

**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](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 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](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 SVDP 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."*

PENTECOST ~ 24TH MAY 2026

### Breathing New Life

In the Gospel for Pentecost Sunday, we find the disciples huddled behind locked doors, paralyzed by fear and uncertainty following the crucifixion. Suddenly, the risen Christ stands among them, piercing their anxiety with a profound greeting: 'Peace be with you.' He shows them His wounds—the undeniable marks of His sacrifice—and then commissions them to continue His work in the world.

Central to this commissioning is an intimate, transformative act: Jesus breathes on them. This echoes the very dawn of creation, when God breathed life into the first human. Here, Christ is breathing new spiritual life into His emerging Church. As we reflect deeply on this moment, we must understand that the words 'Receive a Holy Spirit' express both a fact and a command: by breathing on them, Jesus is giving them the Holy Spirit, but they must accept this gift actively. The Spirit is freely and graciously poured out, yet it requires our willing, conscious cooperation to bear fruit in our daily lives.

Jesus immediately links this outpouring of the Spirit to a specific, vital mission: 'If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them.' The reference to the forgiveness of sins evokes and suggests that the disciples are to be the community in which the new covenant, climaxing in the forgiveness of sins, is to be realised and actualised. God's law is no longer merely written on stone tablets, but inscribed upon the transformed human heart.

What does this mean for our parish today? It reminds us that our church is not just a gathering place, but a living, breathing community entrusted with a profound ministry of reconciliation. We are called to actively open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, unlocking our own doors of fear, judgment, or resentment. Empowered by that Spirit, we are challenged to become living vessels of God's mercy, extending the radical forgiveness of the new covenant to a world desperately in need of healing.

- 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 2:1–11** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages.

**Psa 103 (104):1a, 24ac, 29b–31, 34** Lord send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

**1 Cor 12:3b–7, 12–13** In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

**Jn 20:19–23** As the Father has sent me, so I send you.

**Next weekend:** Exod 34:4b–6, 8–9; Dan 3:52–56 (Song of the 3); 2 Cor 13:11–13; Jn 3:16–18.

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 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:

Sat Pentecost Vigil 7.30 pm  
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.

### Former St John the Baptist Scout Group



A Catholic scout leader is wanting help to obtain a scarf & name badge of this former scout group in our parish. This is part of a project to record the history of Catholic-sponsored scout groups in NZ. Sewn on the scarf would have been the badge used by Catholic

scout groups—see image alongside. If you can help, please contact Edmund le Grelle, ph 021 2619369 or [edmund@legrelle.co.nz](mailto:edmund@legrelle.co.nz)

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

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

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

26 May, 7–8 pm, *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/)

### 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.

### 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.

### Events at St. Francis Retreat Centre

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

### Auckland Catholic Youth Ministry Events

**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.

### 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 2026 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

falls on 17–24 May. Bp Steve, the Diocesan staff, & Fr John Fitzmaurice of Ōwairaka parish, invite you to the Ecumenical Day of Prayer for Christian Unity 7 pm on Fri 29 May at St John Presbyterian Church, 422 Mt Albert Road, Mt Roskill. Let us respond to Christ's call, "that may they all be one," joining in unison with our brothers & sisters from the wider Christian communities to a time of worship. Light refreshments after the service.

### 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.

### SoulCollage®—Hou Mana Wai Mercy Wellsprings

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. To register for any events, email Rebecca:

[office@mercywellsprings.org.nz](mailto:office@mercywellsprings.org.nz)

### Events at the Mary MacKillop Retreat Centre

**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.

**Taizé Prayer**, Fri 12 Jun at 7 pm.

### Job Vacancy: Youth Minister

The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth in the Diocese of Palmerston North is seeking a vibrant & faith-filled Youth Minister to lead & grow youth engagement in the parish. This role involves running youth groups & events, leading the Confirmation programme, building strong relationships with local Catholic colleges, & encouraging young people to take an active part in parish life. For the full position description contact [sl@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:sl@catholicparishnp.nz) Applications close 30 May.

### The Council of Christians and Muslims (CCM)

are celebrating a special milestone: 30 years since their foundation. Sat, 6 Jun, 2.30–6 pm.

[theccm.org.nz/events/](http://theccm.org.nz/events/) or see poster in foyer for details.

### 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>

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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 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, Thilsi Vern, Ivy Hi, Dina Miranda, Malu Beltran, Vivien Emery, Gil Melling, Teresa Gudex, Corazon Villanueva Misa, Ben Hunt, Angela Robinson, Anne Telles, Kirei Tui, 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: Monica Hunt, Marie Mole, Brian Gaynor, Bridie Mortimer, Joan Ward, Anna Thorpe, Susan Tye, Michael Burn, Sr Denise Fitzgerald rsj, Noel Doherty, Paul Reynolds, George Holmes-Kinsella, Bruce Birnie, Lorna Wright, Lionel Ribero, Maia Nguyen Thi Phoung, Rex McGovern, Angela O'Brien, Fr Frank Shannahan, Jacqueline McVey, Nancy Henderson, Sr Mary Gaines. Eternal rest grant to them.*