St John the Baptist Catholic Church Parnell

Sunday Mass Times (Winter timetable): Saturday 5 pm & Sunday 9.30 am.
No 7 am Mass May–August. Saturday 9 am Mass & 9.30 am Reconciliation.
Public holidays 9 am. No weekday Masses until further notice.

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."

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time—12th July 2026

In Matthew's Gospel this week, Jesus tells the familiar parable of the Sower, a story both simple and searching. A farmer scatters seed across different types of ground: the path, the rocky soil, the thorn-filled earth, and finally the rich soil. Each setting represents a different response to the word of God. Some hear but do not understand; others receive the word with joy but fall away when difficulties arise; still others are overwhelmed by the cares and attractions of the world. Only the good soil bears fruit.

This parable invites honest self-reflection. While the disciples may have to ask themselves questions about their own hearing of the gospel, there is nevertheless assurance about the ultimate outcome of the sowing of the word. Jesus is not simply describing failure or warning of obstacles; he is revealing the deeper truth that God's word is always fruitful, even if that fruit is not immediately visible.

The final scene of the parable shifts our focus. It is a picture not of the birds snatching away the seed sown on the path, nor of the rootless plants on the rocky ground wilting in the heat, nor of the fragile stalks crowded out by weeds, but of a full and bountiful harvest. The yield is astonishing - thirty, sixty, even a hundredfold. This is not ordinary growth; it is a sign of divine abundance.

For the first disciples, who were so few among so many, and for Matthew's community, dwarfed by its surroundings, this image would have been deeply reassuring. Their experience may have been one of small numbers, rejection, and opposition. Yet Jesus points them beyond what they can see to what God is bringing about. The remarkable size of the harvest becomes a promise: God's purposes will not fail.

The same message speaks to us today. We may sometimes feel that our efforts to live the Gospel are unnoticed or ineffective. We may encounter indifference or resistance. Yet the parable reminds us that the growth of the Kingdom does not depend solely on human success, but on God's grace.

We are called to be good soil—open, receptive, and faithful. And as we allow the word to take root in our lives, we trust that, in ways often hidden from us, God is bringing about a grand and glorious harvest.

—Fr Stephen Berecz

Liturgy of the Word

Isa 55:10–11 The rain makes the earth bring forth and sprout.
Psa 64 (65):9–13 The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.
Rom 8:18–23 Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.
Matt 13:1–23 Listen: A sower went out to sow.

Next weekend: Ws 12:12, 16–19; Ps 85 (86):5–6, 9–10, 15–16; Rm 8:26–27; Mt 13:24–43.

Presiding Priest this Sunday

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

Mass Times this week in Parnell

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

Study Theology at the University of Otago

The Theology Programme at the University of Otago offers many opportunities for the study of Theology, Biblical Studies, Church History, Ministry, Pastoral Theology (including Chaplaincy) & Māori & Pacific approaches to Christian Theology. You can study either on-campus or across Aotearoa New Zealand through our distance study programme. We are committed to serving Christian communities throughout the country. Semester 2 starts on 13 Jul. For details of papers go to: https://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/papers/ To enrol go to https://www.otago.ac.nz/study/enrolment/ To keep up to date, like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/theologyotago

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.

World Youth Day Auckland 2026

10 a.m.–8:30 p.m. Sat 1 Aug at Victory Convention Centre. Go to events.humanitix.com/world-youth-day-auckland-2026 for more info.

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 & multiethnic 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/

Parish Coordinator

St Joseph & Joachim Parish in Ōtāhuhu is seeking a capable & motivated individual to join the team as a Parish Coordinator. This is a t/t role of 20 hrs/week, working Tue–Fri 9–2.30 pm. The successful candidate will play a key role in supporting the Parish Priest & ensuring the smooth & efficient operation of the parish office on a day-to-day basis. Responsibilities include: Reception; Secretarial services; Office administration; Executive Assistant support to parish priest; Parish communications, incl website; Parish records & Mass preparation. For full details, please visit the CDA's website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz – Diocesan Services – Staff Vacancies.

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.

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

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. www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz or 625 6651.

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.

Overcome Addictions by Fr Robert Steele

Fr Robert Steele, who struggled with alcohol addiction before his ordination but has just marked 25 years of sobriety, has published *A Journey of Hope: Combating Pornography on the Internet*. He says his book, described as a Catholic approach to healing & freedom, comes from a place of empathy, not judgement. Tue 28 Jul, 7–8 pm. St John the Baptist Church, Mairangi Bay.

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

Retreat Day for Women: Sun 2 Aug

Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia. Register at https://events.humanitix.com/retreat-for-women

Part Time Parish Receptionist

St Anne's Church in Manurewa is seeking a friendly & organised part-time Parish Receptionist to be the welcoming face of their parish community. This role involves greeting visitors, supporting the parish office, assisting w events, & helping create a warm & welcoming environment for all. They are looking for someone who enjoys working w people, is well organised, & appreciates the mission & values of the Catholic Church. If you're passionate about community & service, they would love to hear from you! Please view the SEEK link below for more details & how to apply. https://nz.seek.com/job/92934322

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

Felipe Navarro Jr, 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:

Fr Michael Bancroft, Tess Keenan, Brian Hunt, Philippa Hall, Joe Hall, Annette Louise Linehan, Michael Murray, Simon Gibson, Lynette Wills, Rafael Panag Llaguno Snr, Sister Palencio, Sr Margaret Timms rsm, Maria Tipene, Sr Marina Norris rsj, Frances Denham, Gertrude Ng, Msgr Ray Green, Giandomenico Ghella, William Waby, Teofilo Damasco, Mary Rajan, Marie Stevens, Karen Smith, Tilly White, Mary Ryan, Desmond O'Sullivan, Elizabeth Price, Ann Johnson, Sr Joan Timpany, Dawn Davis, Doreen Cox, Sharon Lim, Frank Antonucci, James Smyth, Fr Eugene O'Sullivan OP, Rosa Almeida, Margaret Scanlan, Joseph Flanagan, Hoani Hotene, Mary Ferrario.