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."

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time—20th September 2026

The parable of the workers in the vineyard challenges our natural sense of fairness and invites us into the deeper mystery of God's grace. In the story, labourers are hired at different times throughout the day, yet all receive the same wage. Those who worked from dawn protest, believing they deserve more than those who arrived at the last hour. Their complaint reflects a very human tendency to compare ourselves with others and to measure worth according to effort, achievement, or reward.

Jesus uses this parable to reveal something essential about the Kingdom of God. God's generosity cannot be confined by human calculations of merit. The landowner's actions are not unjust; rather, they are extravagantly merciful. The wage represents God's gift of salvation, a gift that can never be earned but is freely given. Whether one responds to God's invitation early in life or at the very end, the gift remains the same: a share in God's own life.

The life-transforming teaching of Jesus and the inclusive lifestyle he adopted point us in a different direction. Throughout his ministry, Jesus welcomed those who had been excluded, ignored, or condemned by society. The love of God welcomes late-comers, engages those whom no one seems to want, embraces the outsider, forgives sinners, and defrosts the self-righteous. God's concern is not with keeping score but with bringing people into communion with him and with one another.

This divine generosity is profoundly redemptive. It triggers quiet change, new choices, healthier attitudes, and more caring relationships. Those who experience God's mercy are invited to extend that same mercy to others. The parable asks us whether we rejoice when others receive God's blessings or whether we become resentful when grace is given to those we think are less deserving.

The challenge of this Gospel is to see with God's eyes rather than our own. In the Kingdom, generosity triumphs over jealousy, gratitude over entitlement, and mercy over judgment. As disciples of Christ, we are called to celebrate the wideness of God's love and to trust that his grace is more abundant than we can ever imagine. For in the end, all that we have is gift, and all are welcomed by the same loving Lord. —*Fr Stephen Berecz*

Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 55:6–9	The Lord says: My thoughts are not your thoughts.
Psalm 144 (145):2–3, 8–9, 17–18	The Lord is near to all who call on him.
Philippians 1:20–24, 27	To me, living is Christ.
Matthew 20:1–16	Are you envious because I am generous?
Next weekend:	Ezekiel 18: 25–28; Psalm 24 (25): 4–5a, 6, 7b–9; Philippians 2:1–11; Matthew 21:28–32.

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.

St John the Baptist Parnell is scheduled to be closed for repainting 2nd October–2nd November

During this time, there will be one Parish Mass, celebrated at 5.00 p.m. on Saturday evenings at our neighbouring parish, St Michael's Remuera. The usual Mass schedule at Parnell is expected to resume on Saturday 7 November.

7 am Sunday Mass resumed this month

7 am mass resumed Sun 6th September at Parnell.

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

The Square Gift Store (Catholic Shop)

With grateful hearts & trust in God's providence, we are delighted to announce that The Square Gift Store has now moved to a new location: Suite 2, Level 1, 9 Teed St, Newmarket.

***Wings*: 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.Ngā Parirau* 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

Monte Cecilia Housing Trust: Thank you

for helping our families through your generous donation of blankets. Your kindness & generosity have given warmth, comfort & care to many of our whānau, esp during these colder months. We are truly grateful for your support & for the difference you have made in the lives of families in need. Your generosity is a wonderful reminder that small acts of kindness can bring great comfort & hope. Thank you for helping us keep our families warm & cared for. —Elaine F Lolesio

Council of Christians & Muslims: Peace Walk

مجلس المسيحيين والمسلمين in conjunction with other peace & faith groups for the UN Day of Peace Mon 21 Sept 12—2 pm. 12 p.m. Gather at children's playground on Normanby Rd at the foot of Mt Eden; 12.30: Move to Tāheke Reserve amphitheatre to share reflections on Peace, especially on the peace activism in Mt Eden '70s –'80s. 1 p.m. Group procession up Maungawhau circuit road to the summit, & pause. 2 p.m. Return walk down to Visitors Centre & "Friend & Whau" café. For more info or if you wish to share your reflection, please phone 625 9025.

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. Bp 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.

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/

Youth Leaders Hui: Pompallier Diocesan Centre

Sat 3 Oct 10 am–2:30 pm. Join our Youth Leaders Hui—a day for youth leaders to connect, share & shape the future of youth ministry in our Diocese. We want to hear your hopes, insights & ideas as we look ahead together! We're all in the same waka! Come ready to share, learn & be inspired alongside others who share your passion for seeing young people encounter Jesus. Free barista coffee on arrival! Lunch will be provided. Be sure to register: https://events.humanitix.com/youth-leaders-hui-2026

Exploring Sacred Spaces

organised by the Auckland Inter-Faith Council. Next event: Sat 26 Sept, 3–5 pm, Bahá'í Centre, 129 Taniwha Rd, Glen Innes. For more info & all events in this series, please see poster in foyer or www.studyjoy.nz/2026/05/21/interfaith-events-coming-up/

Joseph & 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

Diocesan Youth Mass: St Patrick's Cathedral

43 Wyndham St, Sun 27 Sept, 4:30–5:30 pm. Join us for the September Diocesan Youth Mass! All are welcome! Please invite your whānau, your friends, & your wider faith community to join us as well. Details at www.facebook.com/events/1590963689387261

St Patrick's Cathedral Office Clear Out

St Pat's Cathedral Office is clearing out a range of office furniture, household items & more, & we'd love to see these items put to good use rather than go to waste. Office chairs, desks, book cases, fridges, washing machine, dryer, microwaves, books, religious items, Christmas decorations +so much more. You might find a hidden gem at a great price! Sun 4 Oct (10 am–6 pm) Liston Building (directly opposite St Patrick's Cathedral). Wilsons Car park options: 1) Hobson St (Old Farmers): $4.50 via the ParkMate App only. Promo code STPATS to receive discount. 2) Durham Lane (City Centre): $3 validate physical ticket in the parking machine located by the notice board.

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/

Triduum of prayer & celebration

2 Oct: Opening Mass at St Francis Retreat Cntr (Hillsborough) w Fr Steve Bliss, Franciscan Provincial; 3 Oct: Transitus at St Therese Parish, Three Kings; 4 Oct: Blessing of Animals at St Francis Retreat Cntr & Feast Day Mass at St Therese Parish.

Kia ora mai nō Hou Mana Wai Mercy Wellsprings

Spring has sprung in our gardens & we are revelling in its beauty. Come & enjoy it with us sometime! **Spring Reflections Retreat Day**, Tue 6 Oct, 9.30 am–2.30 pm. $35 or koha. Facilitated by Rebecca Gane & Cathryn Wiles-Pickard rsm. The seasons offer us 4 opportunities to pause & consider the different experiences of our lives, & how we respond to them. This retreat day will begin & end with a short time of teaching & reflection, with 4 hrs in the middle of the day for personal prayer & solitude. Noho ora mai rā. 104 The Drive, Epsom. 638 6769 www.mercywellsprings.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**: Mary Jean Laffey, Noelle Antelme, Michael Gabriel McKinney, Patricia Burke, Natalie Keane, Jennifer Fox, Patricia Devereaux, Michael Joseph, John Lokes, Paul Nola, John Toland, Br JP Wilson, Michael Raj Kumar, Pricilla Andrews, Wendy Terwiel, Consolacion Adique, John Pakistan, Fr John Airey CSsR, Fr John Berry, Denham Shale, Eulalio Daguman, Billy Plumb, Rosa Romualdez, Mario Samala, Faustino Calvelo, Bill Mudgway, Violet Sinkovich, James O'Grady, Brian Claney, Trinidad Antolin, Eileen O'Brien, John Geddes, Jo Walsh, June Courtney, Paul Austin, Luke Tipene, Shirley Loretz, Tarun Asantha, Ann Marian, Campbell Adams, Paul Gallagher, Janis Coleman, Carolina Noionha, Carmel McCarthy, Cheekeong, Dallys Horne, Mary Conning, Terence Abreo, Rosann Laird, I Antoniraj, Rosemary Mohi, Jim Waldron, John Gordon, Helen McLaughlin, Bishop John Cuneen, Jim Butterworth, Pat Insley, Leonard Lanigan, Monthi Fernandes, Pamela Maling, Margaret Chapman, Dan McCarthy, Jillian Paterson, Fr Michael O'Hara, Steve Noonan, Margaret McLean, Maria do Carmo Noronha, Jose Tlentino, Dorothy Bowerman, Sharon Lim, Phyliss Bloomfield.**