



Catholic Parish of Wellington South From the coast to the harbour

St Anne's
St Bernard's
St Francis de Sales
St Joseph's

*We are a community of joyful disciples growing together and sharing Christ's message.
Ko tātou tetahi hāpori o ngā ākonga harikoa, e whakatupu ngātahi ana, e ruia ana te karere o Hēhu Karaiti*

DISCERNING OUR MASS TIMES IN WELLINGTON SOUTH

we need to make some changes to our Mass times

What are we discerning?

We are discerning times for Sunday Masses in Wellington South. Vigil Masses are considered as a Sunday Mass.

Weekday Masses and chaplaincy Masses are not part of this change. However, the times of chaplaincy Masses for first language communities may need to be considered as they occur in our churches on Sundays.

Why do we need to make changes at this time?

We are at an early stage in becoming a new Parish and it may seem very soon to make changes. However Cardinal John and the Council of Priests have asked all Parishes to consider making changes to their Mass times because we have fewer priests in the Archdiocese than in the past. Important principles which also underpin this request are:

- The Eucharist is celebrated in the context of developing a sense of parish identity/unity
- Reducing the number of Masses allows for a larger pool of people for enriched lay ministries and creates a greater sense of community and greater energy

What is the process?

Our process for arriving at the changes will primarily be one of discernment. Discernment involves prayer and reflection rather than discussion and debate. Discernment gives us space to listen to God. It allows the voices of all members of our community to be heard. Members of the Parish Council and our presiders will help to lead the process.

Following the time of discernment, a group of leaders from our Parish church communities will gather to contribute to a broad conversation on Mass Times in Wellington South and what our communities have told us. The Parish Pastoral Council will agree recommendations for changes to Mass times at its November meeting. These recommendations will be presented to the Parish at Masses on 26/27 November. The recommendations will be sent to Cardinal John who will make the final decision on Mass times.

A timeframe for our Mass Times process is on the back page of this leaflet

What must the changes factor in?

We are not presenting a set of Mass times options for our communities to choose from. Rather we are asking everyone to reflect on a small number of factors which our Mass times changes must address:

| Now | | | 2017 on |
|---|--------------|---------------|---|
| Two priests assigned to Wellington South | | | Two priests assigned to Wellington South |
| 8 Masses including Mass at the hospital | | | A maximum of 6 Masses (under canon law a priest can preside at 3 Sunday Masses—including Vigil Masses) |
| Several Masses are at similar times meaning two priests cannot serve them all | | | A maximum of 6 times, with venue(s), which can be served by two priests and which include at least 1 Vigil Mass |
| Mass Centre | Vigil | Sunday | |
| St Anne's | | 9.30am 5pm | |
| St Bernard's | 5.45pm | 9.30am | |
| St Francis de Sales | 6pm | 10am | |
| St Joseph's | | 9.30am | |
| Hospital | | 11am | |

Our Marist and Diocesan Priests

| Now | 2017 on |
|---|---|
| Three Marist priests and a diocesan priest regularly help us fill our Mass roster; their primary obligation is to their ministry outside the Parish so we cannot rely on their availability | Marist and diocesan priests can still fill in when our priests are on leave or unavailable, subject to their availability |
| Substitute priests cost the Parish \$10 000 per annum. This sum is in addition to the approximate. \$120,000 per annum the Parish contributes towards the support of clergy. | |

Sunday Mass must be celebrated by a Catholic priest. We cannot plan for Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion on Sundays.

Our Mass times changes must help us live our Vision:

*Ko tātou tetahi hāpori o ngā ākonga harikoa, e whakatupu ngātahi ana,
e ruia ana te karere o Hēhu Karaiti*

*We are a community of joyful disciples growing together
and sharing Christ's message*

In 2015 we spent time discerning what our Vision means. Here are some of the themes and a selection of responses directly or indirectly related to Mass times from that discernment:

Identity and belonging: eg

- fear of being a stranger in a new community | having to go to strange new churches for Mass
- fear of loss of unique community identity | losing identity, way of singing & celebrating
- fear that the spirituality/ identity of a Mass | flavour of liturgies will be lost
- fear of losing a particular time (which suits a range of people)
- a hope that I can feel at home attending Mass in any church in the wider Parish as I do in my “own”
- a hope that the best of the four churches won't be lost in the new Parish—a renaissance of faith and fellowship
- a hope of being a unified Parish
- a hope of a widened, prayerful, inspirational community
- never leave anyone behind
- get involved (no longer just spectators)

Presence of and relationship to the Parish Priests: eg

- fear of loss of sense of closeness to priests to schools
- fear that a stream of substitute celebrants will undermine the cohesion of our community
- fear that priests will become remote from the people

Numbers at Mass: eg

- fear of a reduction in numbers
- fear of too many people, not enough seats
- a hope that all existing churches will remain open and more parishioners will attend Church regularly especially parents and children
- a hope for growth—more people | invite more people to come to Mass | more churchgoers, more people knowing God's family in one community

Young people at Mass: eg

- where are the young people?
- a hope that Mass is appealing to our young people
- children's Masses and attention to families | make children more involved and interested | joint children's Mass
- youth Mass

Accessibility: eg

- a hope that there is Mass in each centre so no one misses Mass | able to get to Mass-times of Masses
- transport for elderly and disabled for Sunday Mass | carpool for those who can't drive or are disabled

More on next page

Some suggestions for new possibilities: eg

- evening Mass at 5.30pm which rotates
- have one Mass said on Sunday in each Church (at a span of times throughout the day)
- sharing of ministries across more people – a hope for a groundswell of generosity, spirit & talent involving more people in liturgies | share our gifts by visiting other Mass centres | have readers from alternate areas and other Mass assistants
- have a brand new renovated modernised Church
- mix traditions of church communities
- combined liturgies and worship—feeling free to attend Mass in other churches in the Parish
- gather as a combined pastoral area more frequently
- making Church really fun

DISCERNMENT TIMEFRAME: KEY DATES

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 9 October | Week ONE: Introducing the process for our Mass Times discernment |
| 16 October | Week TWO: Our Mass Times: We need to make some changes —opportunity to reflect and respond |
| 23 October | Break for Labour Weekend: opportunity to reflect and respond |
| 25 October | Parish Pastoral Council scheduled meeting |
| 30 October | Week THREE: The Response from our Communities —all feedback so far is available to communities; we keep praying; there is a final opportunity for comment |
| 6 November | Week FOUR: We continue to Pray |
| 12/13 November | Week FIVE: Meeting/ Workshop of leaders from our Parish Church communities to reflect on feedback and contribute to a broad conversation about Mass Times |
| 20 November | Break for First Holy Communion celebrations |
| 22 November | Parish Pastoral Council meeting —recommendations for Mass times to be agreed |
| 27 November | Week SIX: Recommendations presented to communities --an outcome which has been informed by communities |
| Week beginning 28 November | Letter sent to Cardinal John with outline of process and recommendations for changed Mass times |

For more information go to wellingtonsouthcatholic.org

*Catholic Parish of Wellington South Mass Times Discernment, Oct/Nov 2016:
Information Leaflet for Church, School and First language communities.*