

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 Holy Cross Catholic Church, 21 Carruth Road, Papatoetoe, on Wed 11 Mar, 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

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.

St Vincent de Paul Society Foodbank

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 SVPD Food Support team:

Phone: 0800 680 090/815 6122.

Email: foodbank@svdpak.org.nz

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."

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 8TH MARCH 2026

In our Gospel this week, John presents one of the most disarming encounters in the Gospel: Jesus at Jacob's well. He is tired, thirsty, and alone. Yet it is here, in apparent weakness, that divine grace overflows. Jesus quenches our thirst in a way that defies all conventional logic. He turns the world on its head.

He speaks to a Samaritan—which Jews never did. He speaks to an unaccompanied woman—which men were not supposed to do. Every boundary of religion, ethnicity, gender, and moral history is crossed. While she comes seeking ordinary water, Jesus reveals a deeper thirst within her: the longing for living water that becomes a spring welling up to eternal life.

At first, it seems that Jesus is the one in need: "Give me a drink." But as St Augustine observed, God thirsts after our thirst for him; he desires to be desired. Christ's request awakens her hidden longing. The further the human being distances himself from God, the more closely God pursues him with his merciful love. Jesus gently uncovers her life story, not to condemn but to restore. Her broken relationships do not repel him; they draw forth his compassion.

In this Lenten season, the liturgy invites us to stand beside that well and review our relationship with Jesus. What are our deepest thirsts? Success, approval, distraction, control? Or communion, mercy, and truth? Christ still waits at the wells of our daily routines, asking for our attention so that he may give us himself.

The woman leaves her jar behind—a sign that something greater has satisfied her. Having encountered the One who knows her completely and loves her still, she becomes a witness. So too are we called to tirelessly seek his Face, naming our thirst honestly, and allowing him to quench it with living water.

- Fr Stephen Berecz

Calling all tertiary students!

There is a large, vibrant and rapidly growing Catholic student community present across University of Auckland and AUT campuses. Join us in 2026! To find out more please contact Daniel Story at dans@cda.org.nz and/or check out the Auckland Catholic Tertiary Chaplaincy (ACTC) socials.

Tuesday 10 March 1st Mass & Lunch 2026, 12.10 pm, MacLaurin Chapel.

Thursday 12 March Games Night from 5 pm, MacLaurin Chapel.

Liturgy of the Word

Exodus 17:3–7 Give us water to drink.

Psalm 94 (95):1–2, 6–9 If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

Romans 5:1–2, 5–8 God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

John 4:5–42 The water that I will give will become a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.

Next weekend: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13; Psalm 22 (23); Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41.

For Sunday and weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.0com 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 Fr Stephen Berecz

Mass Times this week in Parnell

Sat 9 am

Reconciliation Times this week in Parnell

Sat 9.30 am

2026 Easter Timetable in Parnell

28–29 March Palm Sunday

Mass with blessing of the Palms. Regular weekend Mass times at 5 pm Saturday; 7 am & 9.30 Sunday

2 April Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30 pm; adoration follows after the Mass, with Compline at 9 pm

3 April Good Friday

Memorial of the Lord's Passion at 3 pm; shared ministries with EOHSJ

4 April Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil at 6 pm

5 April Easter Sunday

Regular Sunday Mass times at 7 am and 9.30

6 April Easter Monday

Regular public holiday Mass time at 9 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

Sacred Heart College Enrolment Applications

for Yrs 7 & 9 for 2027 are now open. A Sacred Heart education provides a foundation of faith & aspiration to succeed at the highest level in personal & professional life. Places are avail. in Yrs 7 & 9 in 2027, w Boarding available from Year 9. Applications are prioritised in accordance with our Enrolment Scheme. Scholarships are avail. Applications for enrolment close Fri 27 Mar. Apply online/visit www.sacredheart.school.nz for info.

Tuesdays at St John the Baptist, Mairangi Bay

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

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.

"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>

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 for sale in Parnell at Paper Plus & Blue Hills Books.

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>

Time Out Days at St. Francis Retreat Centre

For those seeking a day retreat, 9:30 am–2:30 pm (\$35 incl lunch). Wed 1 Apr, Thu 7 May, Tue 9 Jun. www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz or 625 6651.

Events at Mary MacKillop Retreat Centre

Monthly Taizé prayer: Friday 13 March in the Chapel at 7pm. This will be followed w a cuppa in the dining room. **Feast of our beloved patron St Joseph:** evening vigil ritual in the Chapel, 18 Mar 5.30 pm. There is a new group of Josephite Companions so as part of the ritual there will be a short commitment ceremony to honour them. A light tea will be served following this in the dining room. If you would like to join for tea, email Sr Julian marymackillopcentre@sosi.org.au by Mon 16 Mar for catering purposes.

You Are Chosen: Life In the Spirit Seminar

Sat 14–Sun 15 Mar, St Joseph's Parish Hall, Takapuna. Deepen your relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. All are welcome! There will be time for teaching, worship, prayer, fellowship & activities. Please register at bit.ly/ur-chosen

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.

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

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 Pat's Cath Ch, 119–129 Seddon St, Pukekohe. Reg essential: office@pukekohecatholic.org.nz

The Upper Room Wed 18 March

at Good George Mission Bay. The Upper Room is a night of formation & fellowship for young adults. Guest speaker James Bergin will be presenting on the topic of *Digital Integrity*, where we will delve into how one can be authentically Catholic in an artificial digital world. \$10 tickets Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/the-upper-room-march-2026>

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

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, Thlisi Vern, Ivy Hi, Dina Miranda, Malu Beltran, Vivien Emery, Gil Mellling, 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: Brendan Finlay, Subulechmi Krishnan, Tony Porter, Sr Katrina Fabish rsm, Estrella Owen, Gia, Hannah de Beer, Marcus Gerbich, Msgr Michael Browne, Maria Choi, Kovacs Arpadne Magdolna, Maria Gheorghe, Neville Kerridge, Peggy Humby, Gabriella Marsh, Jessica Licayan, Margaret Davies, Patrick Buckley, Brendan Murphy, Sr Loreto Lennon rsm, Eddie Byrne, Halina Mercep, Clare Anthony, John Price, Barbara Wright, Philomena Moses, Mario Antonio, Joan Robinson, Teresa Wong, Hector Enriquez, Hilda Canova, Thelma Evans, Sr Imelda Lyons rsm, Kim Jung Ha, Janet Dyer, Catalino Cruz Jr, Albino Achas, Thelma Evans. Eternal rest grant to them.