

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 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. 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

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

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 or 021 390 055

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."

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 15TH FEBRUARY 2026

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus addresses the heart of the Law and challenges his listeners' assumptions about what faithfulness to God truly means. He makes it clear that he has not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to bring them to fulfilment. This fulfilment is not a softening of God's demands but, rather, their deepening. Jesus moves the focus from external observance to the inner dispositions of the human heart.

One of the striking features of Jesus' teaching is his willingness to present an absolutely demanding ideal. Again and again he dismays his questioners by going further than they want. It is no longer enough to avoid murder; anger itself must be confronted. It is no longer enough to avoid adultery; lust and objectification are exposed as forms of unfaithfulness. Those who might have hoped for a manageable or comfortable righteousness are unsettled by Jesus' insistence that God desires integrity, not loopholes.

Jesus' teaching reaches its climax with the exhortation, "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." This perfection is not about flawlessness or moral pride, but about wholeness and completeness in love. God's perfection is revealed in mercy, fidelity, and radical generosity, and Jesus invites his followers to reflect that same love in their relationships and choices.

Such teaching can feel overwhelming. Jesus sets a standard that exposes our limits and our tendency to settle for the minimum. Yet this is precisely the point. By presenting an ideal that goes beyond legal compliance, Jesus draws his listeners into a living relationship with God. The Law is fulfilled when it shapes hearts capable of forgiveness, reconciliation, and self-giving love. Rather than lowering the bar, Jesus raises it—so that, relying on God's grace, we might grow into the fullness of life God desires for us.

- Fr Stephen Berecz

Ash Wednesday: Mass with distribution of ashes

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

Liturgy of the Word

Ben Sira (Ecclesiasticus) 15:15–20 The Lord has not commanded anyone to be wicked.

Psalm 118 (119):1–2, 4–5, 17–18, 33–34 Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1 Corinthians 2:6–10 We speak God's wisdom, which God decreed before the ages of our glory.

Matthew 5:17–37 You have heard what was said to those of ancient time; but I say to you...

Next weekend: Gen 2:7–9, 16–18, 25; 3:1–7; Psa 50 (51):1–4a; 10–12, 15; Rom 5:12–19; Matt 4:1–11.

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

Presiding Priest this Sunday

Sat 5 pm Fr Stephen Berecz

Sun 7 am Fr Stephen Berecz

Sun 9.30 Fr Stephen Berecz

Mass Times this week in Parnell

Ash Wed 6 pm

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–Tue 7 am, 12 noon

Ash Wed 7 am, 9.15 (school Mass), noon, 7.30 pm

Thu–Fri 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.

Daily Reflections for Lent 2026

The Journey Home is available for purchase from the parish office. Suggested koha \$10. Email office@parnellcatholic.org.nz

Tira Tūhāhā Prison Chaplaincy Aotearoa (TTPCA)

seeks a Chief Executive Kaihautū who is a strong, visible, & values-led leader, bringing strategic clarity, a mana-enhancing approach to service delivery, & exceptional leadership capability. You will work closely with the Board to lead the organisation's strategic direction & oversee TTPCA's national operations, services & performance. For more info, visit www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz under Diocesan Services & Staff Vacancies. Applications close on 15 February 2026.

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

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/>

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@sfr.org.nz (09) 625 6651

LENTEN EVENING 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

Lenten Talks by Bishop Peter Brown

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

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 praisethepark.nz or contact Engelbert on engelbert.dsouza@yahoo.com

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/>

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

at the Catholic Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph

Young Leaders Masterclass 1 pm Sunday 22 Feb

at Pompallier Diocesan centre 30 New Street Ponsobly. 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>

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.

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

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.

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, Thilsi Vern, Ivy Hi, Dina Miranda, Malu Beltran, Vivien Emery, Gil Mellinger, 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: Pā Mikaere Ryan MHM, Margaret Schipper, Roberto Jongco, Anna Foss, Fr Graeme Alexander, Mary Dunn, Maureen Channon, John Mahoney, Corazon Carido, Nimia Suero, Kathleen Hughes, Maggy Collinge, Regina Orr, Collin & Keri Coutts, Bishop Barry Jones, Kim Jung Ha, Margaret Magness, Claire Howley, Michael O'Flaherty, Odilia Amos, Russell McDowall, Alzira Fernandes, Vida Deleat, Kath Ulrich, Natividad Manalo-Abcede, Thomas Setyo, Romeo Abcede, Hannah de Beer, Philip Leishman, Patrick O'Byrne, Cathy Campbell, Sr M Joan Hopkinson rsm, Kathleen Grey, Sr Aileen Martin rsm, John O'Connor, Fr Ray Garchow OH, Alois Ayan, Monika Menartowicz, Justiniano Senior, Klara & Miha Pintaric.