

## 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](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](https://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."*

PALM SUNDAY ~ 29TH MARCH 2026

Matthew's Gospel draws us into the heart of the Passion, where every illusion about Messiahship is stripped away. From Judas' betrayal to the sealed tomb, we witness a dramatic clash between two logics: the logic of the world and the logic of God. Those who conspired against Jesus wanted a messiah who fit their expectations—one aligned with strength, control, influence, and visible triumph. They wanted power that dominates. But Jesus reveals a radically different kingship. He stands silent before false witnesses, refuses the sword in Gethsemane, and reigns from a cross. He is a Messiah who fits not the logic of worldly power, but the logic of self-sacrificing love. And because that love exposes the emptiness of violent and political ambition, he "has to die."

In the garden, we see the depth of this obedience. "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will, but as you will." Jesus does not embrace suffering abstractly; he feels its weight. He tastes fear, anguish, and loneliness. The disciples sleep. One betrays him with a kiss. Another denies even knowing him. The crowds who once shouted "Hosanna" now cry "Crucify him." Jesus enters fully into human instability and rejection.

On the cross the abandonment becomes stark: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" In that cry we hear the echo of every human desolation. Jesus experienced all our desolation in order to be ever close to us. He descended into the abyss of our most bitter sufferings—betrayal, injustice, humiliation, and apparent God-forsakenness. There is no darkness we enter that he has not already inhabited. There is no loneliness we endure that he has not transformed from within.

The centurion's confession—"Truly this was the Son of God"—reveals the paradox. Divine glory shines not in domination but in total self-giving. The Passion teaches us that God's power is love poured out to the end. To follow this Messiah is to renounce the world's logic of control and to entrust ourselves instead to the quiet, costly, and victorious power of the cross. *- Fr Stephen Berecz*

### "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 New Zealand & around the world: <https://www.caritas.org.nz/lent>

## Liturgy of the Word

**Isa 50:4–7** I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord helped me, therefore I have not been disgraced

**Psa 21 (22):7–8, 16–19, 22–23 R. 1a** My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

**Phili 2:6–11** Jesus humbled himself. Therefore God highly exalted him.

**Matt 26:14–27:66** The Passion of Jesus Christ, the Lord.

**Next weekend:** Acts 10:34a, 36–43; Psalm 117 (118):1–2, 16–17, 22–23 R. 24;

Colossians 3:1–4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b–8; John 20:1–18.

For Sunday and weekday readings see: [mobilegabriel.Ocom](http://mobilegabriel.Ocom) 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 Stephen Berecz

Sun 9.30 Fr Stephen Berecz

### Mass Times this week in Parnell

#### 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

### Reconciliation Times this week in Parnell

No 9.30 Saturday reconciliation during Holy Week.

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### St Michael's Remuera Mass times this week:

Sun 29 Mar 8 am, 10 am, 5 pm

Mon 30 Mar–Wed 1 Apr 7 am, 12 noon

Thurs 2 Apr 7.30 pm

Fri 3 Apr 3 pm

Sat 4 Apr 8 pm (approx. 2.5 hrs)

### 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.

### 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)

### 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.

### 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/>

### Upcoming Events at St. Francis Retreat Centre

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

**Time Out Days**—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.

**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.

### 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.

### Good Friday Stations Of The Cross

9–11 am 3 April. Gathering at Albert Park Rotunda & concluding at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Join the 18th Annual Stations of the Cross Procession through Auckland CBD this Good Friday! Experience a powerful & moving journey through the heart of the city as we walk together in prayer, remembering Christ's passion. Each year, 100s of people from across Auckland come together for public witness of faith. You, your family, & your faith community are invited to be part of this sacred tradition. For more details & event updates, please see the Facebook page: [@AKCYM](https://www.facebook.com/akcym)

### 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.

### 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.

### 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](mailto: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](http://iticket.co.nz) 0508 iTICKET

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

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

### 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.

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*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 Coughie, Adelaida Jones, 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, Alinda 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: Kath Saunders, Eileen Finlay, Paul Assinder, Mike Collins, Elizabeth Beckham, Bernadette Hague, Sheila Leishman, Tom Kiely, Peter Dew, Fr Denzil Meuli, Lyn Inslay, Leentje Meeuws-Marten, Alan Grey, Kuinimeli Taito Tusa, Dylan Mika, Sue Wynne Davis, Olinda Dias, John Gillespie, Brian Watt, Edna Peters, Ross Jennings, Frank Neven, Sean Nugent, Mary Davidson, Ron Boyd, Eugene Mooney, James Little, Peter Tran, Lau Yuk Wan Fong, Denis Stitch, Tom Dennehy, Len James, John Rose, Jim Redmond, Nick McNamara, Frank Cordtz, Caroline Mitchell, Rev Joe Shepherd, Ann Roper, Pamela Law, Mohi Hotene, Benjamin Martinez, Gordon Palairet, Nativitas Z Baylon, Otilie Adelinger, Noel Fernandes, Pacita Yap, Zita D'Souza, Eulogio Avila, Mary Whitener, Mary Rahman, Gary Viskovich, Edna Cororan, Marcia Macedo, Sinead Fox, John Sullivan, Irawan Kwik, Julia Barangan, Nelida Cordeta.*