



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 harikoo, e whakatupu ngātahi ana, e ruia ana te karere o Hēhu Karaiti



Sunday December 17

3rd Sunday of Advent

"Joy must be the characteristic of our faith. Even in dark moments, that inner joy, of knowing that the Lord is with us, that the Lord is Risen. Am I a joyful person who knows how to transmit the joy of being Christian, or am I always like those glum people, as I said before, who seem to be at a funeral wake?"

Pope Francis Angelus 13 December 2020

Now

Advent Reconciliation Rite III

Sunday 17 December

3pm at St Anne's

Memorial Mass Fr Paul Shanahan

6.30pm Sunday 17 December

St Francis de Sales

Coming up

4th Sunday of Advent

Sat 23 December

6pm Vigil St Francis de Sales

Sun 24 December

9am St Anne's

There will be No 10.30am Mass

Weekend Mass

Vigil Mass

6pm at St Francis de Sales

Sunday Mass:

9am St Anne's

10.30am St Francis de Sales

5pm St Anne's

Samoan Mass 11am every 3rd Sunday

St Bernard's Mass 10.30am every 1st Sunday at the school Hall

Weekday Mass

Mon: 9am Mass St Francis de Sales.

Tues: 10am Liturgy at St Anne's

Wed: 9am St Bernard's Mass in the Hall

Thurs: 10am St Anne's Mass

Fri: 9.15am St Francis De Sales Mass

Sat: 10am St Anne's Mass

Gospel Reflection

Good news for the poor and imprisoned.

The New Zealand Prayer Book used by our Anglican brothers and sisters allows those who proclaim the scriptures at their liturgies to end with the phrase, 'Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.' That's a lovely reminder that God's Spirit is at work in the heart of our world, breathing fresh life and new hope in unexpected and unimagined ways.

This is never truer than in the voice of Isaiah, our Old Testament prophet who in today's first reading reminds us that God is most powerfully at work in the lives of the poor and the broken-hearted, with a promise of freedom for all who feel oppressed and imprisoned. It is the prophet's task 'to bring good news to the poor.'

Something of the spirit of our Advent season is captured in the wreath of green foliage at the entrance to our churches at this time, with a succession of four candles lit to make sure that we don't miss the symbolism under our nose. Papatūānuku itself is a sign of God's recurring love, as one season of new life follows another. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.' (Isaiah 61:11). Illness kept Pope Francis from his planned three-day visit to the UN Climate Change Summit in Dubai earlier this month. But his hard-hitting message was delivered by Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin. The pope urged world leaders not to postpone action any longer but to craft concrete responses for the wellbeing of our common home and for future generations.

The pope said his presence was a reminder that 'the destruction of the environment is an offence against God, a sin that is not only personal but structural, one that greatly endangers all human beings, especially the most vulnerable.' Climate change raises an urgent question, said Francis. 'Are we working for a culture of life or a culture of death?' Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church through this enlightened pontiff. John the Baptist appears in our gospel reading, a witness to the light which is soon to appear on the stage of human history, a voice crying in the wilderness that we should make a straight way for the Lord who is once again about to burst forth upon our world. John denies most of the questions that are put to him about who he is – he is not the Christ, not the Prophet, not Elijah.

For the writer of John's Gospel, there is only one who is – the I Am (John 8:58), Jesus in whom the divine and the human are uniquely joined. And in his presence, John the Baptist kneels, not fit to undo his sandal-strap. This is the birth we are about to celebrate. John's witness helps us to get ready. In whatever way we can, we are being called to make the way straight, so that the truth of this extraordinary coming can be seen more clearly by those whose lives we touch. Hear what the Spirit is saying through the goodness of our lives, by our concern for those who are poor and broken-hearted, by our care for our imperilled planet.

Dennis Horton

Responsorial Psalm: My soul rejoices in my God.

Gospel acclamation: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

Remembering the Holy Souls

RIP:

Anniversary: Teresita Rodulfo, Ramona Ayongao, Antonietta Basile, Salvatore Ruocco, Helena Moreno, Cangiano Giuseppe, Maria Mollo



For the latest information visit the Parish Website - wellingtonsouthcatholic.org

Third Sunday of Advent: Joy – “Gaudete Sunday”

The third candle of Advent symbolizes Joy. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. The third candle takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. It is often called the “Shepherd’s Candle,” and is pink because rose is a liturgical colour for joy.

Reconciliation Rite III: There will be an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation together as a parish community on **Sunday 17 December at 3pm at St Anne’s**. The third rite covers communal reconciliation. The Priest gives a general absolution of sins after the community have reflected privately and say a prayer expressing their repentance.

Baptisms : We welcome into our Parish **Ariston Arun** who was Baptised at St Francis de Sales Church last Saturday by Fr Ravi.



Special Memorial Mass for Fr Paul Shanahan SM **Sunday 17 December at 6.30pm** St Francis de Sales Church. Fr Paul Shannahan’s first appointment as a young priest was to St Francis de Sales (1965-1968). Fr Paul died in Christchurch. Please bring a plate for a shared cuppa after.

Wellington Hospital Carol singing:

Christmas Eve 24 December 7pm.

Please gather in the Atrium at 6.45 pm.

We will divide into two groups. Spend about an hour singing in the various wards concluding with a light supper.

Readings for this week

Sun 17 Dec: Is 61:1-2,10-11; 1Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8,19-28

Mon 18 Dec: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-24

Tue 19 Dec: Judges 13:2-7,24-25; Lk 1:5-25

Wed 20 Dec: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

Thurs 21 Dec: Zeph 3:14-18; Lk 1:39-45

Fri 22 Dec: Samuel 1:24-28; Lk 11:46-56

Sat 23 Dec: Malachi 3:1-4,23-24; Lk 1:57-66



Bible Diary available for \$20. Daily prayers and short reflections included. For sale at St Anne’s this weekend.

Prayer for the Holy Land: Jesus, protect the innocent and vulnerable, comfort the suffering, and give courage and wisdom to leaders in the Holy Land. Amen



Calling all Children who would like to be involved in the Christmas Vigil 6pm Mass at St Francis de Sales. We are looking for Altar Servers, readers, offertory and someone to lay Jesus in the crib. If you are interested please email either: Maria at marialagruttaelenio@gmail.com or Kathy at gandksharpe@gmail.com.

2024 Sacramental programme

We are now accepting enrolments for 2024. This programme is available to all children who have been baptised into the Catholic faith and reached Year 4 or above in the primary school system.

Contact the parish Office for an enrolment form

Christmas timetable

4th Sunday of Advent

Sat 23 December 10am St Anne’s

Sat 23 December 6pm Vigil St Francis de Sales

Sun 24 December 9am St Anne’s

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sun December 24

6pm Family Mass St Francis de Sales

7.30pm Family Mass St Anne’s

9pm Night Mass St Francis de Sales



CHRISTMAS DAY

Mon December 25 9am

Mass St Anne’s 9am Mass St Francis de Sales

Christmas Novena Masses 2023

*Let us prepare and reflect on
the birth of Jesus through the
lens of Virgin Mary....*

15th to 23th December

7 pm

St. Anne’s Church

22 Emmett Street, Newtown



St Anne's

Fr Doug Shepherd - Parish Priest

027 248 3562

doug.shepherd@wellingtonsouthcatholic.org

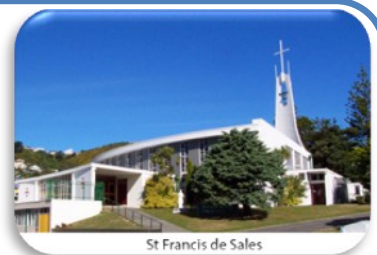
Fr Ravi Kumar - Assistant Priest

ravikmcal@gmail.com

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

Parish Office: 22 Emmett Street Newtown

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St Francis de Sales