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. ***Sat morn Mass & Reconciliation resumed 4th Jul.***

Parish Priest: Father Stephen Berecz. Email sberecz@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 the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph, 43 Wyndam Street, on Wednesday 5th August 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 SVDP 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/

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 №: 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."

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time—5th July 2026

In this week's Gospel, Jesus offers a prayer of thanksgiving and an invitation that reaches into the deepest longings of the human heart. He praises the Father for revealing divine truth not to the wise and learned, but to the little ones—those who are open, humble, and receptive. In a world that often prizes knowledge, status, and control, Jesus points instead to the simplicity of trust as the path to truly knowing God.

He then turns outward with one of the most comforting invitations in the Gospel: "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest." These words speak to anyone weighed down—by responsibility, failure, anxiety, or the pressure to prove oneself. Jesus does not deny the reality of these burdens, but he offers a different way of carrying them.

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me," he says, "for I am gentle and humble of heart." The image of the yoke might seem, at first, to suggest more weight, more obligation. Yet the text summons readers to a discipleship that is easy and a burden that is light. The Greek word rendered as "easy" carries also the connotation of "suitable, appropriate, easy to wear." The yoke of Christ is not an ill-fitting demand placed upon us; it is something shaped perfectly for who we are, something that allows us to move freely and live fully.

This is because the yoke of Jesus is not simply a set of rules, but a relationship. To be yoked to Christ is to walk alongside him, learning from his way of living. His gentleness and humility redefine what it means to be strong. He does not drive or coerce; he invites and accompanies. In sharing his yoke, he also shares the weight, making what seems heavy become bearable.

The rest that Jesus promises is not merely physical relief, but a deep, spiritual peace—a resting of the soul in God. It is the freedom that comes from no longer striving to earn love or prove worth, but simply receiving it.

In taking on the yoke of Christ, we do not lose ourselves; rather, we find our true selves. His way, gentle and life-giving, leads us into the fullness of life God desires for us.

—Fr Stephen Berecz

Liturgy of the Word

Zech 9:9–10 Lo, your king comes to you, humble and riding on a donkey.
Psa 144 (145):1–2, 8–11, 13cd–14 I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.
Rom 8:9, 11–13 If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
Matt 11:25–30 I am gentle and humble in heart.

Next weekend: Isaiah 55:10–11; Psalm 64 (65):9–13; Romans 8:18–23; Matthew 13:1–23.

Presiding Priest this Sunday

Sat 5 p.m.	Dr Michael McCabe
Sun 9.30	Dr Michael McCabe

Mass Times this week in Parnell

Fri 10 July (Matariki)	9 a.m.
Sat	9 a.m.

Reconciliation Times this week in Parnell

Sat	9.30 a.m.

St Michael's Remuera Parish Mass Times this week

Sun	8 a.m., 10 a.m., 5 p.m.
Mon–Fri	7 a.m., 12 noon
Sat	8 a.m.

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.

Parnell Parish Sunday Roast

Sun 2 Aug, 1.30 pm, at Notting Hill café, Parnell. Roast pork, lamb & potatoes w sautéed broccoli, mint & apple sauces, horseradish cream & rich, dark, gravy. Apple crumble w custard & cream. Tea, coffee & filtered water. 50 seats @ $80. Buy tickets at the parish office or email office@parnellcatholic.org.nz

Mass Matariki

The usual Mass for public holidays is scheduled for 9 a.m. this Fri 10 Jul at St John the Baptist.

Monte Cecilia Annual Winter Woollies Appeal

As the colder months approach, Monte Cecilia Housing Trust requests your support for our families in need through our annual Winter Woollies Appeal, seeking donations of new warm Clothing & Blankets to help keep everyone warm this winter. If you can help, please bring your donations to the main office: 30 Windrush Cl, Māngere. Mon–Fri 9 am–4 pm. If you'd rather make a financial contribution, you can do so through montececilia.org.nz Your generosity can make a big difference in the lives of the families they support.

The Beginning Experience—ALONE AGAIN ?

A weekend away to help those suffering the heartache of Separation, Divorce or Widowhood on 21–23 Aug. The Beginning Experience is a non-profit organization that provides support for the grieving single again, & offers an opportunity to turn the pain of loss into an experience of positive growth. The cost for 2 nights' accommodation, meals, materials & follow up event is $350 w early bird cost $325 if paid by 8 Jul. For further information please phone Karena evenings on 021802-352. www.beginningexperience.org.nz

Events at St. Francis Retreat Centre

www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz or 625 6651.

Public Talk with Br William Short OFM—Br. Bill Short OFM, a renowned American Franciscan author & speaker, professor of Christian spirituality, & Director of the Collegium Bonaventuram, will offer a talk on Thu 9 Jul at 7 pm at St Therese Parish Hall, 463 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings. Entrance is free. Koha is most welcome. The topic of his talk is "St Francis: Friend of the Poor, Lover of Peace, Brother to all Creatures".

Reflect & Renew Weekend Retreat—A gentle, spacious weekend designed for rest, prayer & renewal. Led by our spiritual directors, this event offers time to step away from the noise of daily life & reconnect with God in the beauty & stillness at the friary. Fri 24 Jul, 7 pm–Sun 26 Jul, 3 pm.

Mary MacKillop Retreat Centre: Reflection Day

The Humanity of Jesus, Sat 18 Jul; 10 am–1 pm. Venue: Meeting Room. Facilitator: Ann Neven rsj. This is an opportunity to reflect with Fr Daniel O'Leary on a further Chapter of his book—An Astonishing Secret. "Son of God, Jesus, you were formed in the womb of Mary, your mother, & you became part of this earth, gazing at it with Human eyes." —Pope Francis. See poster in foyer.

Fr Paul Turner Ars Celebrandi Workshop

The NZCBC warmly invites clergy, parish liturgy teams, school staff, deacons, & all involved in the preparation of the sacred liturgy to a special workshop with international liturgist Fr Paul Turner. Inspired by Pp Francis's Apostolic Letter *Desiderio Desideravi*, this workshop will explore the *ars celebrandi*, the art of celebrating the liturgy with reverence, understanding, & fidelity to the mind & heart of the Church. Fr Turner will lead practical & enriching sessions aimed at deepening our understanding of the Eucharist & strengthening the celebration of Mass in our parishes & schools. Fr Turner is pastor of Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri & director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St Joseph. He holds a doctorate in sacred theology from Sant' Anselmo in Rome. He is a consultor for the Dicastery for Divine Worship & the Discipline of the Sacraments. His numerous publications include "Guide for..." The Liturgical Ministry series of books & dozens of other titles. As pastor of diverse parishes, he spent many years ministering in a state prison, serving an Hispanic & multi-ethnic community, & providing assistance to the homeless. Sat 25 Jul, Christ the King Church, Ōwairaka, 260 Richardson Rd, Mt Roskill. Parish Mass @ 9 am, sessions 10 am–2.30 pm. Morning Tea provided. BYO Lunch please. Register at www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/paul-turner/

Conversations of the Soul

Hou Mana Wai Mercy Wellsprings, 104 The Drive, Epsom. Sat 11 Jul. 9.30 am–3.30 pm. $35/koha. Facilitated by Adriana Janus. To register, email Rebecca: office@mercywellsprings.org.nz

Retreat: St John of the Cross, Cath Saint & Mystic

The Auckland Community for Christian Meditation is running a retreat at the St Francis Retreat Centre (the Friary) over the weekend of July 17 to 19. Led by Fr Frank Bird SM, the retreat will explore important themes around prayer, the experience of growing in union with God, & the journey of transformation drawn from St John's writings. To register go to christianmeditationnz.org.nz/community-days-retreats

P/T Catholic Chaplain for Whangārei Hospital

A part-time (15 hrs/week) Catholic Chaplain position is available at Whangārei Hospital. Applicants should have (or be willing to undertake) Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) or have relevant ministry experience, along with a foundation in Catholic sacramental theology. The role involves providing pastoral, spiritual, & emotional support to patients, families & staff from diverse backgrounds, while working collaboratively within a multidisciplinary healthcare team in line w the Treaty of Waitangi principles. The successful candidate will join an ecumenical chaplaincy team through Hospital Chaplaincy Aotearoa. Ongoing professional development, training & support are provided. To view the full ad & position description, please visit www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz under Diocesan Services & Staff Vacancies. Appl close 17 Jul.

Delargey Awards 2026

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Delargey Awards, which recognise significant & outstanding ministry w young people. In addition to identifying key contributors to youth ministry, the awards provide a chance to highlight the Church's outreach to teens & young adults. The awards are named after Reginald Card Delargey, former Abp of Wellington & Bp of Auckland. Nominations cl on 31 Jul. Find out more at: bit.ly/Delargey2026

World Youth Day Auckland 2026

10 a.m.–8:30 p.m. Sat 1 Aug at Victory Convention Centre. Join over 1,800 young Catholics at Victory Convention Centre for WYD AUK 2026—a massive, joy-filled day of faith, community & witness. Inspired by the Scripture chosen for the 40th WYD, "You also are my witnesses, because you have been w me" (Jn 15:27). This yr's event is about fixing our gaze on Jesus & becoming courageous witnesses of Christ in our world. For more info & to register go to events.humanitix.com/world-youth-day-auckland-2026

For Sale: Unit 8, 28 Smythe Rd, Henderson

Price by negotiation. Own private gate to the property providing exclusive private space in the front of the property. Beautiful view from master bedroom. Garden access to open grounds. Waitākere hospital 6 mins away. Waitākere city shopping mall 8 mins away. Henderson school walking distance. Henderson train station 7 mins walk. Henderson Park 7 mins walk. Last house № 8 on the block. For more details contact Shibu 0223738900, Sharon 0223707900.

Please pray for those who are sick, recovering from surgery, or needing our prayers, especially:

Jim Brown, Matthew Newman, Teresa Gabriola, Lynnette Salvador, Luke Sebastian Catiben, Scott Hickey, 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 Coughey, 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:

Maureen Adsett, Noel McGuire, Patricia McKay, Angelita Bauda, Leola Ellen Kirk, Fernanda Burns, Marie Allan, Felicisimo Baldo, Phillip Daniels, Elaine McGrath, Dawn Davis, Giandomenico Ghella, William Waby, Cathy Mika, Henry Abecede, Teofilo Damasco, Mary Rajan, Marie Stevens, Karen Smith, Tilly White, Mary Ryan, Peter Cheyne, Fr Ivan Lunjevich, Msgr Lui Tevaga, Zachary Abesia, Teodoro Abesia Jr, Agnes Pile, Muriel Fisher, Erin McCrea-Bartrum, James Young, Vivienne Lyons, Alfonse Mary Joseph, Tito Sinining, Mary Emmett, Keith Hamlin, Desmond O'Sullivan, Elizabeth Evelyn Price, Ann Johnson, Sr Joan Timpany, Mary (Molly) Neal, Doreen Cox, Sharon Lim, Edwin Escandor, Frank Antonucci, James Smyth, Don Cederwall, Margaret Scanlan, Peter Collins, Fr Eugene O'Sullivan OP, Rosa Almeida, Joseph Flanagan, Hoani Hotene, Mary Ferrario, Jack Toland, Norman Cameron, Tony Barbavich, Steve Fleming, Ignacio Deiparine, Eilenne Cleal, Ryn Hyum Lee, Jeong Waill Seong, Bock Lyim Kang, Fr Paddy Murray, Fr Patrick McCrory MHM. Eternal rest grant to them.