

## 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 at 1.30 pm. 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."*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ 26TH APRIL 2026

In our Gospel this week, Jesus presents the powerful image of the shepherd and the sheep. He contrasts the true shepherd with those who enter the sheepfold by other ways—thieves and bandits who come only to steal and destroy. The true shepherd, however, enters by the gate, calls his sheep by name, and leads them out. The sheep recognise his voice and follow him because they trust the one who leads them.

Jesus then deepens the image by declaring, "I am the gate." Through him the sheep find safety, nourishment, and life. Those who enter through him will be saved and will find pasture. The contrast is clear: while the thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy, Jesus comes so that his followers "may have life, and have it abundantly." The abundant life that Christ offers is not merely a comfortable or prosperous life; it is a life shared with God, a life shaped by love, service, and faithfulness.

Our following Christ is the imitation of him in the total reality of his life, death, resurrection and glorification. To follow the shepherd is not simply to listen to his words, but to walk the path he himself has walked. It means walking in his footsteps—an activity which we can do only individually and personally. Each disciple must respond freely to the call of the shepherd and follow him within the unique circumstances of his or her own life.

This following involves applying in our own individual circumstances the same attitude which we know Jesus had during his mortal life: doing good, serving others, and suffering injustice patiently out of love for his Father and for others. The voice of Christ calls us to live with the same generosity and faithfulness that marked his own life.

Jesus does not guide us only through words spoken in the depths of our hearts, though indeed we listen to his voice with the ears of faith. He has also given us something more visible and concrete: an example we can see with the eyes of faith. In his actions—his compassion for the poor, his forgiveness of sinners, his willingness to suffer for others—we see the path we are called to follow.

To walk through the gate that is Christ is to enter a life shaped by his love. In following the Good Shepherd, we discover the fullness of life that he promises.

*- Fr Stephen Berecz*

No 7 am Sunday Mass at St John the Baptist May–August

Today (26<sup>th</sup> April) is the last 7 am Sunday Mass for the autumn. It is scheduled to resume on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

## Liturgy of the Word

**Acts 2:14a, 36b–41** God has made Jesus both Lord and Messiah.

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

**1 Peter 2:20b–25** You were going astray, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

**John 10:1–10** I am the gate for the sheep.

**Next weekend:** Acts 6:1–7, Psalms 32 (33): 1–2, 4–5, 18–19 & 22; 1 Peter 2:4–9; John 14:1–12.

For Sunday and weekday readings see: [mobilegabriel.com](http://mobilegabriel.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

Mon (public holiday)	9 am
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.

### Today we celebrate Vocations Sunday

Bp Steve Lowe invites us to support our seminarians at Holy Cross Seminary as they discern their call to the priesthood. If you are able, please consider donating at [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/donate](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/donate) & continue to keep them in your prayers.

### 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.

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

7–8 pm. 28 Apr, **Bible Society** w CEO Neels Janse van Rensburg. 26 May, **Mary Untier of Knots**, w Beate Matthies—History & Reflection on one of Pp Francis's favourite paintings. More info: [studyjoy.nz/events/mary-untier-of-knots/](http://studyjoy.nz/events/mary-untier-of-knots/)

### 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>

### Te Kupenga Catholic Leadership Institute

Enrolment for Semester Two 2026—Enrol for theology courses at Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College this Semester 2, whether you're starting or continuing your journey of faith. Study full-time or pt-time, on-campus or online. Enrolment for Bachelor of Divinity and Graduate Diploma in Theology opens 28 Apr. For courses offered, go to [www.tekupenga.ac.nz/timetables](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/timetables)

### 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. The role works closely with parishes & communities to strengthen evangelisation, formation, & pastoral life. Applicants must demonstrate a strong Catholic faith, senior pastoral leadership experience, & strategic capability. Full details & application information available via the Diocesan website [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz) under Diocesan Services & staff vacancies. Appl close 30 Apr.

### Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass Fri 1 May 7 pm

at St Mary's Parish, 20 Kitemui Ave, Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass, followed by veneration of St Faustina's relic. All Welcome.

### Charis NZ: Chevalier Cyril John

will be leading a 1.5 day training on prophetic intercession, 11–12 May at Christ the King Ch, Ōwairaka, hosted by Current of Grace, AKL (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. Pls share & encourage your prayer group & community group members, & wider networks to support this event. See poster in foyer for details & reg.

### Fundraising for Remuera Catholic Church Repairs

Movie night for St Michael's: *HOLY DAYS* (PG) is a hilarious comedy with a star-studded cast. Venue is the Rialto Newmarket: Sun 3 May, 7.30 pm. \$35 for an evening of fun w spot prizes & raffles (incl 2 tickets to All Blacks v Ireland valued at \$450). To purchase tickets, scan the QR code on the poster in the foyer or go to [www.humanitix.com](http://www.humanitix.com) & search "Holy Days Auckland".

### Hou Mana Wai Mercy Wellsprings

To register for any events, please email Rebecca: [office@mercywellsprings.org.nz](mailto:office@mercywellsprings.org.nz) **Seasonal Reflections: Autumn**—Tue 5 May, 9.30 am–2.30 pm. \$35/koha. Facilitated by Cathryn Wiles-Pickard rsm & Rebecca Gane. The seasons offer us 4 opportunities to pause & consider the different experiences of our lives, & how we respond to them. The day will begin & end w a short time of teaching & reflection, w 4 hrs in the middle of the day for quiet solitude. **Varieties of Spiritual Experiences**—Wednesday 13th May, 1.30–3.30 pm or 7–9 pm. \$25/koha. Facilitated by Vincent Maire. Spiritual/mystical experiences are much more common than we realise & have long been the topic of serious research. Vincent will describe these experiences & the mostly positive impact on the religious & emotional lives of those who have them.

### St Michael's Parish Remuera: Scripture Study

*The Exodus* by Dr Dan Stollenwerk. In the lead up to Pentecost, Dan will dive deep into the common themes that link Pentecost & the Book of Exodus. Please join 4 Wednesday mornings 6, 13, 20, 27 May, 10:30–11:45 am in the Parish Centre, followed by midday Mass. No registration required.

*Please pray for those who are sick, recovering from surgery, or needing our prayers, especially:* Jim Brown, Matthew Newman, Teresa Gabriola, Niwethma Herath, Lynette 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, Thilisi 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:* Pope Francis, Joan Ferris, Tom Wiseman, Patrick Bogan, Alan McLeod, Mario Lugtu, Wayne Lynch, Ron Mather, Peter Hynes, Fr Paul Philbert OP, Dorothy Lee, Patsy Dwyer, Joan Evans, Teodora Uyttingco, Theresa Udoye, Tom Hall, Ricardo 'Jim' Castro, Danny Shanahan, Araceli Cruz, Miguelito Son, Barbara McKinney, Henry D'Souza, Leandro Gonzales, Hooi Peng Cheong, Denzil Menezes, Portia Robb, Brother Kevin Hore, Gerard Reid, Apolonia Jumamoy, Glenn Rigg, Sr Elizabeth (Margaret) Findlay, Larry Ross, Ben Abrigo, Maurice Schischka, Marie Stanton, Bonnie McCafferty, Fr Pat Littlewood MHM, Fr Brendan Sherry, Fr Paul Duncan, Brian Cronin, Fr Tony Davies IC, Bruce Christmas, Eileen O'Connor, Kay Black, Cliff Johnson, Michael Veen, Marie Heffernan, Philippa Geaney, Contrace Mangahas, Apparicion Santiago, Ans Vogels, Clare Bennett, John Fernandes, Peter Ryan, Dominic (Felix) Vaggioli OSB, Luz Dela Cruz, Yuna-Ae Kim, Asuncion Lopez, Eileen Malone, Lester Ramos, Tito Guleng, Robert Beveridge, Frank Douglas, Caroline Mitchell. *Eternal rest grant to them.*

### Time Out Days at St. Francis Retreat Centre

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.

[www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz](http://www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz) or 625 6651.

### Events at Mary MacKillop Retreat Centre

Regular **Taizé prayer** will happen on Fri 8 May at 7 pm in the Chapel. All are welcome. Sr Ann Neven is running a half-day session on the theme of **Grace** on Sat 9 May in Meeting Room 2 from 10 am–1 pm. Please see the flyer for more details.

### Mass of the Neophytes (Mass of Welcome)

Bishop Steve invites all those who were initiated into the Church at Easter, their families & friends, to return to the Cathedral of SS Patrick & Joseph on Sun 24 May, 4.30 pm. This is an opportunity to give thanks for the gift of faith & share with Bp Steve in the celebration of the Eucharist.

### Open Day: Mt Carmel School, Meadowbank

28 May, 9 am start. There will be a tour & a talk by the Principal. Everyone is welcome. RSVP to [enrolments@mtcarmel.school.nz](mailto:enrolments@mtcarmel.school.nz) to register.

### The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

falls on 17–24 May. Gather your people, join us & other Christian Church communities to the Ecumenical Day of Prayer for Christian Unity, 7 pm, Fri 29 May at St John Presbyterian Church, 422 Mt Albert Road, Mt Roskill. Let us respond to Christ's prayer to the Father, "That may they all be one."

### Marist College: 2027 enrolment—Yr 7 & Yr 9

Marist College is opening another round of enrolment applications for the 2027 student intake for Yrs 7 & 9.