

## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH PARNELL

Sunday Mass Times (Summer timetable): Saturday 5 pm, Sunday 7 am & 9.30 am.

Saturday 9 am Mass & 9.30 am Reconciliation. Public holidays 9 am.

Ash Wednesday 18 February 6 pm.

Parish Priest: Father Stephen Berecz. Email [sberezcz@gmail.com](mailto:sberezcz@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 Carpark

Many have noticed an increase in parking infringements since AT rolled out their no. plate recognition cameras. Those attending Sunday or weekday Mass do not need to pay if using St John's carpark. On a Sunday you may leave your car in the carpark for 1 hr after Mass without payment (till 11.30 am). Cars left longer could be towed away. On weekday/Saturday mornings, you have 15 mins after Mass.

### 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 workshop

Lisa-May, safeguarding co-ordinator for the Catholic Diocese of Auckland, is holding a workshop at St Dominic's, 34 Bolton St, Blockhouse Bay, on Sun 1 Mar, 10.45 a.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)

### St Vincent de Paul Society Foodbank Donations

Our parish welcomes your donations of non-perishable goods & 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 & generosity.

Contact the SVDP Food Support team:

Phone: 0800 680 090/815 6122.

Email: [foodbank@svdpak.org.nz](mailto:foodbank@svdpak.org.nz)

### PILGRIMAGE FROM FATIMA TO ROME

25 September to 17 October 2026

Fatima – Salamanca – Burgos – Lourdes – Paris – Venice – Padua – Assisi – Rome

Chaplain: Monsignor David Tonks

Details from Laura Yap

[laura.yap@travelmanagers.co.nz](mailto:laura.yap@travelmanagers.co.nz) or 021 390 055

### 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."*

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 22ND FEBRUARY 2026

This Sunday's Gospel begins Jesus' public ministry not with success or affirmation, but with testing. Led by the Spirit into the desert, Jesus confronts hunger, vulnerability, and the subtle temptation to misuse power. In Matthew, the desert becomes a place of clarity where Jesus reveals what truly sustains human life and what kind of Messiah he will be.

Each temptation strikes at a deeply human desire. The call to turn stones into bread appeals to immediate need and self-reliance. The invitation to throw himself from the Temple seeks to force God's protection and turn faith into spectacle. The promise of worldly power offers a shortcut, control without obedience. In each case, Jesus refuses. He responds not with clever argument or displays of strength, but with Scripture and trust. His answers reveal that life is more than satisfaction, faith more than proof, and authority more than domination.

In following Jesus through Lent, we are invited to let go of the power of sin over our goals in life and to learn another strength by which we might live. This strength will be nothing less than reliance on God's saving love and the presence of the Spirit of Jesus in all our decisions. Lent exposes how easily we can be drawn toward comfort, control, or recognition, even when these pull us away from God's deeper purposes.

The desert reminds us that temptation is not simply about wrongdoing; it is about direction. Whose voice shapes our choices? What do we rely on when we feel empty or afraid? Jesus shows that true freedom is found not in self-assertion but in surrender to God's will. His refusal of the temptations is not an escape from humanity but a faithful embrace of it.

As we journey through Lent, this Gospel invites us into honest self-examination. We do not conquer temptation by our own strength, but by learning, as Jesus did, to trust God completely. The same Spirit who led Jesus into the desert walks with us now, teaching us how to live not by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

*- Fr Stephen Berecz*

### Lenten Talks by Bishop Peter Brown

Remuera St Michael's Parish is hosting a series of four weekly talks by Bishop Peter Brown during the lead up to Easter, guiding us to reunite ourselves to Christ through his gift of Reconciliation. 4x Tuesday evenings beginning 3rd March, 7–8:30 pm, Mary MacKillop Hall, 6 Beatrice Rd, Remuera.

## Liturgy of the Word

**Genesis 2:7–9, 16–18, 25; 3:1–7** The creation and the sin of our first parents.

**Psalms 50 (51):1–4a; 10–12, 15** Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

**Romans 5:12–19** Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.

**Matthew 4:1–11** Jesus fasted forty days, and was put to the test.

**Next weekend:** Genesis 12:1–4; Psalm 32 (33):4–5, 18–20, 22; 2 Timothy 1:8b–10; Matthew 17:1–9.

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

Sat 5 pm Fr Stephen Berecz

Sun 7 am Fr Tony Dunn

Sun 9.30 Fr Stephen Berecz

### Mass Times this week in Parnell

Sat 9 am

### Reconciliation Times this week in Parnell

Sat 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.

### Parnell: A Victorian Tapestry by Carolyn Cameron

A book has recently been published on the history of Parnell in the Victoria era, written by local historian Carolyn Cameron. It records the important aspects of colonial life in Auckland's oldest suburb & is illustrated with many images of the time plus many profiles, recognising the contributions made by men & women in the development of the early days of the suburb. This is the first comprehensive history written on Parnell & includes a one-off drawing of St John's Church & the former Sisters of Mercy Convent. The book is currently on sale in Parnell at Paper Plus & Blue Hills Books.

### Young Leaders Masterclass 1 pm Sunday 22 Feb

at Pompallier Diocesan centre 30 New Street Ponsonby. If you're a youth ministry leader or young adult ministry leader, you're invited to our quarterly event designed to equip, empower, & energize you for ministry. Whether you're a seasoned leader or just starting out, Masterclass offers practical tools, spiritual nourishment, & 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 relevant workshops led by experienced guest speakers. Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/masterclass2026>

### "Hear the voice, answer the call"

You are invited to participate in the Bishops' Lenten appeal, which supports the development & humanitarian work of Caritas—with communities in Aotearoa New Zealand & around the world: <https://www.caritas.org.nz/lent>

### Young Leaders Commissioning Mass

4:30 pm Sun 22 Feb at St Pat's Cathedral. Join us as we begin another grace-filled year of youth ministry with our Young Leaders' Commissioning Mass! Mons Bernard Kiely will be celebrating the mass & commissioning our young leaders as they are sent out for ministry in 2026. If you're a youth ministry leader or young adult ministry leader, you're an essential part of this mass! We want to pray with you & for you, as you begin your ministry year. Please invite your whānau, your friends, & your wider faith community to join us as well.

We invite Catholics from across the Diocese to join us for this celebration. Unite with our young leaders in faith, hope & joy as we commence another incredible year of youth ministry in the Diocese of Auckland! More info at <https://www.facebook.com/share/1BAdQEMwXL/>

### BARADENE COLLEGE—OPEN DAY TOURS

Tue 3, Wed 4 & Thu 5 Mar 2026. Bookings online required (bookings open 9 am Mon 23 Feb). Tour times: 9 am & 10 am each day. Book at [www.baradene.school.nz](http://www.baradene.school.nz) – 2026 Open Day Tours.

Please refer to the website for booking closing times for each day. Enrolments for Yr 7 2027 & for limited places in other Yr levels are being accepted now & will close at 3 pm on Fri 13 Mar 2026.

### Auckland Catholic Tertiary Chaplaincy events

24 Feb AUT Clubs Expo North Campus; 25 Feb AUT Clubs Expo South Campus; 26 Feb AUT Clubs Expo City Campus; 27 Feb ACTS Promo Day UoA & AUT Campuses. IG: [aucklandcatholicchaplaincy](https://aucklandcatholicchaplaincy.org.nz)

### Sacred Heart College Open Day Wed 25 Feb

2 sessions avail. 10 am & 1 pm. Presentation in the Auditorium followed by tours of the College. Parking available Gate 4, West Tāmaki Rd.

### New Zealand Catholic Medical Association

The next nationwide event is a retreat & seminar at the St Francis Friary & Retreat Centre on 20/21 Mar. Visit <https://bit.ly/NZCMA2026> or email [newzealandcatholicmedical@gmail.com](mailto:newzealandcatholicmedical@gmail.com)

### The Way of the Cross: A Journey Towards Easter

Join Cathryn Wiles-Pickard for a Lenten series using Reflections of Brother Norbert Friedel (adapted). This will be a time to review our own lives & ask for God's divine help & guidance as we journey towards Easter. Each Wednesday from 25th Feb–26th Mar. 10.30–11.30 am or 7.30–8.30 pm. Cost: \$35 or koha for series. For further info, please email: [office@mercywellsprings.org.nz](mailto:office@mercywellsprings.org.nz)

### LENTEVENING REFLECTION

On Wed 25 Feb, there will be a Lenten Ritual for those of you who appreciate some quiet, reflective prayer as you journey through Lent. This will be held in the Mary MacKillop Chapel, 7–8 pm. A cuppa will be provided after the ritual in the dining room. Leader: Jill McLoughlin rsj

### Teams Oceania Conference

The *Transformed by Grace, Guided by Love* Teams Oceania Conference is fast approaching. Auckland, 20–22 Mar. Final call: registrations due 28 Feb—The conference is a very special opportunity to come together with Teams members from around Oceania, connecting in person in a way we have not been able to do since 2017 in Brisbane. Currently we have registrations & interest from across Oceania, incl the Philippines & Timor Leste. Please note there is an option for Day Registration (Sat 21 Mar), which is also encouraged. If you have any questions, or would like to request available support to enable your attendance at the Conference, please contact Jan & Tony Baker at [teamsnzotea@aol.com](mailto:teamsnzotea@aol.com)

### St Paul's College Open Day

Year 7–13 Catholic Champagnat Marist school for boys. Enrolments for Years 7, 8 & 9 in 2027. Limited enrolments at other levels. Thu 19 Mar. 9:30 am/1:45 pm. Assembly in the Chapel, followed by a tour of the school. [stpaulscollege.co.nz](http://stpaulscollege.co.nz) 183 Richmond Rd, Ponsonby. (Parking avail on-site).

### Upcoming Retreats at St. Francis Retreat Centre

**Join us on Fri 6 Mar** for a talk entitled *Jesus our Eucharistic Love* by Maria Pais. The gathering begins with the Holy Mass & the Rosary at 5:30 pm, followed by a light supper. After the talk from 7 pm, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration. **Time Out Days**—For those who seek a day retreat, 9:30 am–2:30 pm (\$35 incl lunch). Tue 3 Mar, Wed 1 Apr, Thu 7 May, Tue 9 Jun.

### Catholic Prison Chaplaincy

We are seeking to employ a suitably qualified person to work as members of Tira Tūhāhā Prison Chaplaincy Aotearoa Chaplaincy Team, which delivers Ecumenical Chaplaincy services to men in prison at the Auckland Prison (Pāremoremo). This is a p/t position of 24 hrs/wk—days to be determined but with the expectation of some Sundays/month for Sun Services. To view the full ad & the position description please go to our website [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz) under Diocesan Services & Staff Vacancies. Appl close on 6 Mar.

### Life Teen Aotearoa Leadership Convention

13–15 Mar at Sacred Heart College, Auckland. THE BEST place to be trained, renewed and inspired for Catholic Youth Ministry. Whether you are new to ministry, or looking for the best practices to continue your ministry, this event is designed for you. Expect incredible keynotes from the Catholic speakers, practical breakout sessions, and in addition to practical, comprehensive training, you will experience community and personal spiritual renewal. Whether you are a priest, in parish leadership, youth minister, DRS, teacher, youth leader, college chaplain, or an interested parent, we are ready to serve and train you this year at Life Teen Aotearoa's 2026 Leadership Convention. Register NOW! Earlybird prices available until 9th March: <https://www.eventbookings.com/b/event/life-teen-aotearoa-leadership-convention>

*Please pray for those who are sick, recovering from surgery, or needing our prayers, especially: Jim Brown, Matthew Newman, Teresa Gabriola, Niwethma Herath, Lynnette Salvador, 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 Coughney, 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: Ethel Taylor-Innes, Maureen Connolly, Jenny Fewtrell, Anthony Raki, Dawson Rata-Harimate, Msgr Des McCarthy, Steven Mulvey, Patricia Kirwan, Peter Considine, David Sillich, Ruby Joseph, Rodney Melville-Smith, Carlina Beltran, John Divers, Raymond Mascarenhas, Farzana Shaikh, Kathleen McHugh, Pat Shepherd, Claire Howley, Regina Orr, Patrick O'Byrne, Cathy Campbell, Kathleen Grey. Eternal rest grant to them.*