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. 7 am Sunday Mass resumes 6 September 2026.

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 Maria Assumpta Parish, 198 Beach Haven Road, Beach Haven, on Wednesday 7th October 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."

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time—30th August 2026

In today's Gospel, Jesus begins to reveal to his disciples the path that lies before him: suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection. Peter struggles to accept this. Having just recognised Jesus as the Messiah, Peter cannot understand how the Messiah could possibly suffer. He takes Jesus aside and objects. Yet Jesus responds with remarkably strong words: "Get behind me, Satan!" Peter's instinct is understandable, but he is thinking according to human expectations rather than God's purposes.

The Gospel challenges us to consider what kind of Messiah we want Jesus to be. It is easy to follow Christ when we imagine that faith will bring success, security and comfort. But Jesus makes clear that discipleship involves something deeper. "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Taking up our cross does not mean seeking suffering for its own sake. Rather, it means accepting the cost of faithful love. It may mean remaining faithful when circumstances are difficult, forgiving when we have been hurt, serving when there is little recognition, or standing for truth when it would be easier to remain silent. The cross becomes the place where self-giving love is tested and revealed.

Jesus also warns against measuring life by worldly success: "What, then, will anyone gain by winning the whole world and forfeiting his life?" These words remain profoundly relevant. We can become so occupied with possessions, reputation, achievement and security that we lose sight of what ultimately matters.

The Christian life is not about avoiding every difficulty. It is about discovering that Christ walks with us through those difficulties and transforms them through his love. The cross is not the end of the story; resurrection follows.

Matthew therefore invites us to ask: Am I following Jesus on his terms, or am I asking Jesus to follow mine? True discipleship requires courage, humility and trust. When we place our lives in Christ's hands, even the crosses we carry can become pathways to deeper faith, greater love and ultimately new life. *—Fr Stephen Berecz*

Liturgy of the Word

Je 20:7–9 The word of the Lord has become for me reproach and derision all day long.
Ps 62 (63):1–5, 7–8 My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, thirsting for you my God.
Rm 12:1–2 Present your bodies as a living sacrifice.
Mt 16:21–27 If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves.

Next weekend: Ezek 33:7–9; Psa 94 (95):1–2, 6–9; Rom 13:8–10; Matt 18:15–20.

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.

Thank you to all who participated

in the recording scheduled to be broadcast this weekend. Sunday Mass on TV is at 2 pm on Shine TV channel 25 or Sky channel 201. It is also uploaded at 5.30 pm Saturday night to the Auckland Catholic Diocese Youtube channel: https://www.youtube.com/aucklandcatholic

Baradene Art Show

The show takes place at Baradene on the 29th to 30th August from 10 am to 4 pm and entry is free.

Diocesan Youth Mass

St Pat's Cathedral, 43 Wyndham St, Sun 30 Aug 4:30 pm–5:30 pm. Join us for the April Diocesan Youth Mass! All are welcome! Please invite your whānau, your friends, & your wider faith community to join us as well. For details: www.facebook.com/share/1ERzs4rR2S/

Wings.Ngā Parirau

the Catholic Faith Formation Programme. We all need to feel welcomed in our Church, to understand our faith & to recognise Jesus calling each of us into an intimate friendship with him. The hospitality at the heart of *Wings* gives space & time for people to come together, to become familiar with Jesus' teaching in the Gospels, & the Catholic Church's response to this teaching in the light of the Resurrection; to walk by faith in loving communion with Jesus in prayer. *Wings.Ngā Parirau* is open to all & could also be a welcoming place for those who have come through RCIA & Alpha to gather in communion with other parishioners. Join us monthly from Sat 5 Sept at Warkworth parish—480 Matakana Rd, Matakana, 4–5:45 pm. For more details contact Teresa Shaplesk teresah57@icloud.com & Dianna Fouhy diannaf@cda.org.nz

7 am Sunday Mass resumes next week

7 am mass resumes Sun 6th September at Parnell.

The newly appointed Principal of Marist School

(Mt Albert) is looking for rental accommodation. Ideally, the accommodation would have 2–3 bedrooms and be within 15–20 minutes of the school. The preferred move-in date would be at the end of September, but this can be negotiated. Please let the Parish Office know if you know of any suitable accommodation available.

***Every Day is Holy* Retreat**

Mon 31 Aug 5 pm–Thurs 3 Sept 1:30 pm. Guided by His Eminence, John Cardinal Dew, this 4-day spiritual journey invites us to rediscover the profound truth that each day is already holy because it is given by God. We are invited not to reach for holiness as something far beyond us, but to recognize it in the here & now—to become aware of the grace that surrounds us & to respond with gratitude & love. There are still several spots available in this retreat. Please reserve your spot as soon as you can. Ph: 625 6651 www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz/events/every-day-is-holy-31-aug-3-sep-2026/

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass Fri 4th Sept

7 p.m. St Mary's Parish, 20 Kitenui Ave, Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass, followed by veneration of St Faustina's relic. All Welcome.

Administration Assistant Wanted!

Marriage & Family Life Ministry is looking for a highly capable Administration Assistant to contribute to a ministry that supports marriage & family life. We are looking for someone who combines excellent administrative skills with a genuine pastoral sensitivity & a commitment to serving others. This is a Part-time role of 16 hrs, working Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 10 am–2 pm (with some evening & weekend work) at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre. For full details, & to apply, please visit please visit: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/ Closing date Fri 4 Sept.

Marriage & Family Life

all whānau with babies & children 0–5 years are invited & welcome to a newly established monthly Catholic Coffee group; our next coffee group is Sat 5 Sept at 11 am–12 pm at Sacred Heart Church Hall—16 Vermont St, Ponsonby. Come along & meet other likeminded whānau where God resides. There is lots of parking. Further information call Gerry (Leader of Marriage & Family Life Ministries) on 021 02247442.

Exploring Sacred Spaces

For more info: www.studyjoy.nz/2026/05/21/interfaith-events-coming-up/

Scripture Study at St Michael's

Apologetics: Arguments for the Existence of God. Dr Dan Stollenwerk is presenting 4 talks on Tuesday mornings: 8, 15, 22, 29 Sept, 10:30–11:45 am. No registration required. Please join in St Michael's Parish Centre, Beatrice Rd, Remuera.

Ministries to Young People

An Evening with St Pier Giorgio Frassati, Wed 9 Sept 6:30–8:30 pm at St Michael's Catholic Church, Remuera. Join us for an evening exploring the life, faith, & witness of St Pier Giorgio Frassati, one of the Church's inspiring young saints. The evening will feature a talk by guest speaker Fr Dominic Murphy OP, Prior Provincial for the Dominican Friars of Australasia. This is a free event. All are welcome. Register here: https://events.humanitix.com/evening-with-frassati Email any queries to samuelb@cda.org.nz

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 with the Treaty of Waitangi principles. To view the full advert & position description, please visit our website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz under Diocesan Services & Staff Vacancies. Appl close 18 Sept.

Taizé prayer evening

Fri 11 Sept, 7 p.m. Mary MacKillop Chapel, Mission Bay. All are welcome to come along to this reflective evening.

Liturgical Ministries Lectures

The Mass, consisting of Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist are one act of worship…Just as Jesus did with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, he first opens their minds to the scriptures, and then proceeds to feed them afterwards. We recognise the same shape taking place within our Roman Rite liturgy: the Word of God is proclaimed, and then we partake as one in the Body and Blood of Christ. As we approach the beginning of the new liturgical year, the Liturgy Centre is hosting its next series of Liturgical Ministries Lectures. These will cover basic theological foundations for Ministers of the Word & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. To register, please get in touch with your parish office who will then complete a group registration on your behalf. Registration is mandatory for all participants. Ministers of the Word: 10 am–12 pm. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: 1–3 pm. Dates & Deaneries (exact parish location will be made available to those registered): 12 Sept—North Shore; 26 Sept—Southern; 10 Oct—Eastern; 7 Nov—City & Central; 14 Nov—Western.

Eastern Bays Coffee Morning Meet Up

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month, at the Terraces Restaurant, 207 Riddell Rd, Glendowie, in the grounds of St. Andrews Village. All are welcome. Parking avail. Come along 10 a.m. Wed 16 Sept.

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

Cameron Russell, 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:

Frank Mufty, Peggy Bell-Booth, Julie Nicholls, Palaamo Kalati, Michelle Pereira, Basil Yap, Anne O'Sullivan, Diana Ross, Elizabeth Hales, James Gallagher, Sean O'Keeffe, Kirk Badiola, Maurice Churton, Emile Kielar, John Lane, Bill Doyle, Francesca Goodwin, Miriam Adique, George Celedonio, Kath Allen, Mary Herbert, Patrick Smith, Terence Oliver, Soagia Faga, John La'Croix, Ryan Carduzo, Don Crawford, Aisla Duffy, John Jude, JoAnn Swartz, Luis Tura, Aisling Cooke, Juanita Banzon, Esther Gill, Jean Mullan, Teresita del Valle, Boris Srhoj, Michael del Valle, Moira Bryant, Janette Currie, Bryan Lynch, Theresa Carroll, Elizabeth Ihaka rsm, Jack Smith, Geoff Bruce, Toi Rapiara, John Chambers, Ongo Kaihea, Fr Joe Foley, Joe Paraiso, Br Francis Erni OFM, Barry Russell, Jovita Antao, Maria Madalena, Eric Werder, William Thode, James Marinovich, Douglas Paterson, Kevin McBride, Ric de la Cruz, Mark Gleeson, Michael John Frederickson, Louie Beltran, Marita Beltran. Eternal rest grant to them.