

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.

See website for Holy Week timetable.

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."

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 1ST MARCH 2026

Matthew's Gospel invites us to ascend the mountain with Peter, James, and John and to witness a moment of dazzling revelation. Jesus is transfigured before them; his face shines like the sun and his clothes become white as light. The glory that blazes forth is not something added to him from outside, but a disclosure of who he truly is. In Jesus, God begins to resume and bring to fulfilment his creative plan for humanity. The radiance of Christ is the radiance of the new creation already breaking into the old.

Moses and Elijah appear, representing the Law and the Prophets. All of Israel's history converges on this moment. The God who once spoke on Sinai and guided his people through the wilderness now speaks again: "This is my beloved Son... listen to him." The command to listen is crucial. Only a short time earlier, Jesus had warned his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, suffer, be killed, and on the third day be raised. They struggled to accept a Messiah who would not claim earthly glory as a king. Peter's instinct to build tents and prolong the experience reflects our own desire to hold onto triumph and avoid the road to suffering.

Yet the Transfiguration does not cancel Jesus' prediction of his passion; it confirms it. The glory revealed on the mountain is inseparable from the obedience he will show in the valley. The scene directs us toward the biblical texts of the Servant of the Lord, especially in Isaiah, where the chosen one submits entirely to God's will, even in suffering. The shining face of Christ is the face of the Servant who "sets his face like flint" toward Jerusalem.

As the disciples fall to the ground in fear, Jesus touches them: "Rise, and do not be afraid." The vision fades, and they see "Jesus only." This quiet ending reminds us that God's creative renewal will unfold not through spectacle, but through faithful obedience, self-giving love, and the cross. In listening to him and following him down the mountain, we participate in the new creation he has begun.

- 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 12:1–4 The calling of Abraham, father of the people of God.

Psalms 32 (33):4–5, 18–20, 22 Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

2 Timothy 1:8b–10 God called us to be holy and gives us life and immortality through the gospel.

Matthew 17:1–9 Jesus' face shone like the sun.

Next weekend: Exodus 17:3–7; Psalm 94 (95):1–2, 6–9; Romans 5:1–2, 5–8; John 4:5–42.

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 Bishop Steve Lowe
Sun 9.30 Bishop Steve Lowe

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.

"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>

Society of St Vincent de Paul

Thank you for your generous support. One mother shared, 'This meant my kids had a real Xmas—we could finally breathe.' Moments like these remind us that your support does more than provide essentials—it restores dignity, hope & joy. We are deeply grateful for your faith-filled & generous spirit. With heartfelt gratitude & blessings,
—Delphina Soti (General Manager)

Auckland Catholic Tertiary Chaplaincy events

Mon 2–Wed 4 Mar: UoA Clubs Expo; Tue 10 Mar 1st Mass & Lunch 2026 12.10 pm MacLaurin Chapel; Thu 12 Mar Games Night from 5 pm MacLaurin Chapel. IG: aucklandcatholicchaplaincy

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.

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass Fri 6 Mar 7 pm

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.

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 keynote 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>

Taizé Prayer Evening Fri 13 Mar 7–8 pm

Mary MacKillop Chapel, 56 Selwyn Ave, Mission Bay. Leader: Jill McLoughlin rsj. Prayer expressed in song remains one of the most essential expressions of our search for God. Br Roger Schütz (Founder of Taizé) 1915–2005. This meditative candlelit service will include singing chants, listening to the Word of God, intercessory prayer & ample time for quiet prayer in an atmosphere of silence & peace.

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 under Diocesan Services & Staff Vacancies. Appl close on 6 Mar.

A workshop for Church Organists

A free practical workshop helping beginner organists develop stronger hymn-playing skills. Presenter: Michael Cox. Sat 14 Mar, 1–4 pm. St Patrick's Catholic Church, 119–129 Seddon St, Pukekohe. Registration essential: Email office@pukekohecatholic.org.nz

New Zealand Catholic Medical Association

The NZCMA provides community, support & chaplaincy for those involved in health care in Aotearoa. The association welcomes doctors, nurses, midwives, carers, pharmacists, physiotherapists, psychologists, dentists, health administrators, counsellors, social workers, chaplains, lawyers, & anyone in allied roles. The next nationwide event is a retreat & seminar at the St Francis Friary & Retreat Centre on 20/21 Mar. For more info/to register, visit <https://bit.ly/NZCMA2026> or email newzealandcatholicmedical@gmail.com

Tuesdays at St John's Church, Mairangi Bay

7–8 pm. 24 Mar, Lenten Reflection with Dianna Fouhy; 28 Apr, *Bible Society* with CEO Neels Janse van Rensburg.

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 183 Richmond Rd, Ponsonby. (Parking avail on-site).

Monte Cecilia Easter Appeal 2026

Receiving a chocolate egg on Easter is something many of us took for granted during our childhoods. Being able to take part in this tradition alongside their friends is important for giving children a sense of connection and normality. But for many of the low-income families living in Monte Cecilia Housing Trust accommodation it's a tough expense to justify during a difficult period in their lives. Monte Cecilia wants to make sure none of the kids in our homes miss out, but with over 600 families staying in Monte Cecilia accommodation, it's a big job. So, we're putting out the call for Easter eggs, whether big or small, hollow or filled with marshmallow, we know our kids will love them all. Donations can be dropped off at our 30 Windrush Close office, by Mon 23 Mar or you can help us with a monetary donation through our website, which we can then use to purchase eggs from local stores. Put a smile on a young face today, & help our kids take part in a wonderful tradition! montececilia.org.nz

Sacred Heart College Enrolment Applications

for Yrs 7 & 9 for 2027 are now open, w/ Boarding avail. from Year 9. Applications are prioritised in accordance with our Enrolment Scheme. Scholarships are avail. Applications for enrolment close Fri 27 Mar 2026. www.sacredheart.school.nz

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 Coughie, 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: Jill Hopgood-Luyppers, Marie Quinn, Tony Glassey, Clare Alice Owen, Sr Alei Leilua SMSM, Zofia Wolk, Alois Ayan, Doris D'Crud, Hannah de Beer, Fr Andrew Sequeira, Dominic Smith, Sr Fidelis Walter, Hannibal & Miriam Adique, Dennis Widdowson, Robert Amputch, Flavia Dias, Pathma Apoo, Henry Vackhouse-Smith, Margaret Magness, Carolina Birondo, Natividad Abcede, Derek Joseph, Carl Burrows, Manuel Eugenio, Flocefina Lucas, Marie Ion, Albino Achas, Kath Ulrich, Josephine Gegan, Samson, Joseph Thomsen, George Foss, Zeldia Moloney, Lomano Halayahu, Tien Pik Ing, Lawson La Brooy, Antonio Musgni, Judy Dacre, Graham Hyndman, Kim Jung Ha, Janet Dyer, Beatriz Ruiz, Maureen Davey, Thomas Setyo, Anna Teong, Salvador & Ana Maria Robles, Joseph Park, Anacleto Seares, Alfred Pereira, Michael O'Flarherty, Brian Clooney, Linda Doran Estrella "Lily" Owen. Eternal rest grant to them.