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."

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time—26th July 2026

In Gospel of Matthew, Jesus gathers a series of short parables that reveal the incomparable value of the Kingdom of heaven. The treasure hidden in a field and the pearl of great price both speak of a discovery so profound that it reshapes a person's entire life. The one who finds the treasure sells everything with joy; the merchant who recognises the pearl does the same. These images highlight not loss, but gain—the overwhelming worth of what has been found.

At the heart of these parables lies the question of understanding. What readers do learn is that understanding is critical—not so much intellectual perceptiveness, but an understanding of the heart. It is possible to hear these stories and remain unchanged, but true understanding leads to decision, commitment, and transformation. To recognise the Kingdom is to recognise its supreme value, and to respond with a wholehearted "yes."

The final parable of the net cast into the sea returns to the theme of judgment, reminding us that there will be a sorting at the end of time. Yet, as with earlier teachings, the emphasis is not on fear but on readiness—on living now in a way that reflects the values of the Kingdom.

Jesus then offers a striking image: the scribe who has been trained for the Kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old. The scribe who has undergone training for the kingdom of heaven is a lively image. It conjures up the spectre of disciplined learning, of committed engagement to prepare for life under the divine rule. This learning is not static; it is dynamic and alive.

The disciplined learning involves both old and new. There is the old story to be rehearsed - the story of God's promises, of a reign of justice and peace, and of God's faithful work through history. There is also the new reality: Jesus himself, who fulfils and reveals that promise in a hidden yet decisive way.

In the life of the disciple, these two belong together. To follow Christ is to treasure the past, embrace the present, and live with hope toward the future, recognising the Kingdom as the greatest treasure of all.

—Fr Stephen Berecz

Liturgy of the Word

1 (3) Kings 3:5–12 You have asked for an understanding mind.
Psalm 118 (119):57, 72, 76–77, 127–130 ℟. 97 Lord, I love your commands.
Romans 8:28–30 God predestined us to be conformed to the image of his Son.
Matthew 13:44–52 Anyone who finds a treasure in a field sells all & buys that field.

Next weekend: Isa 55:1–3; Psa 144 (145):8–9, 15–18; Rom 8:35, 37–39; Matt 14:13–21.

Presiding Priest this Sunday

Sat 5 p.m.	Fr Stephen Berecz
Sun 9.30	Fr Stephen Berecz

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

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 p/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.

Part Time Parish Receptionist

St Anne's Church in Manurewa is seeking a friendly & organised p/t 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

Grandparents Mass

Marriage & Family Life warmly invites you to a special Grandparents Mass as we give thanks for the love, wisdom, & faith that grandparents & older people share with our families & communities. We especially encourage grandchildren to bring their grandparents, & everyone is welcome to bring an elderly person in their life whom they would like to honour. St Pat's Cathedral, 43 Wyndham St (cnr Federal St). Sun 26 Jul, 4:30 p.m. Reduced parking fees apply. Come & celebrate together as one family in faith.

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

World Youth Day Auckland 2026

10 a.m.–8:30 p.m. Sat 1 Aug at Victory Convention Cntr. Registration & info: events.humanitix.com/world-youth-day-auckland-2026

The Dark Night of the Soul

Thu 6 Aug; 1.30–3.30 or 7–9 p.m. $25 or koha. Facilitated by Ron Lang. . To register for any events at Hou Mana Wai Mercy Wellsprings, email Rebecca: office@mercywellsprings.org.nz

Auckland Inter-Faith Council AGM

Thu 6 Aug, 7.30 p.m., Ponsonby. Please let us know if you can attend. If you would like to be an AIFC member & support our volunteer work with your membership fee, please see www.aucklandinterfaithcouncil.org.nz/membership/aifc-membership/

Eucharistic Healing Service

Joy Healing Ministry, based in Ōrewa, are holding a Eucharistic Healing Service on Sat 8 Aug, 3–5 p.m., at St John's Church, 180 Centreway Rd, Ōrewa. Visiting Priest Fr Frankie Mulgrew, from Salford Cathedral in Manchester, will be conducting the service, assisted by our own Fr James Mulligan. The service will include Reconciliation. Followed by Mass at 5.30 p.m., then refreshments.

Retreat Day for Women

Women of all ages are warmly invited to join the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia, visiting from Sydney, for a retreat day centred on the Eucharist. Sun 2 Aug, 12:30–6 p.m. at St Luke's Catholic Church (260 Chapel Rd, Flat Bush). Cost: $10, incl afternoon tea. Register at https://events.humanitix.com/retreat-for-women

Taizé prayer

Fri 14 Aug, M MacKillop Chapel, Mission Bay, 7pm

John Pridmore Coming to Auckland

International Catholic speaker & evangelist John Pridmore is coming to Auckland this August for a series of inspiring parish missions. Once involved in London's criminal underworld, John's life was dramatically transformed through an encounter with Jesus Christ. For more than 30 years, he has travelled the world sharing his powerful story of conversion, hope & God's mercy, inspiring thousands to rediscover their faith. Each evening will include John's testimony, prayer & an opportunity to deepen your relationship with Christ through Eucharistic Adoration. Mission Dates: Takapuna: 17–19; Ponsonby: 24–26; Manurewa: 31 Aug–2 Sep. All sessions begin at 7 p.m. Everyone is warmly invited to attend. For more details visit www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/john_pridmore_mission_tour/

PAMANA: A Musical Journey Through Time

Tickets are on sale now! Come experience the heart & soul of Filipino musical heritage w the Auckland Choral Ensemble. Sat 22 Aug, 6:30 p.m. St Luke's Presbyterian Church, 130 Remuera Rd, Remuera. Get your tickets here: https://events.humanitix.com/ace-pamana-2026

Celebrating M MacKillop: Vigil Ritual & Light Tea

Fri 7 Aug, 5.30 p.m. onwards. Venue: Mary MacKillop Chapel. Leaders: Josephite Companions & Srs. A time of prayer to honour Mary MacKillop & how her life is an inspiration for us today.

Joshua Cath Men's Fellowship

ALL MEN are invited to the Joshua 40-Yr Celebration W/end! Fri 14th eve–Sun 16th Aug midday. Keswick Christian Camp, 5 Cooper Ave, Holden's Bay, Rotorua. Keynote Speaker: Robert Falzon, Leader of Australia's "Men ALIVE" & Author of *Importance of a Present Dad*. $247pp incl accommodation & meals. To Register: https://menforchrist.wufoo.com/forms/joshua-40th-anniversary-celebration-rotorua OR Scan the QR Code on porter attached OR contact Mike Lobo 021 2809285 or Greg Sullivan 021 437747

Concert: From Aotearoa to London—Cất Cánh

A fundraising event for AKL Soprano Anh Thu Nguyen at St Michael's Remuera, 6 Beatrice Rd, 7 p.m. Fri 14 Aug. Tickets & to learn more about Anh & her journey at https://events.humanitix.com/from-aotearoa-to-london-cat-canh Door sales avail.

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. For further information please phone Karena evenings on 021802-352. www.beginningexperience.org.nz

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, 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**: John Shaw, Scott Hickey, Felipe Navarro Jr, Simon Cotton, Pat McKinnon, Laura Divinagracia, Matthew Chen, Nada Druskovich, Halsey Ellie, Nikola Druskovich, Patrick Tarr, Rodolfo Banzon, Manuel Navarro, Fr Peter Prendergast, Michael O'Shea Snr, Makere Hurley, Warren Rogan, Finbar Drohan, Martha Moore, Eddy Wroblewski, Oscar Miranda, Nenea Dizon, Vern Peters, Mary Wollaston, Mikio Tsukamoto, Alison Laurent, Pat Sheehan, Jenny Fox, Douglas Peacocke, Thomas Johns, Margaret Dowell, Elpido & Teresita Delvalle, Elfren Ciron, Sr Elizabeth Hickey RSJ, Maureen Hammond, Peter Dillon, Jocelyn Quinnell, Jane Fromont, Sr Marcelle Walsh, Anthony James, Teresa Romognino, Peter Collins, Deidre Airey, Msgr James Hackett, Nancy Fahy, Jose Sanicas, Justin Hassan, Tony Marinovich, Bonnie Miles, Katherine Donnelly, Kevin McNamara, Kevin Mallon, Michael Coleman, May De Goldi, Fr Vince Moody.**