

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH PARNELL
Sunday Mass Times (Winter timetable): Saturday 5 pm & Sunday 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
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 Paul's Parish, 162 Waimumu Road, Massey, on Wednesday 3rd June at 7 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

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."

ASCENSION ~ 17TH MAY 2026

A Call to Maturity

In the concluding verses of Matthew's Gospel, we encounter a profound moment of transition. The eleven disciples gather on a mountain in Galilee, standing before the risen Christ. Here, Jesus delivers the Great Commission, instructing them to make disciples of all nations, before making a final, enduring promise: 'I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

As we reflect on this passage and the mystery of the Ascension, we are invited into a vital shift in our spiritual lives. The Ascension is not a departure, but a transformation. The Ascension calls us to deepen our faith in Jesus's new presence among us. He is no longer bound by physical geography; instead, He permeates our reality through the Holy Spirit.

Embracing this new presence means letting go of spiritual complacency. It urges us to abandon any clinging to false expectations about the Lord immediately returning to resolve our world's problems. Jesus has entrusted the active healing of the world to us. This scripture recalls to our minds that we must work together to achieve the plans the Lord gives us. We are called to be His hands, His feet, and His voice in a fractured world.

Crucially, we do not undertake this mission in isolation. This passage stresses that it is as the Church community that we now experience the Lord's continued presence among us. When we gather in worship, serve the vulnerable, and break bread together, Christ is tangibly there.

Living out this commission is not about passively preserving the past, but actively engaging the present. It urges us to courageously interpret Jesus' teachings for our own changed societies. The Gospel must be a living, breathing word that speaks directly to the unique challenges, joys, and complexities of our modern lives.

Ultimately, the Ascension is not a conclusion, but a commencement. Today is truly the celebration of the call to maturity as Church. We are no longer waiting on the sidelines; we are empowered co-workers, guided by grace to build the Kingdom of God here and now.

- Fr Stephen Berecz

Sacred Heart College Vinnies Pyjama Drive

We are once again asking parishioners to donate warm, brand new children's pyjamas. These can be dropped off at mass or to the Secretary during office hours. These are distributed through Starship Hospital's Ronald McDonald House.

Liturgy of the Word

Acts 1:1–11 As the disciples were watching, Jesus was lifted up.

Psalms 46 (47):1–2, 5–8 God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Ephesians 1:17–23 God raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand.

Matthew 28:16–20 All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Next weekend: Acts 2:1–11; Psa 103 (104):1a, 24ac, 29b–31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b–7, 12–13; Jn 20:19–23.

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 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.

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

7 am Sunday Mass is scheduled to resume on 6th September.

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.

Marist College: 2027 enrolment—Yr 7 & Yr 9

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

Reflection Day: A Day with Thomas Merton

Sat 6 Jun; 10 am–1 pm. Meeting Room, Mary MacKillop Retreat Centre. Facilitator: Lyndall Brown rsj. "We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent, and God is shining through at all times." (Thomas Merton). A day to savour the inspirations of Thomas Merton through some of his writings using contemplative practices, music, & silence.

Auckland Catholic Youth Ministry Events

The Upper Room, Wed 20 May, 6:30 pm, Good George Mission Bay. Young adults, you won't want to miss this! Join ACYM for a night of faith & fellowship in this special interview-style event, James Bergin will sit down with Frank Ritchie to explore his remarkable journey—from serving as a Wesleyan Methodist minister to entering the Catholic Church this Easter just past. Together they will reflect on the faith, discernment & courage required to surrender fully to God's call. This is a must-attend event, so be sure to grab your tickets early! For more info & tickets go to [@AKCYM](https://www.facebook.com/@AKCYM) on Facebook or search for the upper-room-may-2026 on Humanitix. **Diocesan Youth Mass**, St Patrick's Cathedral, 43 Wyndham St, Auckland, Sun 31 May, 4:30–5:30 pm. Join ACYM for the April Diocesan Youth Mass! All are welcome! Please invite your whanau, your friends, & your wider faith community to join us as well.

Details at <https://www.facebook.com/share/18U8qGu97o/> **Youth Day Launch** On the 7 June at Holy Family Korean Parish, Flatbush, begins with mass at 2:30 pm w Bp Steve Lowe. Priests are welcome to join this mass w their parish's young adult groups. There will be sessions & programmes to follow after Mass.

Hou Mana Wai Mercy Wellsprings

104 The Drive, Epsom. To register for any events, email Rebecca: office@mercywellsprings.org.nz **Dreamwork 101, Working with Dreams—22–23 May 2026.** Presenter: Jennifer McGarry & Diane Batchelor. \$130. Venue: McAuley Room. **SoulCollage®—Thu 4 Jun.** 1–4 pm or 6.30–9 pm. Presenter: Shannon Mawdsley. \$35/koha. Venue: McAuley Centre, Hou Mana Wai Mercy Wellsprings, 104 The Drive, Epsom.

CHARIS NZ Annual Pentecost Celebration

24 May at St. Mark's, Pakūranga, beginning at 4.30 pm w fellowship, followed by praise & worship, prayer ministry, & Mass at 6.30 pm.

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.

Events at St. Francis Retreat Centre

www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz or 625 6651. **Franciscan Friars Vocation Dinner—Auckland—** Single men aged 18–40 are warmly invited to join the Franciscan Friars for an eve of prayer, fellowship & conversation. Wed 27 May, 6:00pm (Mass & Evening Prayer, followed by a shared meal) at St Francis Retreat Centre (50 Hillsborough Rd, Mt Roskill). This gathering is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Franciscan religious life & to ask questions in a relaxed & welcoming environment. RSVP/enquiries: Br Philip Jeffares OFM +64 210 414 642; Br Yornes Panggur OFM +64 225 259 93. Email: vocations@franciscans.org.au **Pilgrimage of Mercy Women's Retreat—**Inspired by the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, this semi-silent weekend retreat invites you to receive mercy at the places of deepest thirst. Come & be led by grace to the river of mercy. Fri 29 May 5 pm–Sun 31 May 1:30. **Time Out Days—**For those who seek to take a day off. Cost is just \$35. It includes lunch, prayer times, mediation & reflection 9:30 am–2:30 pm. Tue 9 Jun; Thu 13 Aug; Tue 15 Sep; Wed 7 Oct.

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 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 Eumenical 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."

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: Karen Tse, Patricia Maria Ong, Judith Parkinson, Kay Vlcek, Bonnie Shanahan, John Galumalemana, John Ikitongia, Patricia Yurack, Susan Tye, Michael Burn, Tuhi Apell, John Faire, Blessie Gotingco, Bridget McCullough, Lorna Wright, Anthony Lovrice, Joan Burcellman, Francisco Lucero, Robyn Sewter, Allison Waldron-Daly, Ong Liong Kee, Veronica Handojo, Joan Armstrong, Sr Denise Fitzgerald rsj, Noel Doherty, Br Reginald Burgess, Cathy Eman, Bruce Birnie, George Holmes-Kinsella, Frank O'Gorman, Iowana Konarkowska, Brian Hamlin, Gijbertus van Dam, Rex McGovern, Robert & Eleanor Drazdak, Syd Tonks, Lionel Ribero, Maia Nguyen Thi Phoung, Angela O'Brien, Basiran Khan, Fr Frank Shannahan, Jaoquim Menezes, Frank Sylvester, Jacqueline McVey, Paul Reynolds, Rowena Capundag, Dr James Cameron Bowie, Patricia Tunison Preston, Nancy Henderson, Mavis Jager-Smith, Philomena Wade, Bp Phillippe Viard SM, Filipina Orpania, Perlito Capundag. *Eternal rest grant to them.*

Tuesdays at St John the Baptist, Mairangi Bay

26 May, 7–8 pm, *Mary Untier of Knots*, w Beate Matthes—History & Reflection on one of Pp Francis's favourite paintings. More info: studyjoy.nz/events/mary-untier-of-knots/

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 this internationally renowned Catholic theologian this June in Hamilton for a 3-night formation series at the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Hamilton (9–11 Jun). Known around the world for her engaging teaching on Scripture & the Holy Spirit, Dr Healy helps people hear God's voice more clearly & grow in confidence in the gifts he gives for the building up of the Church. Everyone is warmly invited to the 3-night series (9–11 Jun) exploring the power of God's Word, the life of the Holy Spirit, & our call to live our faith today. Alongside the evening mission there will also be: a clergy workshop—Awakening the Gifts of the Faithful (Wed 10); a leadership formation day for clergy, diocesan staff, & parish leaders (Thurs 11). This is a wonderful opportunity for clergy, parish leaders, & anyone seeking to deepen their faith & grow in service to the Church. All are warmly invited. Full details & registration are available at <https://www.eventzilla.net/e/rebuild-my-church--dr-mary-healy-2138676397>