St John the Baptist Catholic Church Parnell

is scheduled to be closed for repainting until 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 № 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. only.

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 Our Lady of Lourdes, 7 Glendale Rd, Glen Eden, in February 2027.
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."

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time—11th October 2026

In today's Gospel, Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a wedding feast. A king prepares a magnificent celebration for his son and sends invitations to his guests. Yet, remarkably, many of those invited refuse to come. Others are eventually gathered from the streets and brought into the feast.

At the heart of this parable is a beautiful truth about God. God invites all of us to become friends of the Bridegroom, to join Jesus at the table, to become his companions, to enter into communion with him and to live in communion with him. This is the great Christian calling—the great invitation that God extends to all men and women.

The fact that this calling is expressed in terms of an invitation to a wedding feast is significant. A wedding is a celebration of love, relationship, belonging and joy. God does not invite us into a cold or distant relationship with him. He invites us into friendship with Christ and into the deep joy that comes from knowing that we are loved and valued by God.

There is something deeply reassuring about the image of God wanting us at his table. We are not unwanted guests. We are not merely tolerated. God values us so much that he desires our presence at his Son's great feast. The invitation is personal: *Come. Be with me. Share my life. Become my companion.*

Yet the parable also reminds us that an invitation requires a response. We can become so occupied with our own concerns that we fail to recognise the invitation God continually places before us. We can become distracted, indifferent or simply too busy to accept it.

The wedding garment reminds us that accepting God's invitation also involves allowing our lives to be transformed. To enter into communion with Christ is to begin living differently—with greater love, forgiveness, generosity and compassion.

Every Eucharist is a foretaste of this great wedding feast. We gather around the table of Christ, not because we have earned our place, but because God has invited us.

May we recognise the invitation, accept it with grateful hearts, and discover the deep-seated joy that comes from knowing that we belong at the table of Christ.

—Fr Stephen Berecz

Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 25:6–10a	The Lord will make a feast of rich food, and wipe away the tears from all faces.
Psalm 22 (23)	In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.
Philippians 4:10–14, 19–20	I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Matthew 22:1–14	Invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.
Next weekend:	Is 45:1, 4–6; Ps 95 (96):1, 3–5, 7–10ac; 1 Th 1:1–5b; Mt 22:15–21.

Presiding Priest this Weekend

Saturday 5 p.m. Fr Stephen Berecz

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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 Remuera Parish

Sunday	4.30 p.m.
Saturday	8.30 a.m.

Sunday morning Coffee group

Fr Stephen invites all parishioners to join him for coffee at 10 am on Sunday morning at Notting Hill Café, 168 Parnell Rd.

Driveway & Access Closure at St Michael's School

For the next 10 weeks, access through the school driveway leading to the Bassett Rd exit will be completely blocked off. **Driveway access:** Strictly limited to Beatrice Rd only. **Bassett Rd exit:** Closed to all for a full 10-week duration. If you drive into the school for parking, you will need to come back up onto Beatrice Rd, not Bassett Rd. Please drive carefully on the driveway beside the church as it will become a 2-way entry & exit for vehicles. **Pedestrians:** please use the gate & steps on the east side of the church, not the driveway. Please park up on Remuera Rd for Sunday mass times where possible. This will help with less vehicle movements on the St Michael's parish site.

Various ministries in our parish needed:

readers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, greeters, projectionists. Training & support provided. Please enquire at the parish office: office@parnellcatholic.org.nz

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.

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.

Auckland Catholic Youth Ministries

Meet Ups: North Region—11 Oct 1:30 pm, Patch Café (108 Sunnybrae Rd, Hillcrest); City & Central Region—1 Nov 1:30 pm, location TBC. RSVP to elisal@cda.org.nz **The Upper Room**: Good George Mission Bay, 71 Tamaki Dr, Wed 21 Oct 6:30–9 pm. "Spicy Ones: Spicy Questions & Even Spicier Wings." Featuring Fr Mark Bond in the hot seat as he joins Sam Brebner for a live interview. Tickets at https://events.humanitix.com/the-upper-room-october-2026 **Diocesan Youth Mass**: St Pat's Cathedral, 43 Wyndham St, Sun 25 Oct 4:30–5:30 pm. Join us for the October Diocesan Youth Mass! Celebrated by Fr Mark Bond & led by Tertiary students. All are welcome! https://www.facebook.com/share/1F6AmH1qLs/

Merle Abbot Art Exhibition

Bishop Selwyn Chapel, Holy Trinity Cathedral, 446 Parnell Rd. Opening Night Thu 15 Oct 6.30–8.30; exhibition 16–17 Oct 10 am–3 pm. www.artbymerle.co.nz

Property Manager—Education (Secondary Schools)

Join the Diocese & help shape safe, future-focused learning environments across our secondary schools. This exciting role involves leading property projects, managing maintenance and compliance programmes, & partnering with school leaders to support Catholic education throughout Auckland & Northland. A relevant tertiary qualification &/or significant industry experience is required & experience in the education sector & knowledge of Ministry of Education property standards & funding processes would be advantageous. To view the full ad & position description, please visit: https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/

Opportunities at Mary MacKillop Centre

Sr Ann Neven is offering a morn 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. The Srs look forward to welcoming Sr Mary-Ann Casanova—a Sth Australian Josephite—on Sat 31 Oct at the Chapel, & hope that a good № of people will come along to enrich their understanding & experience of **Being One with Earth**.

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

Exploring Sacred Spaces

organised by the Auckland Inter-Faith Council. Next event: Sat 17 Oct, 11.30 am–1 pm, Abu Bakr Mosque, 5 Cortina Pl, Pakūranga. For more info & all events in this series, please see poster in foyer or www.studyjoy.nz/2026/05/21/interfaith-events-coming-up/

General Manager: Catholic Diocese of Auckland

An exceptional leadership opportunity has arisen to join the Diocese of Auckland as General Manager. Reporting to the Bishop & Diocesan Administration Council, this influential role provides strategic & operational leadership across finance, property, people, IT, governance support, & organisational performance. Working alongside senior leaders across education, pastoral care, social services, & Māori ministry, the successful candidate will help shape & deliver a significant renewal agenda for NZ's oldest & largest Catholic diocese. We are seeking an experienced senior leader w strong commercial & financial acumen, excellent stakeholder management skills, & a genuine empathy for the Catholic faith, ethos, & mission. This is a rare opportunity to make a lasting impact in a values-driven organisation serving communities across Auckland & beyond. For more info & to apply, visit: https://www.sheffield.co.nz/Job-Search?Id=729

Tu Kahikatea Awards 2026

Nominations now open! These are annual awards given out by the Diocese of Auckland to recognise young people who have made an outstanding contribution in their community. For more info & to make a nomination go to: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/acym/tu-kahikatea-awards/ Nominations cl Sun 25 Oct.

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/

Eastern Bays Coffee Morning

Meet-up for men & women every 3rd Wednesday of the month, at the Terraces Restaurant, 207 Riddell Rd, Glendowie, in the grounds of St. Andrew's Village. Parking available. Come along at 10 am, Wed 21 Oct.

Events at St Francis Retreat Centre, Hillsborough

Register at www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz **W/end 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, w talks that explore how these practices deepen our awareness of God's presence. There will dedicated time for reading & 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. **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 6 Nov, Wed 8 Dec. **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 w prayer & rest, & continues until Sat 21 Nov 7 pm. Our spiritual directors will be facilitating the sessions.

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:

Rita MacDonald, Sir Ian Barker, Manus Gallagher, Robert Whiting, Anne Mendrano, Mark Farac, Melkiau Thavethoo, Toni Johnston, Vili Filo, Richard Tapley, Johnny McCarthy, Lilianna Monteiro, Peter Alvez, Robert Whiting, Marie Keeling, Ross Webb, Betty Dorothy Robinson, Ethel Kelly, Ruby Viskovich, Sr June Kirksmith RSCJ, Tereza Baricevich, Alex Pinfold, Vinka Marinovich, Donna Collins, Soane Filitonga, Shaun McKay, Francisco Rigour, Fr Bryan Winders, Jan Coleman, Essie Jones, Norman O'Sullivan, Anna Farac, Evelyn McGilly, Brian Dunkley, Clare Panther, Ligaya Reyna, Ian Snellgrove, Kieran Hegarty, Francie O'Sullivan, Rosemary Mohi, Dallys Horne, John Gordon, Trevor Miles, Helen Mclaughlin, Bishop John Cunneen. Eternal rest grant to them.