St John the Baptist Catholic Church Parnell

Sunday mass times (Summer timetable): Saturday 5 p.m.; Sunday 7 & 9.30 a.m.
7 a.m. Sunday mass resumes 6th September 2026.

Saturday 9 a.m. mass & 9.30 a.m. reconciliation. Public holidays 9 a.m.

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 a.m.). 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."

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time—6th September 2026

In Matthew's Gospel this week, Jesus offers practical guidance for preserving unity within the Christian community. Recognising that conflict and wrongdoing are inevitable wherever people live and work together, he proposes a process of reconciliation that respects both justice and human dignity.

The first step is personal and private: if a brother or sister sins against us, we are to speak with them alone. This approach protects the person's reputation and allows room for repentance without embarrassment. If this proves unsuccessful, a second step follows, involving one or two others as witnesses. Their presence helps ensure fairness and encourages a resolution grounded in truth. Only as a final resort is the matter brought before the wider community. Thus, Jesus advocates a gradual correction process in which delicacy, tact, and charity are always preferred before public discussion or discipline becomes necessary.

The goal throughout is not punishment but reconciliation. The repeated efforts to engage the offender reveal God's own patience and desire that no one be lost. Christian correction is therefore an act of love, seeking the restoration of relationships rather than the victory of one person over another.

Jesus then speaks of the authority of the Church using the rabbinic expression "binding and loosing." This phrase was familiar to Jewish teachers and referred to determining the binding force of laws and traditions or admitting persons to the community. Here Jesus entrusts this responsibility to his disciples, assuring them that decisions made in faith and unity participate in God's own authority.

The passage concludes with a powerful promise: where two or three are gathered in Jesus' name, he is present among them. The Christian community is therefore not merely a human organisation but a place where Christ himself acts. Through prayer, reconciliation, and shared discernment, believers become living signs of God's presence and mercy in the world. *—Fr Stephen Berecz*

Liturgy of the Word

Ezekiel 33:7–9	If you do not speak to warn the wicked, I will require their blood at your hand.
Psalm 94 (95):1–2, 6–9	If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.
Romans 13:8–10	Love is the fulfilling of the law.
Matthew 18:15–20	If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.
Next weekend:	Ben Sira (Ecclesiasticus) 27:30–28:7; Psalm 102 (103):1–4, 8–12; Romans 14:7–9; Matthew 18:21–35

Presiding Priest this Sunday

Sat 5 p.m.	Fr Stephen Berecz
Sun 7 a.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.

7 am Sunday Mass resumes this week

7 am mass resumes Sun 6th September at Parnell.

Mass of Holy Cross

The 5 pm Mass next Saturday (12 Sept) will be a Mass of the Holy Cross.

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

Taizé prayer evening

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

Exploring Sacred Spaces

organised by the Auckland Inter-Faith Council. Next event: Sat 19 Sept 2026, 1–3pm at the Old Selwyn Church, Howick. For more info and all events in this series, please see poster attached or see here: www.studyjoy.nz/2026/05/21/interfaith-events-coming-up/

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, & then proceeds to feed them afterwards. We recognise the same shape taking place within our Roman Rite liturgy: the Word of God is proclaimed, & then we partake as one in the Body & 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.

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.

St Mary's College Auckland Past Pupils

High Afternoon Tea for Scholarship Fund, $60. 2 pm Sun 20 Sept. To register, please contact Pat 021 622 044 or 846 0230.

St Joseph's Catholic School New Plymouth

Celebrate 100 years of the Mission Sisters' school! Past students, staff & families are warmly invited to reconnect & give thanks for shared memories. Labour Weekend 23–25 Oct. Stay updated & follow the celebration on the Centenary Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61576850039718

Invitation to all

Holy Cross Seminary, Ponsonby would like to invite you to join in our celebration of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Bishop Richard Laurenson will be the principal celebrant. Mass will be celebrated at 7pm on Monday, 21 September 2026 at Sacred Heart Church, 16 Vermont Street, Ponsonby, Auckland. Light refreshments will be served at Holy Cross Seminary, 44 Vermont Street, Ponsonby, Auckland after Mass. Any Parishioners who wish to join us, are most welcome.

Living Waters: Caring for our common home

Join the Catholic Diocese of Auckland, the Maclaurin Chaplaincy & Church communities of Auckland to an ecumenical celebration through prayer, reflection & light refreshments Wed 23 Sept 7 pm at the Maclaurin Chapel, 18 Princes St, University of Auckland. Registration is essential; please register at https://events.humanitix.com/season-of-creation-2026-i-living-waters-caring-for-our-common-home

Catherine McAuley Symposium

Join leading thinkers from the UK, USA & Aotearoa at the Catherine McAuley Symposium in Wellington, 13–105 Dec. Explore what it means to be a faith-based organisation in a changing global environment, with high-quality speakers exploring leadership, identity, mission & the challenges facing religious organisations today. Earlybird registrations close 24 Sept. https://whanaumercy.nz/catherine-mcauley-symposium/

Footsteps of Pompallier Pilgrimage

24–27 Oct. Hokianga. Walk 100 km over 4 days. Daily Mass & Confession. Meals & accommodation included. Visit fopp.nz to register.

Marriage Preparation Course

Getting married in early 2027? Don't leave your marriage preparation too late! Our final Marriage Preparation Courses for 2026 are filling quickly. If you're planning to marry in the first part of 2027, you'll need to complete your marriage preparation this year, so we encourage you to register as soon as possible to secure your place. Courses are offered at St Michael's Parish, Remuera on Saturdays from 26 Sept (9 am–1 pm) & at St Luke's Parish, Flat Bush on Saturdays from 10 Oct (10 am –4.30 pm). For course dates, more info, & to register, visit: https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/our-courses/

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Q Theatre. 26 Sept–10 Oct. Book tickets at https://www.iticket.co.nz/events/2026/sep/joseph-and-the-amazing-technicolour-dreamcoat

Prayer Retreat for Women

Prayer and the Interior Life. Fri 9 Oct, 6 p.m.–Sun 11 Oct, 3 p.m., with time for Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, Personal Prayer & Spiritual Direction. Location: Hillsborough. Register: www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz

Long Term Volunteer Opportunities

in the Australia-Pacific Region—The Cagliero Project. The Salesians of Don Bosco are seeking long term (6–12 month) volunteers for departure in Jan 2027 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands & Mongolia. Applications close 31 Oct. Send an enquiry— www.cagliero.org.au or lhichaaba@salesians.org.au

Local Youth Ministers Wanted!

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/

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:

Patricia (Pat) Whitehead, Helen Mullin, Bishop Denis Browne, Salvacion Jimenea, Milagros Undag, Cyril Fernando, Isabella Alexandra, Louie Beltran, Marita Beltran, Ramon Preeda, Elizabeth Hales, Msgr Pat Ward, Myra Crawford, Barbara Bato, Dermot O'Leary, Fr Des Moosman, Ethel Marshall, Marie Early, Patricia Yambao, Reynaldo Yambao, Justyn Bianzon, Lenny Hidalgo, Ruby Holland, Maria Boles, Kath Allen, Carmel Jefferies, Brian Raju, Ivan Main, Brendan Schollum, Dianne Molloy, Emma Gill, George Fisher, Michael O'Reilly, Wayne Hotton, Lani Sinawari, Eng Hoc Ong, Apolinario Castano, Sheila Bamford, Kees van Hassel, Ira Divinagracia, Dorothy James, Ray Buisson, Moira Bryant, Cathy Sheehan, Julie Keesling, Dorothy Jones, Bruce Sherlock. Eternal rest grant to them.