

PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARNELL

"Prepare a way for the Lord."

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time—8th November 2026

In the parable of the ten bridesmaids, Jesus invites us to reflect on the importance of being prepared for the coming of the Lord. Five bridesmaids bring extra oil for their lamps, while the other five do not. When the bridegroom is delayed, all become tired and fall asleep. Yet, when the announcement comes that the bridegroom is approaching, only those who are prepared can enter the wedding feast. Jesus concludes with a clear invitation: "Stay awake, because you know neither the day nor the hour."

Consequently, the great issue in this parable is the nature of time and how each of us should use it. We live in a culture that often avoids this question. The revealing expression "to kill time" suggests that time is something to be disposed of rather than a precious gift. As T.S. Eliot reminds us, "getting and spending, we lay waste our powers." Our lives can become consumed by distraction, busyness and the endless pursuit of things that do not ultimately satisfy.

This does not mean that we should not enjoy ourselves. Christian faith is not a rejection of happiness, celebration or pleasure. Rather, genuine exuberance comes from the profoundly good news of the Resurrection. Our joy finds its deepest meaning in the knowledge that Christ has conquered death and invites us into eternal life. The lamps are lit, after all, for the wedding feast of the Lamb.

The wedding invitation is therefore a challenge to forego delayed gratification and to live fully—today and every day. We cannot postpone love, forgiveness, generosity or faithfulness until some imagined future. The oil in our lamps represents the readiness of hearts that continually choose God.

May we use our time wisely, not merely filling our days, but allowing them to become opportunities for love and service. May our lamps remain burning brightly, so that when Christ comes, we will be ready to enter the joy of his eternal feast. —***Fr Stephen Berecz***

Liturgy of the Word

Wisd. 6:12–16 Wisdom is found by those who seek her.
Psa. 62 (63):1–7 My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.
1 Thessal. 4:13–18 Through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.
Matth. 25:1–13 Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.

Next weekend: Proverbs 31:10–13, 16–18, 20, 26, 28–31; Psalm 127 (128); 1 Thessalonians 5:1–6; Matthew 24:36; 25:14–15(16–18)19–21(22–30).

Presiding Priest this Weekend

Sat 5 p.m. (at Remuera) Fr Stephen Berecz

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Mass times this week at Parnell

Sat 14 Nov 9 am

Reconciliation Times this week in Parnell

Sat 14 Nov 9.30 am

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St John the Baptist Parnell is scheduled to be closed for repainting until 13th 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 at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday 14th 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.

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

Remembering our Dead this November

We remember in prayer our deceased friends & family. Please write their names on the cards provided & place them in the wooden box designated for this purpose. The box will be placed before the altar during Mass.

Bible Diary 2027

For daily prayers, readings & reflections, Saint of the day. $20 each. To order your copies, contact the parish office: office@parnellcatholic.org.nz

Columban Art Calenders for 2027

The office has just received the 2027 Columban Art Calenders. Whether you're looking for a great Christmas gift, or buying for yourself, get in quick, because they won't last long. Contact the parish office—$15 each.

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/

Eastern Bays Coffee Morning Meetup

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 is avail. Come along at 10 am on 18 Nov.

Liturgical Ministries Lectures

The Mass, consisting of Liturgy of the Word & the Liturgy of the Eucharist are 1 act of worship. Just as Jesus did with the 2 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 avail to those registered. 14 Nov—West deanery.

Update from the Mary MacKillop Centre

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.

Wings: Know your Faith; Share your Faith.

Are you involved with OCIA or Ministry of Word or Eucharist, Sacramental preparation, Children's Liturgy? This is for you! Coming meetings Sun 15 Nov, Sat 28 Nov from 10 am–3 pm, at the Pompallier Diocesan Cntr, 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

Red November 2026 Aid to the Church in Need

Celebrate Red Wednesday Mass at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre on Wed 18 Nov. Further details to be finalised.

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/

Shine TV Mass Recording at Parnell

Thanks to all participating in the Mass Sat 7 Nov at 5 pm at St Michael's Remuera. This will be broadcast on 14 Nov at 2 pm on Shine TV channel 25 or Sky channel 201. It is also uploaded at 5.30 pm Saturday night to the Auckland Catholic Diocese Youtube channel /aucklandcatholic

Study Theology at the University of Otago

The Programme offers many opportunities for the study of Theology, Biblical Studies, Biblical Hebrew & Greek, Church History, Ministry, Chaplaincy, & Pastoral & Practical Theology. You can study either on campus or across Aotearoa NZ through our distance study programme. We are committed to serving Christian communities throughout the country. For details of papers go to: www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/papers/ To enrol go to www.otago.ac.nz/study/enrolment/ To keep up to date, like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/theologyotago Or for info email theology@otago.ac.nz

Who is my family? Exploring Jesu's teachings

The Auckland Christian Meditation Community is holding a Community Day on Sat 21 Nov at St Pat's Church, 119–129 Seddon St, Pukekohe, 10 am–2 pm. Fr James Mulligan will lead a contemplative discourse on the fulfilment of the Divine Will for the family, seen through the eyes of Jesus in Mt 12:46–50, w insights from popular culture, scriptural studies & the spirituality of Christian Meditation. No need to book, BYO lunch, the day will include 2 periods of meditation, koha appreciated. More details at christianmeditationnz.org.nz

Events at St Francis Retreat Centre, Hillsborough

Register at www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz

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.

Calling all former St Pat's Cathedral school students & friends of the Sisters Of Mercy

Our beloved school closed in 1979. The historic building remains at 59 Wellington St, beautifully renovated, & was opened by Bp Cleary in December 1926. In conjunction with the sisters, a centenary celebration will be held at the site on Fri 11 Dec from 5 pm–7 pm. You are warmly invited to attend & celebrate with us & perhaps bring any school memorabilia that you may have. Please bring a plate of finger-food to share. Free parking is available under the building. RSVP by 20 Nov to Therese at turnock@xtra.co.nz or Rosemary on 0204258456.

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! Green Sketching Sat 21 Nov 10 am–noon. $25 or koha. Facilitated by Nicky Browne. Green Sketching is a tool for slowing down & increasing awareness. It combines contemplation, nature awareness & creativity. Come & enjoy some time in the beautiful gardens at Hou Mana Wai with a small group of people. 104 The Drive, Epsom. 638 6769 www.mercywellsprings.org.nz

Scholarship for Theological Study

Stephen Lowe, the Cath. Bp. of Auckland, is pleased to call for applications for the Ruth Miller Scholarship for Theological Study. This scholarship will be avail for those already teaching in a Cath. school, who intend to do 1 or more theology papers towards a BTheol degree in 2027. For further info. about this scholarship & to receive an appl. form, please email scholarships@cda.org.nz The closing date for applications is 27 Nov.

Charming Parnell flat for rent

Approx 55 m/2, open living area (gas fire), 1 double bedroom, equipped kitchen + washer/dryer, bathroom, storage. Garden. Parking (ACC resident permit). Transport close. Available: Feb 2027. Rent: negotiable. PH 09 37 99 076/ kearneyml@gmail.com

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, 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.

St John the Baptist Catholic Church Parnell

is scheduled to be closed for repainting until 13th 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 at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday 14th 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.