

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.

No weekday Mass except as advertised.

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."

EASTER DAY ~ 5TH APRIL 2026

In the climax of the Easter Triduum we are brought to one of the most profound and mysterious moments of the Christian story. Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb "early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark." The darkness is not only the darkness of early morning; it also reflects the confusion, grief, and uncertainty of those who loved Jesus. The events of the Crucifixion of Jesus still weigh heavily on their hearts.

Now we stand at the empty tomb just as the sun is rising. The stone has been rolled away, and the place that once held the body of Jesus is empty. At first this discovery brings anxiety rather than understanding. Mary assumes that someone has taken the Lord away. She runs to tell Simon Peter and the beloved disciple, and together they hurry toward the tomb. Their running captures the urgency of the moment—the sense that something extraordinary has happened, though they do not yet fully grasp what it means.

When they arrive, the beloved disciple stoops down and looks in. Peter enters the tomb and sees the linen cloths lying there, and the cloth that had covered Jesus' head rolled up separately. These small, quiet details matter. They suggest that this is not the work of grave robbers or chaos. Instead, there is a sense of order and purpose. The beloved disciple then enters, sees, and believes. Faith begins to dawn, much like the light of morning slowly spreading across the sky.

Standing at the empty tomb as the sun rises is a powerful image for the Christian life. The resurrection is not first announced with dramatic words but with a quiet discovery that invites faith. In the growing light of dawn, the disciples begin to move from confusion to hope, from fear to belief. The empty tomb does not simply tell us that death could not hold Jesus; it reveals that God has begun something entirely new.

Like the first disciples, we often approach life while it is still dark, unsure of what lies ahead. Yet the empty tomb reminds us that God's power is already at work, even when we cannot yet see the full picture. As the sun rises over the garden tomb, hope rises in the human heart, and the promise of new life begins to unfold.

- Fr Stephen Berecz

Liturgy of the Word

Acts 10:34a, 36–43 We ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

Psalm 117 (118):1–2, 16–17, 22–23 & 24 This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Colossians 3:1–4 Seek the things that are above, where Christ is.

or **1 Corinthians 5:6b–8** Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch

John 20:1–18 According to the scripture: Jesus Christ must rise from the dead.

Next weekend: Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 117 (118):1–4, 13–15, 22–24; 1 Peter 1:3–9; John 20:19–31.

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

Easter Monday 6 April 9 am

Saturday 11 April 9 am

Reconciliation Times this week in Parnell

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

Events at Mary MacKillop Centre

Regular Taizé prayer will be offered on Fri 10 Apr in the Chapel at 7 pm. The following day, 11 Apr, the popular Card Making day with Meg Hills rsj will be offered in the meeting room of the Admin Centre, 9.30 am–3 pm. Register early as only 8 places avail. for this workshop. Participants are always pleased to have a no. of cards to take away with them! See flyer in foyer for more details.

Divine Mercy Feast Sunday 12 April 5.30 pm

at St Benedict's Parish, 1 St Benedict's St, Eden Terrace. Exposition of the blessed sacrament,

benediction, blessing of images, holy mass, Veneration of St Faustina's relic. You are warmly invited to attend this celebration. Bring Divine Mercy images & artefacts to be blessed. Jesus told St Faustina, "My heart rejoices on this feast day". Free parking avail at Wilson Carpark, & free street parking on Sundays.

Vacancy—Chief Finance Officer (CFO)

The Diocese of Christchurch is seeking an experienced & forward-thinking CFO to lead a passionate & committed team, & contribute meaningfully to the strategic direction of the Catholic Diocese of CHCH. Applications invited from leaders who share the diocese's sense of purpose, who value meaningful work, & who are energised by contributing to a mission-driven organisation. Applications close 9 pm 12 Apr. For more info, or to apply, email applications@cdoc.nz

Upcoming Events at St. Francis Retreat Centre

www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz or 625 6651.

Prayer & the Interior Life Women's Retreat—A reflective weekend in the Catholic tradition for women seeking deeper intimacy with God. The retreat includes Holy Mass, adoration, worship, fellowship, & inspiring talks on prayer & worship. Fri 17 Apr 6 pm–Sun 19 Apr 3 pm; Fri 9 Oct 6 pm–Sun 11 Oct 3 pm. **24-Hr Quietude**—Begins Fri 7 pm with prayer & rest, & continues until Sat 7 pm with a full day dedicated to reflection, contemplation & prayer. 17–18 Apr, 3–4 Jul, 28–29 Aug, 20–21 Nov. **Time Out Days**—For those seeking a day retreat, 9:30 am–2:30 pm (\$35 incl lunch). Thu 7 May, Tue 9 Jun, Thu 13 Aug, Tue 15 Sep, Wed 7 Oct.

Diamond Jubilee—Catholic Parish of WLG STH

All former & current parishioners are invited to a celebration of several historical milestones on Sun 19 Apr. The 1st Catholic church, St Francis de Sales, Island Bay, was built in 1906, 120 yrs ago, & the current church was blessed & opened on 17 Apr 1966, 60 yrs ago. The weekend of celebration will also acknowledge 100 yrs since the opening of the St Madeleine Sophie primary school, the forerunner of the current primary school of St Francis de Sales. A special Mass of remembrance & thanks featuring past & present priests will be

followed by a lunch at the Pines Cabaret, Houghton Bay. Registrations of interest are welcomed by providing contact details at

office@wellingtonsouthcatholic.org

FRANCISCVS: The Graduate Choir NZ

Terence Maskell, Elizabeth Mandeno (soprano), Philip Smith (organ). 21 April 7.30 pm. St Michael's Church, Remuera. A Recital to Commemorate the Papacy of Pp. Francis. Featuring Rutter's Requiem, & music by Howells, Poulenc, Harris, Duruflé & Artley. TICKETS \$30–40. Go to iticket.co.nz 0508 ITICKET

VACANCY: Reshaping Facilitator

The Catholic Diocese of Auckland seeks a mission-focused Reshaping Facilitator to support parishes on the reshaping journey. This role will equip parishes with resources, facilitation, & professional support. This is a 3-yr fixed term role, full-time or 2 part-time roles considered. For full details & to view the position description, please visit www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz under diocesan services & staff vacancies. Appl cl 24 Apr.

Tuesdays at St John the Baptist, Mairangi Bay

7–8 pm. 28 Apr, Bible Society with CEO Neels Janse van Rensburg.

Charis NZ: Chevalier Cyril John

will be leading a 1.5 day 11–12 May: at Christ the King Church, Ōwairaka. Training on Prophetic Intercession, hosted by Current of Grace, Auckland (part of Charis NZ). Cyril John is a well-known speaker who serves on the International Commission for Intercession, & has spent more than a decade travelling the world, teaching, & forming intercessors in the ministry of Prophetic Intercession. Please share & encourage your prayer group & community group members, & wider networks to support this event: See poster in foyer for details & reg.

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, Thiisi 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 Mathew, 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:* Blair McKenzie, Alfred Metzler snr., Fr John Tollan, Eileen Finlay, Rosemary Christy, Shawn Ireland, Ellie Blackwell, Sheila Leishman, Kathleen Nickers, Tom O'Sullivan, Francesca Goodwin, Anne Cortesi, Claire Brown, Alan Edwards, Mary Beatie, Jill Martin, Nena Alegre-Valenzuela, Patrick Bolton, Rachael Farrow, Mary Watson, Marie Wong, Wayne Browne, John Gillespie, Rosaura Rustia, Teresa Rocha, Iana Van der Fluit, Mary Davidson, Pamela Woodlock, Hannie Leahy, Robert Vasquez, Rom Pereira, Helen d'Souza, Walter & Lucy Pinto, Uti Gandy, Louise Gomes, Benjamin Martinez.

Catholic Diocese of Auckland Migrant Festival

Rise up & shine! Join a day celebrating the many cultures of rich traditions, languages, & stories that shape our Church & community. Sat 30 May, 10 am–3 pm. Mass, food stalls, ZUMBA, music & cultural shows. Malaeola Community Centre, 16 Waokauri Place, Māngere.

Rebuild My Church —Dr Mary Healy

Join internationally renowned Catholic theologian Dr Mary Healy this June in Hamilton for Rebuild My Church, a three-night formation series at the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Hamilton (June 9–11). Known around the world for her engaging teaching on Scripture and the Holy Spirit, Dr Healy helps people hear God's voice more clearly and grow in confidence in the gifts He gives for the building up of the Church. Everyone is warmly invited to the three-night series (June 9–11) exploring the power of God's Word, the life of the Holy Spirit, and our call to live our faith today. Alongside the evening mission there will also be:

- A clergy workshop – Awakening the Gifts of the Faithful (Wednesday 10 June)
- A leadership formation day for clergy, diocesan staff, and parish leaders (Thursday 11 June).

This is a wonderful opportunity for clergy, parish leaders, and anyone seeking to deepen their faith and grow in service to the Church. All are warmly invited. Full details and registration are available at <https://www.eventzilla.net/e/rebuild-my-church-dr-mary-healy-2138676397>

The Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship

All men are invited to the Joshua 40-yr celebration weekend! Fri 14th afternoon–Sun 16th Aug noon. Keswick Christian Camp, 5 Cooper Ave, Holden's Bay, Rotorua. \$247pp incl accommodation & meals. Contact Mike Lobo 021 2809285 or Greg Sullivan 021 437747