nave, Christine Angela, Maryanaygam Regina, Teodoro Asunson Sr, Sean Reilly, Mervin De Rosario, Kitty McKewen, Lynette Collins, Kevin Barry, Eithne O'Leary, Dave Bussi, Bernard McCahill, Fr Peter Prendergast, Benjamin Contreras Snr, Martha Tripp, Noel Anthony, Augusto Cosio, Monica Chan, Peter Berdee, Sr Clare Timpany OP, Annette Gilbert, Mary McLean, Rosie Dennison, Paul Devereux, Varona (GG) Henderson, Angelina Cencho, Fr Desmond Hickey, Domenico Spinale, Bishop Edward Gaines, Msgr Philip Purcell, Msgr Patrick O'Reilly. *Eternal rest grant to them.*