

PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARNELL

"Prepare a way for the Lord."

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time—25th October 2026

In our Gospel today, a lawyer asks Jesus which is the greatest commandment in the Law. Jesus' response takes us to the very heart of what it means to live as a person of faith.

Jesus quotes that part of the Shema, the essential creed of Judaism, found in Deuteronomy 6:5: "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*" It is an injunction to an unreserved love of God. God is not to be loved with only a part of our lives. Our heart, mind, soul and strength are to be directed towards God.

But it is what Jesus does next that makes his reply so powerful. Using the rabbinical interpretive method of "equal categories," he couples Deuteronomy 6:5 with the commandment concerning love of neighbour in Leviticus 19:18: "*You shall love your neighbour as yourself.*" Both commandments begin with the words, "*You shall love…*"

For Jesus, these two commandments cannot be separated. Love of God inevitably finds expression in the way we treat other people. We cannot claim to love God while remaining indifferent to the needs, dignity and suffering of our neighbour.

Jesus concludes: "*On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.*" In other words, these two forms of love provide the foundation upon which the whole life of faith rests.

This Gospel challenges us to examine both dimensions of our lives. How deeply do we love God? And how does that love become visible in the way we treat those around us?

Sometimes we may find it easier to speak about our love of God than to demonstrate love towards a difficult neighbour, a stranger, or someone whose views and experiences differ from our own. Yet Jesus reminds us that the two belong together.

To love God is to allow God's love to flow through us. The love we receive from God becomes the love we are called to share with others.

—Fr Stephen Berecz

Liturgy of the Word

Exodus 22:21–27	If you abuse any widow or orphan, my wrath will burn you.
Psalm 17 (18):1–3, 6b, 46, 50ab	I love you, Lord, my strength, my strength.
1 Thessalonians 1:5c–10	You turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son.
Matthew 22:34–40	You shall love the Lord your God, and your neighbour as yourself.

Next weekend: Rv (Ap) 7:2–4, 9–14; Ps 23 (24):1–4b, 5–6 ℟ 7c, 10b; 1Jn 3:1–3; Mt 5:1–12a

Presiding Priest this Weekend

Saturday 5 p.m. Fr Stephen Berecz

St John the Baptist 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.

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.

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

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.

Mission Month—Thank You

As Mission Month 2025 draws to a close, thank you on behalf of the Pontifical Mission Societies for your gift from the heart for the missionary work of the Church. www.missio.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.

Auckland Catholic Youth Ministries

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 welcome! www.facebook.com/share/1F6AmH1qLs/

Meet Up: City & Central Region—1 Nov 1:30 pm, location TBC. RSVP to elisal@cda.org.nz

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 NZ, & 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.

SAIRD—the Structured Art-based Interreligious Dialogue

book launch organised by the Auckland Inter-Faith Council. Thu, 29 Oct, 7.30 pm at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell. For more info, please see here: www.studyjoy.nz/2026/09/18/saird-muffin-talk-with-dr-christopher-longhurst/

Update from the Mary MacKillop Centre

Sr Mary-Ann Casanova's day **"Being One w Earth"** is happening soon. We are looking forward to welcoming Mary-Ann to NZ & hope that many of you will come along to participate in the session she is offering on Sat 31 Oct in their Chapel. She advertises the day: *"We ourselves are dust of the earth; our bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air & receive life & refreshment from her waters."—Pope Francis,* Laudato Si §2. *Over three hours we sit with this one line, following dust, air & water through ancient Hebrew cosmology, the cosmic wonder of Teilhard de Chardin, & the field notes of geologist-priest Julian Tenison Woods—always circling back to your own place within it all.* Reg by Thu 29 Oct. Our regular **Taizé prayer** will happen on Fri 13 Nov in the Chapel. All are welcome. We offer another reflective session entitled **The Joy of Living Simply** on Sat 14 Nov from 10 am–1 pm led by Jill McLoughlin rsj. Come & pause with us as we explore what it means to live more simply—to loosen the clutter that crowds our days & return to the quiet essence of who we are.

Long Term Volunteer Opportunities

in the AUS-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

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.

Mass for Deceased Clergy

All parishioners from across the Diocese are warmly invited to the Annual Mass for Deceased Clergy to remember & pray for those who have passed away over the past year. Tue 3 Nov. 11 am at St Patrick's Panmure. Following Mass is the blessing of the gravestones.

Events at St Francis Retreat Centre, Hillsborough

Register at 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 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.

Marriage & Family Life:

Invite & welcome all whānau with babies & children 0–5 years 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. Come along & meet other likeminded whānau where God resides. There is lots of parking. Further information call Gerry (Leader of Marriage & Family Life Ministries) on 021 02247442.

Liturgical Ministries Lectures

The Mass, consisting of Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist are one act of worship…Just as Jesus did with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, he first opens their minds to the scriptures, & then proceeds to feed them afterwards. We recognise the same shape taking place within our Roman Rite liturgy: the Word of God is proclaimed, & then we partake as one in the Body & Blood of Christ. As we approach the beginning of the new liturgical year, the Liturgy Centre is hosting its next series of Liturgical Ministries Lectures. These will cover basic theological foundations for Ministers of the Word & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. To register, please get in touch with your parish office who will then complete a group registration on your behalf. Registration is mandatory for all participants. Ministers of the Word: 10 am–12 pm. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: 1 pm–3 pm. Exact parish location will be made available to those registered. 7 Nov—City & Central, 14 Nov—Western.

OCIA/RCIA Information Evening

All ministers involved in accompanying seekers on the journey of Christian Initiation are invited to an evening of kōrero, shared learning, & resources/support from the diocese. This is also an opportunity to engage & connect with others involved in this ministry. Wed 11 Nov at 7 pm. Pompallier Diocesan Centre (30 New St). Register using the link below: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/rcia-information-evening/

Operations Manager—Mid-North Parishes

The Diocese is seeking a part-time Operations Manager (20 hrs/week, fixed-term for 12 months) to support the Mid-North Parishes & MSC Priests based in Northland. This varied role providing professional operational support includes parish administration, financial oversight, property coordination, communications, planned giving, & health & safety. We are looking for an organised & proactive person w strong business/operations administration & relationship management skills. The position offers an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution by supporting vibrant parish communities & helping ensure the sustainability of parish operations across the Mid-North. For further info & to apply, please visit the Diocesan website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/

For Rent: Charming flat in Parnell

Flat as part of a private home. Approx 55 m^2, open living area (w gas fire), 1 double bedroom, kitchen (w fridge, oven, washer/dryer), bathroom, storage space. Garden. Parking (ACC resident permit needed or on site). Near Trinity Cathedral. Close to transport. Avail: Feb 2027. Rent: negot.

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:
Sandra Haydock, Cathy Ioelu, Sarah Mahon, Liam Payne, Abp Patrick Coveney, Chris Dunn, Sr Theresa Schaumkell rsm, Helena Vollebregt, Camillia McLaughlin, Paul Walker, Moira Gleeson, Rogelio Beltran, Ros Nielson Webb, Sr Elizabeth Maher rsm, Aileen Clark, Bob Van Lunenburg, Sr Margaret Ellen, Des Clarke, Doreen Plumb, Colin Leathley, Pat Geary, June Courtney, Paul Austin, Ann Marian, Rosann Laird, Carolina Noionha, Carmel McCarthy, Cheekeong, Mary Conning, Shaun McKay, Ven Catherine McAuley. Eternal rest grant to them.

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, 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.

9.30 am, 4th Sunday each month. Good Shepherd, Telford St, 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.