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 resumed 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."

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time—13th September 2026

In today's Gospel, Peter asks Jesus a question that lies at the heart of every human relationship: "How often must I forgive?" Peter believes he is being generous when he suggests forgiving seven times. Jesus' response, however, stretches the boundaries of human calculation: "Not seven times, but seventy-seven times" (or seventy times seven). Forgiveness in the Kingdom of God is not measured by numbers but by the limitless mercy of God himself.

To be truly human, everyone needs to experience forgiveness - from fellow human beings as well as from God. We all know the burden of failure, regret, and broken relationships. Equally, we know the healing that comes when forgiveness is offered and received. Yet forgiveness is never cheap. It is costly both to the one who forgives and to the one who is forgiven. It requires humility, honesty, and a willingness to let go of resentment and the desire for revenge.

Jesus illustrates this truth in the parable of the unforgiving servant. A servant who has been forgiven an enormous debt refuses to forgive a much smaller debt owed to him. His failure is not simply a lack of generosity; it is a failure to understand the mercy he himself has received. The depth and sincerity of forgiveness are the heart of its reality. Forgiveness that remains superficial or conditional has not yet entered the spirit of Christ.

The value of forgiveness is that it enables us to call to mind the supreme cost of our salvation won for us on the Cross of Calvary. Through Christ's sacrifice, reconciliation between God and his people is restored. Every act of Christian forgiveness participates in that mystery of redemption. Christian action at its best is an expression of God's love revealed in Christ.

We can forgive "till seventy times seven" only because God first forgave us. His mercy precedes and sustains our own efforts to forgive. Yet the cost of our forgiving is negligible compared with his. As we remember the immeasurable debt that God has cancelled through Christ, we are invited to become instruments of that same mercy in our families, communities, and world.

Liturgy of the Word

Sir (Ecclus) 27:30–28:7	Forgive your neighbour the wrong that is done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray.
Psa 102 (103):1–4, 8–12	The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger, and rich in compassion.
Rom 14:7–9	Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.
Matt 18:21–35–20	Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

Next weekend: Isa 55:6–9; Psa 144(145):2–3, 8–9, 17–18; Philp 1:20–24, 27; Matt 20:1–16.

Presiding Priest this Sunday

Sat 5 p.m.	Fr Stephen Berecz
Sun 7 a.m.	Fr Tony Dunn
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 resumed last week

7 am mass resumed Sun 6th September at Parnell.

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.

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

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.

Events & Retreats at St Francis Retreat Centre

Time Out Days—For those who seek to take a day off. Cost is just $35. It includes lunch, prayer times, mediation & reflection 9:30 am–2:30 pm. Tue 15 Sep, Wed 7 Oct, Wed 6 Nov, Wed 8 Dec. **Triduum of prayer & celebration**—2 Oct: Opening Mass with Fr Steve Bliss, Franciscan Provincial; 3 Oct: Transitus at St Therese Parish, Three Kings; 4 Oct: Blessing of Animals at St Francis Retreat Centre & Feast Day Mass at St Therese Parish. **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. **Weekend Retreat**—Fri 23 Oct 7 pm–Sun 25 Oct 3 pm. Across the three days, participants will be guided into the rhythm of contemplative prayer & meditation, with talks that explore how these practices deepen our awareness of God's presence. There will dedicated time for reading and reflection on Scripture allowing each person to listen more closely to the movements of the Spirit. Spiritual direction will also be available for those who wish to receive personal accompaniment. **24-Hour Quietude**—This is for anyone seeking peace, clarity, or a spiritual reset for one full day. It begins Fri 20 Nov 7 pm with prayer & rest, & continues until Sat 21 Nov 7 pm. Our spiritual directors will be facilitating the sessions. Location: Hillsborough. Register: www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz

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/

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

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

Feast Day of Saint Vincent De Paul

All Auckland Vincentians are invited to come & celebrate the Feast Day of Saint Vincent De Paul with a Shine Televised Mass. Sat 19 Sept at 2 pm at Sacred Heart Church, Vermont St, Ponsonby. Celebrant: Fr Martin Wu. Mass will be followed by a shared afternoon tea in the St Columba Centre. Bring yourselves & food to share. Drinks will be provided. Note: Shine Masses are recorded before the weekend they will be screened; this mass will be aired on St Vincent's actual feast day—27 Sept.

Catherine McAuley Symposium

Join leading thinkers from the UK, USA & Aotearoa at the Catherine McAuley Symposium in Wellington, 13–15 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/

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

St Mary's Papakura—Centenary Celebration

St Mary's Parish in Papakura reaches its 100th year on 7 Dec. They will begin celebrating their Centenary with an opening Mass on Sun 6 Dec.

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 7 pm on Mon 21 Sept at Sacred Heart Church, 16 Vermont St, Ponsonby. Light refreshments will be served at Holy Cross Seminary, 44 Vermont St, Ponsonby, after Mass. Any Parishioners who wish to join are most welcome.

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/

Wings.Ngā Parirau

Know your Faith; Share your Faith. Are you involved with Ministry of Word or Eucharist, Sacramental preparation, RCIA, Children's Liturgy? This is for you! Complete Year 1 *Wings* over 3 Sundays. 4 Oct, 18 Oct, 1 Nov 10 am–3 pm, at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New St, St Mary's Bay, Ponsonby. Meet Jesus in his Word, in others & in yourself. Come & see! Contact Dianna Fouhy: diannaf@cda.org.nz

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**: Helen Mullin, Shane McGruddy, Cleofe Mora, Marian Saqueton, Murray Nash, Eduardo Sagge, Msgr Brian Arahill, Peta Knibb, Angus Gomez, John Fitzmaurice, Assid Corban, Pauline D'souza, Cyril Breslin, Maureen Godon, Jojo Deguit, Pat Glamazina, Trinidad Antolin, Kevin Gould, Russell Nelson, Johnny Austin, Johannes Wijoko, Florence Gomez, Michael Hontiveros, Barbara Richardson, Joe Coleman, Consuelo Katigbak, Felizardo Gacad, Mary Fernandez, Sr Maria McDonald OP, Ann Foss, Eric Kolhase, James Hurley, Jet Carib, Rosemary Griffen, Margaret McLean, Kath Clarke, Lorie Ayao-Shields, Nancy Kelly, Theresa Kemp, John Barret, Patricia Maher, Sharon Lim, Rose Blaicklok, Patricia Borg, Alma Sands, Joseph Ang, Gwen McCarthy, Rodolfo De Asis, Maureen McQuoid, Alice Murphy, Des Rosser, Kathleen Reardon, Fr Ernie Milne IC, Jimmy Nicoll, Reenie Fernandez, Victoria Cano, Myra Philomena Cawthorn.**