

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 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."

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 22ND MARCH 2026

In John's Gospel today, the raising of Lazarus, stands at the threshold of Jesus' own Passion. It is the final and greatest of the "signs" in John's Gospel, and it reveals not only Jesus' power over death but the deeper mystery of who he is. At the tomb of his friend, Jesus does not stand distant and unmoved. He weeps. The Word made flesh shares our grief and enters fully into the sorrow of human loss. Yet in that very place of darkness he proclaims, "I am the resurrection and the life."

The delay in Jesus' arrival is striking. "This illness does not lead to death; it is for the glory of God." Glory in John's Gospel is inseparable from the cross. The raising of Lazarus points forward to the greater hour when the Father will glorify the Son in the passion, death, and exaltation of Jesus. As Lazarus is called from the tomb, so too will Christ pass through death into life—but not as a return to mortal existence. His resurrection will inaugurate a new and eternal life.

Martha's confession is central: "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God." Faith here is not merely assent to a miracle; it is trust in the person of Jesus. To accept Jesus is to open oneself to that transforming experience wherein the Father glorifies the Son through the cross and resurrection. The believer is drawn into that mystery. Eternal life is not only a future promise; it begins now through communion with the One who is Life itself.

When Jesus cries, "Lazarus, come out," it is more than a command to a dead man. It is a call addressed to each of us. We all know the tombs that bind us—fear, sin, despair, grief. Faith means allowing Christ to speak into those sealed places and to trust that his voice has power to free us. The unbinding of Lazarus by the community also reminds us that new life unfolds within the Church, where we help one another live in the freedom Christ gives.

To believe in Jesus is to stand, even now, in the light of resurrection—and to share in the eternal life that flows from his glorified love. *- Fr Stephen Berecz*

DIOCESAN YOUTH MASS: St Patrick's Cathedral

43 Wyndham Street, Sunday 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/>

Liturgy of the Word

Ezekiel 37:12–14 I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live.

Psalms 129 (130) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Romans 8:8–11 The Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies.

John 11:1–25 I am the resurrection and the life.

Next weekend: Isa 50:4–7; Psa 21 (22):7–8, 16–19, 22–23 r. 1; Phil 2:6–11; Matt 26:14–27:66.

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 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

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.

ACYM Local Leaders Meet Up City/Central region

Sun 22 Mar, 1 pm, I Press Cafe Mt Eden (421 Mt Eden Rd). Email elisal@cda.org.nz for more info.

BREAKFAST WITH DAME MALVINA MAJOR

Sat 28 Mar, 9 am. The Friends of Holy Trinity Cathedral will host a special Breakfast with the incomparable Dame Malvina Major, who will speak about her life's journey. Soprano Andrea Creighton will also perform a selection of items accompanied by pianist Sue Gaddis.

Monte Cecilia Easter Appeal 2026

For many of the low-income families living in Monte Cecilia Housing Trust accommodation, Easter eggs are a tough expense to justify during a difficult period in their lives. Donations of eggs can be dropped off at the 30 Windrush Close office by Mon 23 Mar or you can make a monetary donation at montececilia.org.nz

The Friends of Symonds Street Cemetery AGM

will be held Tue 24 Mar, 7 pm, at Ponsonby Community Centre. Apart from the normal business of electing a new committee we will be having a presentation on all the work we have been doing in the cemetery this last year as well as planned work. Come along to support this group. Tea, coffee & biscuits will be provided.

Tuesdays at St John the Baptist, Mairangi Bay

24 Mar, 7–8 pm. Lent Reflection w Dianna Fouhy.

MARIST COLLEGE: Catholic Girls School Open Day

Thurs 26 March, 9.15 am. A centrally located non-zoned Catholic girls secondary school, Yrs 7–13 www.maristcollege.school.nz

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. Boarding avail. from Yr 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.

The Gift of Dreams: Sat 28 Mar, 10 am–2 pm

christianmeditationnz.org.nz/community-days-retreats At the Ōrewa Cath 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, koha. No need to book.

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

Fri 3 Apr, 9–11 am. Begins at Albert Park Rotunda.

Christian Charity: An invitation from the Bishops of New Zealand

Every year in this holy season, the New Zealand Bishops asks Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand to run a fundraising campaign on their behalf—the Bishops' Lent Appeal.

The theme for the Lent appeal in 2026 is Hear the Voice, Answer the Call—*Whakarongo ki te reo, Whakahokia te karanga*. During this time, & especially as we near Easter, we invite you to consider how you can hear the voice of those in need & answer the call to Christian charity.

Our world is becoming increasingly wrought by conflict & division. We see great suffering in places like Ukraine, Gaza, Israel, South Sudan & most recently, in Iran.

We watch this happening as we prepare to meditate on the great suffering that Jesus endured on Good Friday, & with the recent echoes of Scripture—“whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me”—urging us to be mindful of those who are in need.

Supporting the work of Caritas, the second-largest humanitarian organisation in the world, is a chance to tangibly respond to those ruptures across the globe. Each year, the Bishops' Lent Appeal is the best way to fund Caritas' work — supporting vulnerable communities globally. As Caritas' leadership explained at the start of the Lent Appeal, this global instability, along with the pain caused by displacement, humanitarian crises & the impacts of climate change, is increasing the significant strain that many communities were already facing.

As we pointed out in our pastoral letter last November on the World Day of the Poor, Christian Charity—which can be lived out through almsgiving, among other practices—is an important

part of a life lived in the spirit of the Gospel. It is an invitation for people to be mindful of the needs of those who are vulnerable & an invitation to be generous, according to their own circumstances.

The money raised in this year's appeal will support many projects across the world, but one focus is addressing the dire situation facing Rohingya refugee families in Bangladesh. More than 1.3 million Rohingya are stuck in camps with few rights & constant threats of violence, trafficking & exploitation.

Many of us know little, if anything, of this crisis, but Caritas is making a difference to the lives of people in those camps, for whom hope can be elusive.

Every year, individuals & parishes across New Zealand are very generous in supporting this appeal. We hope that this will continue in this Lenten season.

We invite you, during this time of preparation, prayer & almsgiving, to take the time to discern how you can contribute to this campaign. We then encourage you to donate to the Bishops' Lent Appeal 2026 at caritas.org.nz/lent or by using the envelopes provided at Mass.

This act of generosity will make a difference—to those Caritas serves near & far, yes, but also within you, as you live out the spirit of Christian charity.

In Christ,

+Stephen Lowe, Bishop of Auckland

+Michael Dooley, Bishop of Dunedin

+Paul Martin SM, Archbishop of Wellington

+Michael Gielen, Bishop of Christchurch

+John Adams, Bishop of Palmerston North

+Richard Laurenson, Bishop of Hamilton

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, 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 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: Scott Hickey, Teresa Pope, Joseph Viskovich, Mike Collins, Fr Mario Dorado, Geoffrey Ricketts, Sandra Mews, Margaret Fischman, Audrey Hickey, Benito Ang Lim, Kovacs Arpad, Domingos Mascarenhas, Phyllis Geany, Tracy O'Brien, Lamakina Heeney, Thelma Sanchez, Sr Julia MSA, Clara Cabaero, Janet Hackett, Violet Rebello, Jan Borst, Jo Lawson Hitchcock, Frederique Romero, Jack Gifford, Rosaura Rustia, Eva Goodwin, Peter Bowden, Sheila Jennings, Bridget Daly, Rosario Chua Romero, Keri Coutts, Frank Neven, Seamus O'Reilly, Nacita Foot, Elizabeth Widarma, John Curran, Hector Enriquez, Tony Hartigan, Rev William Forde, Maxime Petit SM, Rev Patrick O'Reilly, Estrella Villarante, Winifred Hunt, Dean John Rhymer, Mario Alcantara, Patricia White, Bridget Daly, Kathleen Henderson, Albina Cumabon-Espiritu.