St John the Baptist Catholic Church Parnell

is scheduled to be closed for repainting 30th September–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. parnellcatholic.org.nz

Parish Priest: Father Stephen Berecz. Email sberecz@gmail.com
Parish Secretary: Nathaniel Hood. Phone (09) 373 3132. Email: office@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."

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time—27th September 2026

In this Gospel, Jesus tells the simple but powerful parable of two sons. When asked by their father to work in the vineyard, the first son initially refuses but later changes his mind and goes. The second son readily agrees but never follows through. Jesus then asks a direct question: which of the two did the father's will? The answer is obvious—the one whose actions matched the father's desire.

The parable highlights a central theme of Jesus' teaching: genuine discipleship is measured not by words but by deeds. It is possible to profess faith, speak pious words, and appear religious, yet fail to respond to God's call in daily life. Equally, those who seem distant from God may, through repentance and conversion, come to embrace his will wholeheartedly.

Jesus applies this lesson sharply to the religious leaders of his day. Ironically, the social outcasts—the tax collectors and prostitutes—enter the Kingdom, represented by the vineyard, while many of the respected leaders do not. The outcasts listened to the preaching of John the Baptist and responded with repentance. Their lives were changed because they recognised their need for God's mercy. The leaders, however, remained obstinate. Despite witnessing John's holiness and hearing his message, they refused to change their hearts.

For Matthew, the "sayers but non-doers" are represented by the Jewish community's leaders. They professed obedience to God and possessed great religious knowledge, yet many failed to recognise God's action in John the Baptist and in Jesus himself. Their problem was not ignorance but resistance to conversion.

This Gospel invites us to examine our own lives. Are we content merely to say the right things, or do we allow God's word to shape our actions? The Lord is less concerned with our past failures than with our present response. Like the first son, we may have resisted God's call at times, but what matters is our willingness to repent and follow him now.

The Kingdom of God remains open to all who turn to him with sincere hearts. True obedience is not found in promises alone but in lives transformed by faith, humility, and action. God seeks disciples whose deeds reflect the words they profess. *—Fr Stephen Berecz*

Liturgy of the Word

Ezekiel 18: 25–28	When the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed, they shall save their life.
Psalm 24 (25): 4–5a, 6, 7b–9	Remember your mercies, O Lord.
Philippians 2:1–11	Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.
Matthew 21:28–32	The son changed his mind and went. The tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into heaven ahead of you.

Next weekend: Isa 5:1–7; Psa 79 (80):8, 11–15, 18–19 ℟. Isa 5:7; Php 4:6–9; Matt 21:33–43.

Presiding Priest this Sunday at St John the Baptist Parnell Parish

Saturday 5 p.m.	Fr Stephen Berecz
Sunday 7 a.m.	Fr Tony Dunn
Sunday 9.30 a.m.	Fr Stephen Berecz

St Michael's Remuera Parish Mass Times this week

Sunday	8 a.m., 10 a.m., 5 p.m.
Monday–Friday	7 a.m., 12 noon
Saturday	8 a.m.

Reconciliation Times this week at St Michael's

Sunday	4.30 p.m.
Saturday	8.30 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.

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7 am Sunday Mass resumed this month

7 am mass resumed Sun 6th September at Parnell.

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.

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

Triduum of prayer & celebration

2 Oct: Opening Mass 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. See poster in foyer for details.

***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

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass Fri 2 Oct 7 pm

at 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.

Opportunities at Mary MacKillop Centre

Remembering Julian Tenison Woods, the co-founder of the Sisters of St Joseph on his anniversary—Wed 7 Oct: a ritual in his honour in the Chapel at 5.30 pm. followed by a light tea in the dining room. For catering purposes it would be helpful to RSVP to Sr Julian by Fri 2 Oct. Please see flyer in foyer for more details. **Monthly Taizé Prayer** is on Fri 9 Oct at 7 pm in the Chapel followed by a cuppa. The following day, Sr Meg Hills will offer her popular **Card-making workshop** on Sat 10 Oct from 10 am–3 pm. Please read flyer in foyer for more info. It is recommended that you register early for this day so as not to miss out, as only 8 people are able to attend this day. Sr Ann Neven is offering another morning session based on Daniel O'Leary's book *The Astonishing Secret*. This reflection time is entitled **Humanity & Nature through the Lens of the Incarnation**, on Sat 17 Oct, & will begin at 10 am through to 1 pm.

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

***Wings*: 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.Ngā Parirau* gives space and 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* is open to all & could also be a welcoming place for those who have come through RCIA/OCIA & Alpha to gather in communion with other parishioners. Join us for monthly meetings at Warkworth Parish—480 Matakana Rd, Matakana—4–5:45 pm. Upcoming *Wings* meetings on 3 Oct, 2 Nov, 12 Dec. For more details contact Teresa Shaplesk teresah57@icloud.com & Dianna Fouhy diannaf@cda.org.nz

Events at Hou Mana Wai Mercy Wellsprings

Spring has sprung in our gardens & we are revelling in its beauty. Come & enjoy it with us sometime! 104 The Drive, Epsom. **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. **Between the Harbour & the Mountain** Sat 10 Oct 10 am–noon. $25 or koha. Facilitated by Patricia Williams. In this workshop, Patricia will share how she came to write her award-winning manuscript which weaves together reflections on nature, te reo Māori, faith, & global challenges. She will encourage participants to pause & notice the "magical moments" that shape our lives, & provide guidelines to "explore a more thoughtful, contemplative way of living." 638 6769 www.mercywellsprings.org.nz

Events at St Francis Retreat Centre, Hillsborough

Register: www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz **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. Wed 7 Oct, Wed 6 Nov, Wed 8 Dec. **Prayer Retreat for Women: Prayer & the Interior Life**—Fri 9 Oct, 6 pm–Sun 11 Oct, 3 pm, w time for Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, Personal Prayer & Spiritual Direction.

Exploring Sacred Spaces

organised by the Auckland Inter-Faith Council. Next event: Buddhist Sacred Space, Sun 4 Oct, 10–11.30 am, 40 Eaglehurst Rd, Ellerslie. For more info & all events in this series, please see poster in foyer or www.studyjoy.nz/2026/05/21/interfaith-events-coming-up/

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.

Manager—Ministries to Young People

Are you a Catholic leader with a heart for young people? The Catholic Diocese of Auckland is looking for someone who answers "Yes!" to serve as our full-time Manager—Ministries to Young People. You'll lead a multidisciplinary team, oversee major diocesan initiatives & shape of youth & young adult ministry in NZ's largest Diocese. To learn more, please visit: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/

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

Greg Newman, Cameron Russell, 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:

Roger Dowling fms, Jim Brown, Richard Johns, Peter Healey, Ian MacAndrew, Howard Trenwith, Fr Phillip Handforth, Luming Dorado, Connie Garcia, Maurice Aldridge, Jocelyn Franklin, Stephen Nobilo, Fidel Dionisio, Albert Smits, Jill Perry, Joan Little, Sr Moira Feeney rsm, Sr Lorraine Challis OP, Tony Brown, Sr Margaret Maher RSCJ, Mary Ashton, Margaret Foster, Teresa Fisher, Florence Neven, Hugh Laracy, Neville Williams, Conchita Benitez, Msgr Vincent Hunt, Joan Gillies, Bobby Gee, Fr Lawrie Sakey, Ken Giblin, Brian Fitzpatrick, Mark Fitzpatrick, Mary McDiarmid, Matija Selak, John Rountree, Ruru Hotene Karnuth, Emmanuel Santos, Ann Melendes Tuazon, Senia Auva'a, Karen Cipriano, Donna Carreon, Walter Homan, Sue Neal, Cameron Murphy, Pat Hendry, Delfino Labay, Patrick Early Snr, Kaz Wisniewski, Maria Lette, Phyllis Revel, Kathleen Wiles-Pickard, Fr Peter Kay, Zita Kean, Edward Waldron, Kathleen Vanniselroy, Anna Mlekusch, Pamela Muffty, Marie Wratt, Anne Mayall, Rosemary Eller, Jim Walsh, Irene Roca, Austin Donegan, Kalala Fuimaono, Benjamin Mendoza, Josefina Abellana, Fr Leo Downey, Fr Philip Catcheside IC.