



# 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 15 Dec 2024 3rd Sunday of Advent

'What then shall we do?'... The Gospel reminds us of something important: life has a task for us. Each of us — let us not forget this — has a mission to accomplish. Let us ask ourselves as well: what would be good for me to do for myself and for my brothers and sisters? How can I contribute to the good of the Church, to the good of society?

*Pope Francis, Angelus, 12 Dec 2021.*

### Now

#### 3rd Sunday of Advent

15 December

#### Parish Reconciliation

3pm Sunday 15 December

St Anne's Church

#### Simbang Gabi

starts 7pm Sunday 15 December

at St Anne's Church

### Coming up

#### Christmas Eve

24 December

#### 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** every 3rd Sunday

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

## Gospel Reflection

Rejoice in the Lord always

In our churches today, the liturgical colour changes from purple to rose or pink. The day is known as Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word meaning 'rejoice'. The shift in our Advent mood, from a sense of mourning and repentance to one of joyful expectation, reflects the deepening awareness of the Saviour's coming. It's a reminder that the real star in the build-up to Christmas is not us but the One who comes in God's name, whose word is true and who has the power to do what he promises, despite all the evidence to the contrary.

So, we listen with open ears to the prophet Zephaniah, inviting God's people to rejoice with all their heart, because the Lord is in their midst, renewing them by his love. 'Do not let your hands fall limp,' the prophet insists, 'God will exult with joy over you.' If only this could be the word which is heard in Israel and Gaza, Lebanon and Syria today!

Paul writes to the Christians in Philippi with the same message – that there is no cause to worry, because they have everything they need, so long as they pray with faith and thanksgiving. 'The peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and thoughts, in Christ Jesus.' John the Baptist is the last voice we hear in today's readings, responding to the people who ask him what they should do, as the Promised One comes into their world. His reply is simple. 'Share what clothes and food you have with those who have less.' Let the tax collectors take only what they are entitled to, and let soldiers act with justice and integrity.

In the end, says John, someone more powerful than him is coming. John washes with water, but the One for whom the world waits will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire. It is because we see this promise fulfilled in Jesus that we rejoice today. The real reason for the season is that Christ continues to come, year by year, with a power that can transform our lives. This is the present we await today; let it come this Christmas as never before. Heaven knows how much our world needs it!

**Dennis  
Horton**

*What Should We do?*

Luke 3:10-18

3rd Sunday of Advent



#### Weekday Mass

Mon: 9am Mass St Francis de Sales.

Tues: 10am Liturgy at St Anne's

Wed: 9am St Bernard's in Term time

Thurs: 10am St Anne's Mass

Fri: 9.15am St Francis De Sales Mass

Sat: 10am St Anne's Mass

**Responsorial Psalm:** Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

**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:** Gidget Cueto, John Stanley Kolaczynski

**Anniversary:** Dennis Jones, Helena Moreno, Frank Basile, Ivan Sarich



For the latest information visit the Parish Website - [wellington.southcatholic.org](http://wellington.southcatholic.org)

### 3rd Sunday of Advent

The third candle of Advent is pink and symbolizes Joy. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!"



# Christmas Timetable

### Advent Reconciliation

Sun 15 December 3pm St Anne's

### CHRISTMAS EVE

Tue 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

Wed December 25 9am Mass St Anne's  
10.30am Mass St Francis de Sales

### NEW YEARS DAY

Wed January 1 9am Mass St Anne's

### Priest Appointments 2025

Archbishop Paul Martin has announced the following changes  
Fr Biju Xavier has been announced as Assistant Priest to Wellington South Parish starting 2 February 2025  
Fr Ravi will be going to Plimmerton upon his return from India. We thank Fr Ravi for his ministry and Pastoral care in our Parish and bless him on his new appointment.  
The full list of appointments is on the Archdiocese Website <https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/>

### Parish Office Holiday Closure

The Parish Office will close at 1pm, Friday, 20th December 2024 and will reopen on Tuesday 21 January 2025. Emails will still be answered during this time.

### Readings for this week

**Sun 15 Dec:** Zep 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18  
**Mon 16 Dec:** Num 24:2-7,15-17; Mt 21:23-27  
**Tue 17 Dec:** Gen 49:2-8,10; Mt 1:1-17  
**Wed 18 Dec:** Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-24  
**Thur 19 Dec:** Judges 13:2-7,24-25; Lk 1:5-25  
**Fri 20 Dec:** Isaiah 7:10-14; Lk 1:10-14  
**Sat 21 Dec:** Songs 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45



The Catholic Parish of Wellington South invites you to this year's **Simbang Gabi** on 15 - 23 December, 7PM at St. Anne's Church, 22 Emmett St., Newtown. Simbang Gabi, which literally translates to "Night Mass," is a popular Filipino tradition in anticipation of Christmas that dates back to the country's Spanish colonial time.



This 9-day novena Mass honours the Blessed Virgin Mary, the expectant mother of our Lord. We join her in reflecting on the great mystery of the Incarnation and the fulfilment of the promise of salvation.

Join us as we celebrate this meaningful celebration of welcoming the birth of Jesus Christ!



### Columban Calendars

On Sale Now in the foyer. \$12

### Nativity Play – Calling All Young Actors!

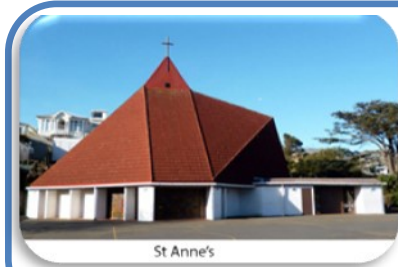
We're seeking enthusiastic child actors to take part in the St. Francis de Sales Christmas Nativity Play, for the Christmas Eve Mass on Tuesday, 24 December at St. Francis de Sales Church, Island Bay.

Our nativity play is always a highlight of the season, and we'd love for children from all around the community to join in the fun! Whether your child wants to take on a speaking role, a non-speaking part, or help behind the scenes with props, there's a place for everyone. If your child is interested in participating, please email [winandmaria@gmail.com](mailto:winandmaria@gmail.com).

Congratulations to Sela Vaka and James Tuiatua who were married last Saturday at St Francis de Sales Church. We wish them every happiness in their married life.



On Thursday 5 December at a Mass with St Anne's School, Teacher Tina Fagaloa was joyfully welcomed into full communion with the Catholic Church. May the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus shine in your heart.



St Anne's

### Fr Doug Shepherd - Parish Priest

027 248 3562

[doug.shepherd@wellingtonsouthcatholic.org](mailto:doug.shepherd@wellingtonsouthcatholic.org)

### Fr Ravi Kumar - Assistant Priest

will be away during Dec/Jan

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

Parish Office: 22 Emmett Street Newtown

Telephone - 934 4099; [office@wellingtonsouthcatholic.org](mailto:office@wellingtonsouthcatholic.org); Web Site: <https://wellingtonsouthcatholic.org>



St Francis de Sales