

## 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 7 am Mass May–August.

Parish Priest: Father Stephen Berecz. Email [sberezcz@gmail.com](mailto:sberezcz@gmail.com)

Parish Secretary: Nathaniel Hood. Phone (09) 373 3132. Email: [office@parnellcatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@parnellcatholic.org.nz)

[www.parnellcatholic.org.nz](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:foodbank@svdpak.org.nz)

### Youth & Young Adult Ministry

[www.facebook.com/AKCYM](http://www.facebook.com/AKCYM)

Contact Sam Brebner [samb@cda.org.nz](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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."*

### SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ 12TH APRIL 2026

In our Gospel this week, the disciples are gathered behind locked doors, afraid and uncertain after the events of the Crucifixion of Jesus. Into this space of fear and confusion, Jesus comes and stands among them, greeting them with the simple yet powerful words: "Peace be with you." His presence transforms the room. Fear gives way to wonder, and uncertainty begins to give way to faith.

Through his initiative, speaking to them and showing them the marks of his suffering and death, they see him as the Lord. The risen Christ does not hide the wounds of the cross. Instead, he reveals them. His wounds are the sign that his suffering and death are inextricably connected with his Lordship. The resurrection does not erase the cross; it glorifies it. Jesus is not simply restored to life as before. He is the risen from the dead living Lord, glorified precisely through the suffering and death that once appeared to be defeat. In the wounds of Christ we see the mystery that God's power is revealed in sacrificial love.

Jesus then breathes on the disciples and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit." This moment echoes the breath of God that brought life to humanity in the beginning. By his breathing on them and speaking to them, the disciples become a new creation. They participate in the divine life through the Holy Spirit and are drawn into the continuing mission of Christ himself. The frightened followers who once hid behind locked doors are now entrusted with a profound responsibility.

Jesus commissions them as his envoys, sending them into the world just as the Father sent him. Their task is the work of reconciliation: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." The mission of forgiving sins continues Christ's own mission of restoring humanity to communion with God. Yet this mission will not be easy. Like Jesus, the disciples will discover that faithful witness may involve sacrifice, suffering, and even death.

The encounter with Thomas at the end of the passage reinforces this message of faith. Thomas moves from doubt to a profound confession: "My Lord and my God!" His words become the faith of the Church. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe, for through faith they too share in the life of the risen Lord. *-Fr Stephen Berecz*

### Seminary Appeal

With 11 men currently discerning the priesthood for the Diocese of Auckland in 2026, we are blessed to see men generously answering God's call to serve the Church. Each of these men is undertaking years of prayer, study, & formation as they prepare for a life of service to the people of our diocese. Please keep our seminarians in your prayers & if you are able, consider supporting their formation as they prepare to serve the Church in Auckland. Scan QR code in the foyer or donate at [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/donate](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/donate)

## Liturgy of the Word

Acts 2:42–47 All who believed were together and had all things in common.

Psalm 117 (118):1–4, 13–15, 22–24 Give thanks, for the Lord is good, God's love is everlasting.

1 Peter 1:3–9 God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

John 20:19–31 A week later Jesus came and stood among them.

Next weekend: Acts 2:14, 22b–28; Psalm 15 (16):1–2, 5, 7–11; 1 Peter 1:17–21; Luke 24:13–35.

For Sunday and weekday readings see: [molegabriel.com](http://molegabriel.com) AND/OR [www.livingtheword.org.nz](http://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

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.

### Thank you

to all the volunteers who helped in offering our Easter Liturgies. Happy Easter.

### 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.

### 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](mailto:applications@cdoc.nz)

### THE UPPER ROOM: Good George Mission Bay

71 Tāmaki Dr, Wed 15 Apr, 6:30–9 pm. Guest speaker Emma Parrish, speaking on the topic 'Called to be an Apostle to your Generation'. Q&A, opportunity to connect with young adults. \$10 tickets, 18+ event. Tickets at <https://events.humanitix.com/the-upper-room-april-2026>

### ACYM Meet Ups: West Region

Kings Café, 224 Universal Drive, Henderson, Sat 18 Apr 10 am. Connect, share knowledge & enjoy good vibes w other youth leaders. Free coffee on us! Don't miss it! For more info: [elisal@cda.org.nz](mailto:elisal@cda.org.nz)

### Upcoming Events at St. Francis Retreat Centre

[www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz](http://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.

### 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 Cath ch, 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](mailto:office@wellingtonsouthcatholic.org)

### Life in the Spirit Seminar (Auckland City Deanery)

Everyone is invited to a 7 week Seminar, *The Holy Spirit-our Helper*. Tuesday evenings, Sacred Heart Hall, Ponsonby, 7.30 pm, with cuppa from 7.15 pm. Starts 21 April. No charge. Register at <https://forms.gle/pDameRsdUYnhrrb7A>

For more info, email [aucklandccr@gmail.com](mailto:aucklandccr@gmail.com)

### FRANCISCVS

Arguably one of the most influential & charismatic world leaders of modern times, Pp Francis left an enormous legacy not only for the Cath Ch but for the world at large, amidst many global societal changes. He was known especially for his humility & compassion & for his support for the marginalised. His presence & humanity extended well beyond the Catholic world—& on the 1st anniversary of his death The Graduate Choir of New Zealand honours the life of this universally admired Holy Father w a special recital in St Michael's Cath Ch, Remuera on Tue 21 Apr at 7.30 pm. Before interval the choir will present music to reflect the compassion, humility, & spiritual depth that characterised Pp Francis—incl Poulenc's *4 Petites Prières de St François d'Assise* for men's voices, Howells's dramatic *Take him, earth, for cherishing* & the sublime Harris work *Faire is the Heaven*. Pt II of the concert features the main work of the

evening—John Rutter's masterful *Requiem*. Tickets are \$30–\$40. Go to <https://www.iticket.co.nz/events/2026/apr/franciscus> or purchase at the door on the night.

### 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](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz) under diocesan services & staff vacancies. Appl close 24 Apr.

### DIOCESAN YOUTH MASS: St Patrick's Cathedral

43 Wyndham St, Sun 26 Apr 4:30–5:30 pm. Join ACYM for the April Diocesan Youth Mass! All are welcome! Please invite your whānau, your friends, & your wider faith community to join. Details at <https://www.facebook.com/events/922162977336988>

### Tuesdays at St John the Baptist, Mairangi Bay

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

### Vacancy: Head of Pastoral Services

The Catholic Diocese of Auckland is seeking a committed, faith-filled leader to support the Bishop's pastoral mission & provide strategic leadership across diocesan pastoral ministries. Full details & application info available via the Diocesan website [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz) under Diocesan Services & staff vacancies. Appl close 30 Apr.

*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 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:* Cheryl Taylor, Dorothy Wagstaff, Elsie (Liz) McKinney, Bernard Glover, Angelica Licayan, Francesca Goodwin, Eva Goodwin, Pat Sizemore, Anita Malcon, Aine McInery, Susana Soncuya, Patrick Regan, Harry Nash, Sr Margaret Fahey OP, Peter Ryan, Kathleen Morris, Peter Hynes, Fr Paul Philbert OP, Dorothy Lee, Patsy Dwyer, Joan Evans, Teodora Uyttingco, Fr Brendan Sherry, Tom Hall, Ricardo Castro, Danny Shanahan, Araceli Cruz, Katherine Toland, Miguelito Son, Barbara McKinney, Larry Ross, Henry D'Souza, Tito Guleng, Brian Cronin, Leandro Gonzales, Hooi Peng Cheong, Denzil Menezes, Portia Robb, Br Kevin Hore, Gerard Reid, Apolonia Jumamoy, Glen Rigg, Caroline Mitchell, Sr Elizabeth Findlay, Ben Abrigo, Maurice Schischka, Marie Stanton, Bonnie McCafferty, Fr Pat Littlewood MHM, Fr Paul Duncan, Ans Vogels, Fr Tony Davies IC, Bruce Christmas, Eileen O'Connor, Kay Black, Cliff Johnson, Michael Veen, Marie Heffernan, Philippa Geaney, Consolacion Mangahas, Apparicion Santiago, Dominic Vaggioli OSB, Luz Dela Cruz, Yun-Ae Kim, Asuncion Lopez, Eileen Malone, John Fernandes, Philippa Geaney, Lester Ramos, Robert Beveridge, Clare Bennett, Frank Douglas, Cecilia Navarro, Ma. Lourdes Figueroa.