

**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 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."*

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ 10TH MAY 2026

### Abiding in the Spirit: A Call to Unity

In the heartfelt discourse of John's Gospel leading up to his passion, Jesus makes a profound promise to his disciples: he will not leave them orphaned. He promises the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will dwell with them and in them forever.

Today's reading is one of the many summaries of John's vision of Christianity: the Father is the point of departure for all authentic views of life; Jesus is sent by the Father and teaches us because he and the Father are one; we are Church when we live abiding in the love of the Lord; each individual baptized in the Lord's name becomes one with him through the ongoing gift of the Spirit.

This continuous, divine indwelling completely transforms how we understand our faith. It moves us from merely observing God from a distance to actively participating in His very life. As Jesus assures his followers: When the Spirit comes, 'On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you' (14:20). What does this mean for our parish family as we walk out of the church doors and into our daily routines? It means that our faith is deeply connected. John's is a theology and spirituality of unity, reminding us that in the Spirit we too can be sources of unity for others. In a world that so often feels fractured, polarized, and isolating, our community is called to be a living, breathing sign of this divine togetherness. When we love Christ and keep his commandments, we become vessels of his peace to everyone we encounter.

Therefore, today's liturgy is a challenge to refocus our personal and communal lives on the central values of life in the Spirit. It asks us to look closely at our habits, our conversations, and our daily interactions. Are we fostering division, or are we actively building bridges through the grace of the Holy Spirit? Let us open our hearts to the Advocate this week, allowing God's unending love to bind us closer to Him and to one another.

*- 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 8:5–8, 14–17** Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

**Psalm 65 (66):1–3a, 4–7a, 16, 20** Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

**1 Peter 3:15–18** Christ was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.

**John 14:15–21** I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate.

**Next weekend:** Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 46 (47):1–2, 5–8; Ephesians 1:17–23; Matthew 28:16–20.

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 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.

### 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.

### Thanks & appreciation from Monte Cecilia

Thank you for your generous donations of Easter eggs. Your kindness & compassion have truly reflected the true meaning of Easter, a time of hope & sharing blessings with our families. Our children & families were able to experience joy, feel remembered, & celebrate the gift of Easter together. Blessings & Peace to you all. —Elaine F Lolesio (Monte Cecilia Housing Trust)

### Benedicite: A Choral Tribute

10 May, 5 pm. Holy Trinity Cathedral presents Benedicite, a joyful hymn of praise, in memory of composer Andrew Carter. Derived from the Book of Daniel, Benedicite is a song of praise offered by three young men saved from the fiery furnace: "O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord, praise him and magnify him forever."

### 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)  
**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. **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.

### 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.

### 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/)

### The Upper Room: Wed 20 May, 6:30 pm

Good George Mission Bay. Young adults, you won't want to miss this! Join us 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

### 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."

### 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. Malaola Community Centre, 16 Waokauri Place, Māngere.

### 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.

### 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.

*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, Chonisi 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 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:* Yvonne Lyons, Huhana Susan Edmonds, Maurice Hall, Patricia Maria Ong, Peg Taylor-Innes, Justinus A. Gunadjaja, William Yiin, Henry Martin Mascringhas, Mary Culas, Dolores Santillan, Domingo Benitez Snr, Ellie Blackwell, Hyeran Baek, Peter van der Fluitt, Peter Lau, Alf Just, Fengxin Wang, Ciaran Doherty, Tom Brown, Michael Byrne, Jean Meo, Mary Shirtcliffe, Darin McKay, Lynette Beare, Anastacia Estrada Sison, George Fraser, Jane Schollum, Jeff Kam, Lalia Osunsade, Sr Alice Tachen rsj, Graeme Marshall, Wan Hyong Choi, Brendan O'Malley, Sugaritha Joseph, Koan Antony, Angela O'Brien, Rex Mc Govern, Henry Shaw, Mavis Jager-Smith, Iris Day, Mercedes Manikan, Sharon Lim, Vivienne White, Sandra Sequeira, Dorothy Mulvey, Joseph Rajan, Lily Hoy, Philomena Wade, Douglas Mortimer, William Tapper, Beunarentura Galang, Kay Naidoo, Baptist D'Souza, Vern Anamallay, Jimmy Ong, Carlos Garcia, Jean Evans, Dudley Jenke, Roy Barden, Iris Macedo, Hope Buckton, Abelardo Comilang, Peter Ryan, Mary Angell, Edmund Fitzpatrick, Sarah Concisom, Guy Chambers, Fr Peter Durning OP, Aileen Belcher, Hip Yan Foon Kam, Edward de Silva, Fr George McHardy sm, Niko Bartulovich. *Eternal rest grant to them.*