



Catholic Parish of Wellington South

In the spirit of Suzanne Aubert

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



Sunday February 19 7th Sunday Ordinary Time

"Today let us choose love, whatever the cost, even if it means going against the tide. ... Then we will be true Christians and our world will be more human."

Pope Francis, Homily, Visit to Bari,

Now

Ash Wednesday

22 February

Mass 9am St Bernard's School

Mass 10am St Anne's Church

Mass 7pm St Anne's Church

Next meeting of the Parish Council

Thursday 23 February

Coming Up

Combined Parish Mass For Children's Day

5 March 10am

at St Francis de Sales

Parent evening for the Sacramental Programme

8 March 6.30pm St Anne's

Weekend Mass

Vigil Mass

6pm St Francis de Sales

Sunday Mass:

9am St Anne's

10.30am St Francis de Sales

5pm St Anne's

Samoan Mass every 3rd Sunday

Weekday Mass

Mon: 9am Mass St Francis de Sales.

Tues: 10am Liturgy at St Anne's

Thurs: 10am St Anne's Mass

Fri: 9.15am St Francis De Sales Mass

Sat: 10am St Anne's Mass

From Fr Michael

The greatest thing you'll ever learn is just to love and be loved in return. In our better moments we all recognise that loving and being loved are at the heart of being human; at the heart of our true well-being and deep flourishing; at the heart of being Christian. Today's gospel takes that teaching a step further. Not only are we to love our neighbours as ourselves, we are to love even our enemies, those who persecute us.

Some teachings of Jesus can seem at the same time to be both impossible and exactly what we need to hear. Loving one's enemies is a good illustration. Imagine this same Gospel being read today by congregations in the Ukraine. In that setting, one could be tempted to bracket or suspend the teaching when life itself is at stake. Even though we live at a safe distance, it is easy even for us to feel great anger towards those responsible for situations of unprovoked aggression and the untold hurt which will last for decades. And yet, to respond in the same way would be to put ourselves on the same level as the aggressor. The Christian hope is to break the cycle of violence by not engaging in the same way.

This certainly does not mean that people under threat cannot defend themselves and their families. From other passages in the Gospels it is clear that Jesus is not telling us to ignore injustices and never make a stand against others. He is simply telling us not to become people of hate ourselves. Otherwise, how are we different?

The good news is: God loves you. The bad news is: He loves everyone else just as much. It is clear that for Jesus, the love of God and love of neighbour are at the centre of our being human before God.

The call to conversion is a call to give, to pass on, just as we have received. We are loved and so should love; we are forgiven and so should forgive; we are consoled and so should console. Why is that? Because the love, forgiveness, consolation and whatever else we receive only really impacts me and becomes truly "me" when I pass it on. Only then have I experienced the message of the prophet: "I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezek 36:26).

Because the truth of God is love, conversion to God is conversion to love. This is the Christian ideal, stretching us to a goodness and a love beyond the natural. This is only possible when we allow ourselves to be loved by God. Jesus tells us that acting out of love is better than acting out of revenge. What does your experience tell you?

What lessons have you learned in life on when and how to make a stand? What wisdom would you share with others from your experience?

Fr Michael Bellizzi

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Gospel acclamation: Whoever keeps the word of Christ, the love of God is truly perfected in him.

Remembering the Holy Souls

RIP: Diana Mae Fehsenfeld

Anniversary: Frederick Holden, Giuseppina Mollo, Giuseppe Mollo and Gerardine Mollo



For the latest information visit the Parish Website - wellington.southcatholic.org

The **Blessing of the Boats** took place last Sunday as part of the Island Bay Festival. The Blessing of the Boats is a southern Italian tradition that dates back to the sixteenth century. The ceremony has been adopted in Island Bay by its Italian community since 1933.



Local clergy bless a fleet of fishing boats and other sea-craft in this traditional ceremony to grant them 'safe carriage and plentiful bounties'. Boats are decorated with flags and blessed by a priest to protect the crew from the sea and to



bring good fortune.

Doing the blessing this year was Fr Doug Shepherd, parish priest of Wellington South and Fr Jeff Drane SM. They were accompanied by Rev Nathan Parry and Bishop Justin Duckworth.

Readings for this week

Sun 19 Feb: Levit 19:1-2,17-18; 1Cor 3:16-23 Mt 5:38-48
Mon 20 Feb: Ecc 1:1-10; Mk 9:14-29
Tues 21 Feb: Ecc 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37
ASH Wed: Joel 2:12-18; 2Cor 5:20-6:2; Mk 6:1-6.16-18
Thurs 23 Feb: Deut 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25
Fri 24 Feb: Isaiah 58:1-9; Mt 9:14-15
Sat 25 Feb: Isaiah 58:9-14; Lk 5:27-32



Combined Parish Mass 5 March at 10am

Help us celebrate Children's Day at St Francis de Sales Church on Sunday the 5th of March. Mass will start at 10am at St Francis de Sales Church. Please stay for a cuppa and a chat afterwards. There will be a lolly scramble for the children.



*There will be NO 9am Mass at St Anne's that day.
 Other Masses as usual*

Young Church Mass:

St Mary of the Angels,
 5pm March 26th

Caritas Lenten Envelopes:

Available in the foyer from this weekend

Lent 2023: Lenten reflection and prayer groups using the Caritas programme "I am the Light of the World" will be held: Mondays beginning 7.00pm 20 Feb at St Joseph's (Contact John Feeney) Mondays beginning 7.00pm 20 Feb through Zoom (Contact Sr Elizabeth for link) Fridays beginning after the 6pm Stations of the Cross on Fridays at St Anne's. Two groups: English (Chapel) and Samoan (Foyer).

"Receive Holy Spirit Power"

Current of Grace 2023 Conference by Charis NZ @El Rancho Waikanae 24th to 26th March.

Register now - www.currentofgraceconference.info

Speakers: Cardinal John Dew, Fr John Rae SM, Dr Mary Healy, Robert Falzon, with Archbishop Paul Martin SM celebrating final Mass.

Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver--- Mission Fair Come and support the Sisters of St Peter Claver raise funds for catholic Missionary work around the world. The Mission Fair 2023 has something for everyone with a variety of stalls, raffles, food and a great way for the community to come together.

When: 10am to 1 pm on Saturday the **25th of February**

Where: 1 Mersey Street, Island Bay, Convent Grounds.

Donations of good quality items for sale at the Fair are greatly appreciated and can be delivered to the sisters at 1 Mersey Street, Island Bay Wellington.

Suzanne Aubert Scout Group have restarted for 2023.

We meet at St Anne's Hall on Monday nights starting at 6.30pm. Contact SuzanneAubert@group.scouts.nz

Divine Mercy at St Francis de Sales starts 9.10am before the 10.30 Mass every Sunday. All welcome

Divine Mercy at St Anne's starts at 6pm after the 5pm Mass every Sunday. All welcome

Reconciliation available Saturdays 10.30 @ St Anne's

Fr Doug Shepherd - Parish Priest

027 248 3562

doug.shepherd@wellingtonsouthcatholic.org

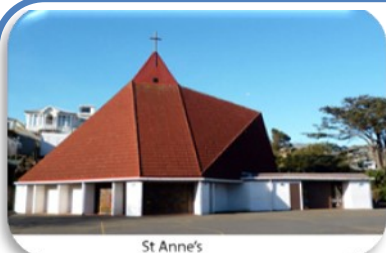
Fr Michael Bellizzi - Assistant Priest

383 8625 dunkilin@outlook.com

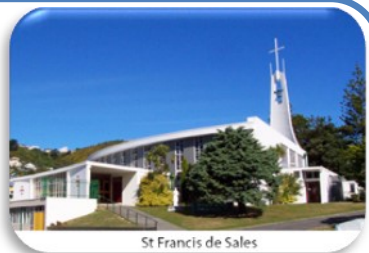
Parish Bank Details ADW-CPWS: 02-0576-0064832-00

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St Anne's



St Francis de Sales