

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."

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ 3RD MAY 2026

In the Gospel this week, Jesus offers profound comfort to his anxious disciples on the eve of his crucifixion. Facing his imminent departure, he reassures them not merely with the promise of a future heavenly dwelling place, but with the immediate, transformative reality of his perfect union with God.

When Philip desperately asks, "Lord, show us the Father," Jesus responds with a stunning claim about divine intimacy. The relationship between Jesus and his Father is so close and profound that to know Jesus is to know the Father, that is, personally and intimately experience the Father, as children know their father. Jesus is the perfect, unblemished mirror of the Divine; there is no hidden, distant God behind the back of Jesus. Every act of profound compassion, every word of uncompromising truth, and every gesture of healing witnessed in Christ's earthly ministry is a direct, unfiltered encounter with the Creator's own heart.

However, this theological truth is not meant to be passively observed; it is a catalyst for our own transformation. The purpose of this revelation is not only that every believer should know God as Father and so enjoy the divine life but also that they should complete Jesus' mission from his Father by doing even greater works than Jesus did during his mortal life. These "greater works" do not imply a greater inherent power or divinity than Christ, but rather a greater earthly scope. Empowered by the promised Holy Spirit, the disciples - and all future believers - are tasked with multiplying this grace, taking the love and restorative justice of God far beyond the geographical borders of first-century Judea and into all corners of the world.

Ultimately, this passage serves as an enduring invitation to divine adoption and lifelong imitation. The believer, being a member of God's family, is called to behave exactly as God shows himself to act in the incarnate person of his Son. By abiding deeply in the love of the Father and looking constantly to the Son as our ultimate template for living, we step fully into our true identity. We become the living hands and feet of Christ, bringing his light, his healing, and his truth to a fractured world.
 - Fr Stephen Berecz

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

Last week was the last 7 am Sunday Mass for the autumn. It is scheduled to resume on 6th September.

Liturgy of the Word

Acts 6:1–7 Select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit & of wisdom.

Psalm 32 (33): 1–2, 4–5, 18–19 **Ps. 22** Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1 Peter 2:4–9 You are called to be a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

John 14:1–12 I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

Next weekend: Acts 8:5–8, 14–17; Psalm 65 (66):1–3a, 4–7a, 16, 20; 1 Peter 3:15–18; John 14:15–21.

For Sunday and weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.com AND/OR www.livingtheword.org.nz

Presiding Priest this Sunday

Sat 5 pm Fr Michael McCabe
Sun 9.30 Fr Michael McCabe

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 who assisted at the medical incident at Mass last Saturday evening. The gentleman concerned has returned home and is comfortable.

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.

Events at St. Francis Retreat Centre

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). Thu 7 May, Tue 9 Jun, Thu 13 Aug, Tue 15 Sep, Wed 7 Oct.

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.

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 & search "Holy Days Auckland".

Hou Mana Wai Mercy Wellsprings

To register for any events, please email Rebecca: 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.

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.

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."

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.

Rebuild My Church — Dr Mary Healy

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

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.

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/

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.

Joshua Cath Men's Fellowship 40-yr celebration

Fri 14th afternoon–Sun 16th Aug noon. Keswick Christian Camp, 5 Cooper Ave, Holden's Bay, Rotorua. \$247pp incl accommodation & meals. Contact Mike Lobo 021 2809285 or Greg Sullivan 021 437747 <https://menforchrist.wufoo.com/forms/joshua-40th-anniversary-celebration-rotorua>

Marist College: 2027 enrolment—Yr 7 & Yr 9

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

Please pray for those who are sick, recovering from surgery, or needing our prayers, especially: Jim Brown, Matthew Newman, Teresa Gabriela, 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 Coughney, 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: Graeme Thomas MEEK, Br John Edmund Fitzgibbon FMS, Maureen Hall, Karen Tse, Vera Wiseman, Thomas Mulligan, Sr Kathleen Franich sm, Sr Rosemarie Lawson RSJ, Anna Scoullar Jones, Rody Balones, Hannibal & Gloria Adique, Josefina Abcede, Alexander Martinez, Fr Bruce Munday, Teh Kah Chin, Virginia Boak, Antonia Fepuleai, Tom Brown, Liam Cogan, Ray Potbury, Marie Anthony, Darin McKay, Lotte Jensen, Stephen Roberts, Maria Hunt, Josefina Abcede, Janet Coutinho, Nestor Sadiarin, Evangeline Escobillo, David Smyth, Carlos Yudi, Eileen Ham, Laila Osunsade, Dino Cornelio, Elizabeth Bond, Joan Davenport, Francisco Pardoillo, Sr Mary Gaines RSJ, Sr Imelda Windle OP, Mike Bakker, Sr M Vianney RSM, Br Paul Scott FMS, John Newman-Watt, John Eman, Lawrence McNamara, Frank Fahy, Pauline Saltman, Jacinto Macarubbo, Rodrigo de los Santos, Clive Cooper, Fr Pat Logue MHM, Fr Tony Ives, Br Thomas Lynch FMS, Fr Denis O'Sullivan, Damiana Abalos, Dudley Jenke. *Eternal rest grant to them.*