

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 inside 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 Benedict's Parish (Filipino Community), 1 St Benedict's Street, Newton, on Sunday 3rd May.

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 SVDP 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."

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 15TH MARCH 2026

In John's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind is far more than a physical miracle; it is a revelation about light, sight, and the condition of the human heart. Jesus declares himself the light of the world, and in giving sight to the blind man he restores not only vision but dignity, faith, and truth. The gradual journey of the healed man—from calling Jesus "the man," to "a prophet," and finally worshipping him as Lord—shows what happens when someone opens himself to the light, opens himself to God, and opens himself to grace. His physical sight becomes a sign of a deeper awakening.

Our lives are sometimes similar to that of the blind man. At our best, we allow Christ to touch the places of darkness within us. We consent to be led, even when we do not yet see clearly. We wash in the waters of obedience and trust, and slowly our vision changes. But at other times, we resemble the doctors of the law. From the height of our pride, we judge others and even presume to judge the Lord. Convinced that we already see, we become blind to grace. We can be baptised believers and still cling to unchristian behaviours—habits of superiority, harsh judgment, resentment, or indifference. We are all Christians, yet all of us sometimes act in ways that contradict the light we have received. Today's Gospel invites us to step down from pride and step into illumination.

Seeing is a central biblical theme. Scripture reminds us again and again that God sees differently than we do. We look at appearances, at categories, at inherited assumptions. God looks at the heart. The Pharisees saw a sinner and a rule-breaker; Jesus saw a man ready for revelation. Our task, therefore, is to bring our seeing into line with God's seeing—to see with the eye of God. When we allow Christ to heal our vision, we begin to recognise grace where we once saw failure, possibility where we once saw limitation, and brothers and sisters where we once saw strangers. In that light, we truly begin to bear fruit.

- Fr Stephen Berecz

The Upper Room

Wednesday 18th 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 at <https://events.humanitix.com/the-upper-room-march-2026>

Liturgy of the Word

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13 David was anointed king over Israel.

Psalm 22 (23) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Ephesians 5:8–14 Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

John 9:1–41 The man who was blind washed his eyes and came back able to see.

Next weekend: Ezekiel 37:12–14; Psalm 129 (130); Romans 8:8–11; John 11:1–25.

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

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

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>

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.

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.

Feast of our beloved patron St Joseph

Evening vigil ritual in the chapel of the Mary MacKillop Retreat Centre, 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 mary-mackillopcentre@sosj.org.au by Mon 16 Mar for catering purposes.

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.

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.

ACYM Local Leaders Meet Ups

South Region—Sat 21 Mar, 10 am, Urban Café Manukau (652 Great South Rd); East Region—Sat 21st Mar, 2 pm, Journal Café Ormiston (240 Ormiston Rd); City/Central Region—Sun 22 Mar, 1 pm, I Press Cafe Mt Eden (421 Mount Eden Rd). Email elisal@cda.org.nz for more info.

New Zealand Catholic Medical Association

The NZCMA provides community, support & frailty 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

The Gift of Dreams

Sat 28 Mar, 10 am–2 pm at the Ōrewa Catholic Church, the Auckland Christian Meditation Community is hosting a presentation by Tay-Marie Yorston. Dreams tell our stories; they anchor & deepen our faith in seasons of transition, anxiety, stress, grief & loss. BYO lunch, bring a koha & a friend, no need to book. More details on christianmeditationnz.org.nz/community-days-retreats

DIOCESAN YOUTH MASS: St Patrick's Cathedral

43 Wyndham St, Sun 29 Mar, 4.30–5:30 pm. Led by the tertiary students club (ACTS) & the Auckland Catholic Tertiary Chaplaincy (ACTC) this month! Tertiary Chaplain, Fr Mark Bond, will be presiding. Details at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1308068937810138/>

Divine Mercy Feast: St Benedict's, Eden Terrace

Sun 12 Apr 5.30 pm. Exposition of blessed sacrament, benediction, blessing of images, holy mass, veneration of St Faustina's relic. Bring Divine Mercy images & artefacts to be blessed. Free parking avail at Wilson Carpark & free street parking Sun.

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, Thijsi 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: Mike Collins, Edilberto Reyes, Brendan Finlay, Fr Leo Doyle, Sandra Mews, Yvonne Fernando, Sr Maureen Connolly OP, Nanay Nenita Peji, Lucila Cruz Angeles, Nelly Dosado, Ron Leonard, Kataraina Kanara, Margaret Bamfield, Marie Lovrich, Gary Menzies, Thea Heyen, Clive Squire, Julia Barangan, Pamela Law, Vincent Marinovich, Nelida Cordeta, Margaret Fontanilla, Akaka Leilua, Tomas Hector, Pacita Yap, Graeme Blackburn, Antonio Lacio, Benjamin Hoo, Theresa Wong, Clare Howley, Pamela Farry, Clem Paterson, Annie Reyndahl, Phyllis Green, Geoff Bennett, Ron Boyd, Gregorio Serrano, Sinead Fox, Nick McNamara, Peter Tran, Frank Cordtz, Ann Roper, Caroline Mitchell, Rev Joe Shepherd, Benjamin Martinez, Gordon Palaire, Nativitas Z Baylon, Otilie Adelinger, Noel Fernandes, Alice Marinovich, Zita D'Souza, Eulogio Avila, Mohi Hotene, Mary Whitener, Mary Rahman, Gary Viskovich, Edna Cororan, Marcia Macedo, John Sullivan, Irawan Kwik. Eternal rest grant to them.

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

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, Thu 13 Aug, Tue 15 Sep, Wed 7 Oct. www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz or 625 6651.

18TH ANNUAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Procession begins at Albert Park Rotunda & concludes at St Pat's Cathedral Fri 3 Apr 9–11 am. Experience a powerful & moving journey through the heart of the city as we walk together in prayer, remembering Christ's passion. Details at <https://www.facebook.com/share/18FnaRtm8c/>