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."

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time—18th October 2026

In today's Gospel, the Pharisees and Herodians attempt to trap Jesus with a seemingly simple question: "*Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?*" They hope that whatever answer Jesus gives will place him in difficulty. If he supports the tax, he risks alienating those who resent Roman occupation; if he opposes it, he can be accused of challenging Roman authority.

Jesus responds by asking them to show him the coin used for the tax. In asking for a Roman coin, Jesus subtly lets it be seen that his questioners are themselves carrying the coinage with which taxes were paid to Caesar. Their attempt to trap Jesus exposes something about themselves.

Jesus then gives the enigmatic response that has echoed throughout Christian history: "*Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar—and to God what belongs to God.*"

Jesus is not simply offering a lesson about paying taxes. He is placing all our earthly responsibilities within a much larger framework. We have obligations to family, community, society and the various institutions of which we are part. These responsibilities are real and should be taken seriously. Yet none of them can claim the ultimate loyalty of our hearts.

The fundamental loyalty of our heart, mind and spirit is due to the one God alone. The expression of all our other loyalties must be discerned within that framework.

This is particularly meaningful as we celebrate Mission Sunday. To give God what belongs to God means giving ourselves. We are made in God's image, and therefore our whole lives ultimately belong to him. Our response to God's love is not simply something we keep within ourselves. We are called to share the Gospel through our words, our actions, our generosity and our service to others.

Mission is not the responsibility of a few missionaries sent to distant places. Every Christian is called to participate in Christ's mission. Some do this by going to other countries; others witness to the Gospel in their families, workplaces, communities and parishes. Through our prayer, generosity and practical support, we become part of the Church's continuing mission.

The challenge of the Gospel is therefore not to withdraw from the world, but to live faithfully within it, remembering always who we are and to whom we ultimately belong. We can serve Caesar, but we worship God—and because we worship God, we are sent to serve his people.

—Fr Stephen Berecz

Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 45:1, 4–6	I have grasped the hand of Cyrus, to subdue nations before him.
Psalm 95 (96):1, 3–5, 7–10ac	Give the Lord glory, glory and honour.
1 Thessalonians 1:1–5b	We remember your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope.
Matthew 22:15–21	Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.
Next weekend:	Ex 22:21–27; Ps 17 (18):1–3, 6b, 46, 50ab; 1 Th 1:5c–10; Mt 22:34–40.

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.

Driveway & Access Closure at St Michael's School

For the next 10 weeks (from 8th October), 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.

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

Did you know that?

Pope Pius XI established World Mission Sunday in 1926 to unite the Church in prayer & financial support for mission work, a tradition that continues on the penultimate Sunday in October. This means Mission Sunday on 18th Oct 2026 is the 100th World Mission Sunday. To donate using credit card, scan the code.

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.

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

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.

Auckland Catholic Youth Ministries

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 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 & led by Tertiary students. All are welcome! www.facebook.com/share/1F6AmH1qLs/ **Meet Up**: City & Central Region—1 Nov 1:30 pm, location TBC. RSVP to elisal@cda.org.nz

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 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 3 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.

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. The Awards are about celebrating the gift that young people are to the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand, & thanking them for the significant contributions they have made. For more info & to make a nomination go to: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/acym/tu-kahikatea-awards/ Nominations cl Sun 25 Oct.

Marriage & Family Life

Whānau w babies & children 0–5 years are invited to a newly established monthly Catholic Coffee group, starting Sat 7 Nov at 11 am–noon at Sacred Heart Church Hall, 16 Vermont St, Ponsonby. Further info—call Gerry on 021 02247442.

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 www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61576850039718

Book launch. Join the conversation.

A unique dialogue for a more inclusive world: *SAIRD: Structured Arts-based Interreligious Dialogue*, by Christopher Evan Longhurst. Thu 29 Oct, 7:30 pm (Refreshments to follow), Bp Selwyn Chapel, Holy Trinity Cathedral, 446 Parnell Road. A unique & pioneer framing of dialogue for understanding & peace across religious traditions.

Workshop at Mary MacKillop Centre, Sat 31 Oct

led by an Australian Josephite, Sr Mary Ann Casanova. Some of the themes will include Cosmology, links to *Laudato Si* & Being One with Earth.

Administration Assistant Wanted!

Marriage & Family Life Ministry is looking for a highly capable Administration Assistant to contribute to a ministry that supports marriage & family life. We are looking for someone who combines excellent administrative skills w a genuine pastoral sensitivity & a commitment to serving others. This is a P/T role of 16 hrs, working Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 10 am–2 pm (with some evening & w/end work) at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre. For full details & to apply please visit www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/ Closing date Mon 2 Nov.

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:

Katrina Subritzky, Roman Cuellar, Tom Keane, Eileen Keane, Tony Wu, Mabel Thomson, Von Phillips, Conrad Saldanha, Brian Philipps, Jose Tlentino, Henryk Wolk, Isabel Rodiguez, John Pakistan, Fr John Airey CSsR, Fr John Berry, Dan McCarthy, Denham Shale, Paul Austin, Eulalio Daguman, Rosa Romualdez, Mario Samala, Billy Plumb, John Gordon, Faustino Calvelo, Bill Mudgway, James O'Grady, Violet Sinkovich, Trinidad Antolin, Eileen O'Brien, John Geddes, Jo Walsh, June Courtney, Luke Tipene, Brian Claney, Tarun Asantha, Campbell Adams, Paul Gallagher, Janis Coleman, Carolina Noionha, Ann Marian, Carmel McCarthy, Cheekeong, Pat Insley, Mary Conning, Shirley Loretz, Shaun McKay, Terence Abreo, Rosann Laird, I Antoniraj, Rosemary Mohi, Jim Waldron, Dallys Horne, Helen McLaughlin, Bishop John Cuneen, Jim Butterworth, Fr Michael O'Hara, Ester Rian, Leonard Lanigan, Monthi Fernandes, Margaret Chapman, Jillian Paterson, Steve Noonan, Margaret McLean, Maria do Carmo Noronha, Dorothy Bowerman, Phyliss Bloomfield. Eternal rest grant to them.