

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

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.

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

Monte Cecilia Housing Trust

supports whānau who are struggling with housing challenges, including those living in overcrowded or unhealthy conditions such as garages. Our Sustaining Tenancies team also helps families in private rentals who are at risk of losing their homes, working with landlords & tenants to find solutions that keep whānau housed & supported. To learn more, visit www.montececilia.org.nz or call 0800 624 848.

Housing for Low-Income Families

Monte Cecilia Housing Trust provides safe, short-term housing for families in need in the South Auckland area. Any parishioners seeking housing assistance can contact 0800 624 848. Families staying in this accommodation pay a rent equal to 25% of their income, & Whānau Support Co-ordinators provide wraparound support to help them achieve their housing goals.

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."

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 8TH FEBRUARY 2026

In this week's Gospel, Jesus moves from the interior attitudes of the Beatitudes to their outward expression in the world. His images of salt and light make it clear that discipleship is never meant to be hidden or self-contained. Faith that does not engage with life, with people and with society, risks losing its very purpose.

The image of salt is arresting in its simplicity. Salt exists to season, to preserve, to bring out flavour. On its own it is insignificant, but mixed into food it transforms the whole dish. Jesus' warning is sharp: salt that has lost its taste is useless. Christianity, then, cannot be an inward-turning, self-regarding asceticism. The believer who has no effect on the world around them becomes insipid. There is no such thing as a closet-Christian. Faith that never leaves the safety of private devotion or comfortable circles contradicts the very nature of the gospel, which is meant to penetrate and influence the ordinary realities of life.

The second image reinforces this call to visible discipleship. Light is meant to be seen. A lamp hidden under a bowl is not merely pointless; it denies its identity. In the same way, following Christ cannot remain invisible. Jesus does not ask his disciples to draw attention to themselves, but he does insist that their lives be luminous with goodness. Their actions, choices and relationships should reflect something of God's own light breaking into the world.

Importantly, Jesus clarifies the purpose of this visibility: "that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." The goal is not admiration but revelation. Through lives shaped by mercy, integrity and courage, others are drawn toward God.

Salt and light remind us that Christian faith is inherently relational and outward-facing. It exists not only for personal salvation but for the transformation of the world. To follow Christ is to live in such a way that the world tastes and sees something of God's reign made real in everyday life.

- Fr Stephen Berecz

Ash Wednesday: Mass with distribution of ashes

18th February, 6 pm at St John the Baptist.

Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 58:6–10 Your light shall break forth like the dawn.

Psalms 111 (112):4–8a, 9 A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

1 Corinthians 2:1–5 I proclaimed to you the mystery of Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

Matthew 5:13–16 You are the light of the world.

Next weekend: Sir (Ecclus) 15:15–20; Ps 118 (119):1–2, 4–5, 17–18, 33–34; 1 Cor 2:6–10; Mt 5:17–37.

For Sunday and weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.Ocom AND/OR www.livingtheword.org.nz

Presiding Priest this Sunday

Sat 5 pm Fr Stephen Berecz
Sun 7 am Fr Tony Dunn
Sun 9.30 am 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 14 Feb (w renewal of vows) 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.

Parking in Parnell

Many have noticed the increase in parking infringements since AT rolled out their number plate recognition cameras. Please be reminded that those attending Sunday or a weekday Mass do not need to pay if using the St John's car park. Details are printed weekly on the back of this newsletter.

Weekly Christian Meditation groups (45 mins)

Held Mondays 7.30 pm & Thursdays 10.30 am—these start the week of 9 Feb. Everyone is welcome, just turn up! 104 The Drive, Epsom.

Celebrating Marriage & Family Life

St Valentine's Mass Sat 14 Feb 5.30pm at the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph, 43 Wyndam Street, for married, engaged, dating, widowed & families—all are welcome to celebrate the joy of families. Further info contact Gerry 021 02247442

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 – 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.

Seasonal Reflections: Retreat Days

10 Feb, 5 May, 11 Aug, 6 Oct. Tuesdays 9.30am–2.30pm. Facilitated by Cathryn Wiles-Pickard rsm & Rebecca Gane. Cost: \$35 or koha per day. The seasons offer us 4 opportunities to pause & consider the different experiences of our lives & how we respond to them. Each of these days will begin & end with a time of teaching & reflection, with 4 hrs in the middle of the day for quiet solitude in the peaceful outside or inside spaces at Hou Mana Wai Mercy Wellsprings. For further info, please email: office@mercywellsprings.org.nz

Taizé Prayer Evening 7–8pm, Fri 13 Feb

Mary MacKillop Chapel, Mission Bay. This year, Taizé prayer will be offered every month, which will be appreciated by regulars. It's always good to share companionship after the prayer, with coffee/tea in the dining room. The Srs of St Joseph look forward to welcoming everyone back again.

9th Annual Peacenic—a picnic for peace

Each church, mosque, temple or sport club in our local area connects with a unique section of our community. The Council of Christians & Muslims wants to provide an opportunity for people in all sections of the community to build friendships with their neighbours. Launched in 2016, our annual Peacenic grew out of a desire to replace the polarising bad-news stories that dominate media attention with real experiences of hospitality & friendship in our own backyard. The simplest gift of sharing our time & lunch together is rewarding in itself, but perhaps goes beyond that to offer a glimpse of the world as it could be. Within our increasingly multi-religious & multi-ethnic community, we want to help build bridges across the divisions that have historically separated us. A useful first step towards understanding is to simply meet together as families & individuals & to share simple things like food, conversation, & your favourite “backyard” sport. The purpose of “peacenic” is not to downplay or ignore the differences between the Christian, Muslim, Jewish, or any other faiths, but to find a starting point that might lead to friendship in the presence of difference. Sun 15 Feb, 3–6 pm, Arthur Faulkner Reserve, 33 Foch Ave, Mt Roskill. For more info check out <https://www.facebook.com/events/821326787620804/>

Praise in the Park 15 Feb 4 pm–5.30 pm

All are welcome to join many Auckland Catholic & Christian believers at our outdoor event, which will include music, Gospel proclamation, personal stories, & Eucharistic Adoration. This outdoor event will bring hope & joy to all who come by. Please bring yourselves & families to help bring the light of Jesus to those who may not have hope. There will be prayer ministry & information stalls. Selwyn Domain, along Mission Bay. Praise & Worship, including a mix of contemporary & well-known Christian music, interwoven with personal stories & the gospel message. 5.30–6: A time of Adoration, accompanied by traditional Catholic hymns, offering space for reflection & encounter with Christ. For more details & parking information, visit praiseinthepark.nz or contact Engelbert on engelbert.dsouza@yahoo.com

Time Out Days—for those who seek a day retreat

9:30 am–2:30 pm (\$35 incl. lunch). Wed 18 Feb; Tue 3 Mar; Wed 1 Apr; Thu 7 May; Tue 9 Jun. <https://www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz> admin@sfrc.org.nz (09) 625 6651

Ash Wed, 18 Feb, 7:30pm: Ecumenical Service

at the Catholic Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph

Christian Meditation: A Deeper Way of Learning

All day retreat. Sat 21 Feb, 9.30am–3.30pm. Facilitated by Cathryn Wiles-Pickard rsm. Cost: \$35 or koha. Are you wishing to deepen your spiritual life, or have you wondered what is meant by Prayer of the Heart? Meditation is a universal wisdom found in all the great religions. It helps people to find a simple, practical & meaningful way to awaken & deepen their spiritual life. For further info, please email: office@mercywellsprings.org.nz

Young Leaders Masterclass 1 pm Sunday 22 Feb

at Pompallier Diocesan centre 30 New Street Ponsoby. 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: Stay tuned for topics & speakers to be announced soon! Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/masterclass2026>

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/>

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 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, Thiisi Vern, Ivy Hi, Dina Miranda, Malu Beltran, Vivien Emery, Gil Melling, Teresa Gudex, Corazon Villanueva Misa, Ben Hunt, Angela Robinson, Anne Telles, Kirei Tui, 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: Sione Papali'i, John Papali'i, Craig Baguley, Rodney Denham, Ann Sayegh, Catherine Dervan, Jack Finlay, Colin Amodeo, Bunty Hart, Fr Ikenasio Vitaliano, Beatriz Young, Johnny Hitiaa, Eric Thepeaut, Vanessa Elin, Nonie Kiely, Msgr David Price, Letty Gonzales, Kevin Richards, Kevin Black, Dennis & Eric Mallard, Kristian Ramos, Peter Speedy, Jennifer She, Robert Sloan, Vida Delegat, June McCabe, Margaret Fitzgerald, Armando Maniti, Rojas Dasson, Claire Howley, Walter Nicholls, Joan Delargey, Kevin Ryder, Mariana Ramsey, John O'Connor, Margaret McFadzién, Calmar Gelling, Irene Stembidge, Taitotusa Fenoti, Patricia Gildea Wild, Bernard Kelly, Marcelino Paderanga, Metui Latu, Monika Menartowicz, Justiniano Senior, Emilia Molinyawe, Phyllis Donegan, Marie Hawthorne, Carlina Velttron, Dellwyn Whiteford, Quentin Kelly, Bishop George Michael Lenihan DD, Bernardo Flores, Dominic Galosi OFM, Henri Belliard SM, Patricia Robinson, Frank Monteiro. Eternal rest grant to them.