



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 8 Dec 2024

2nd Sunday of Advent

The witness of John the Baptist helps us to go forward in our witness of life. Jesus' disciples are called to be his humble but courageous witnesses in order to rekindle hope, to make it understood that, despite everything, the Kingdom of God continues to be built day by day.

Pope Francis, Angelus, 9 December

Now

2nd Sunday of Advent

8 December

Immaculate Conception

Monday 9 December

Coming up

Parish Reconciliation

3pm Sunday 15 December

St Anne's Church

Simbang Gabi

starts 7pm Sunday 15 December
at St Anne's Church

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

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

Gospel Reflection

When I first read today's gospel, Luke 3:1-6, in preparation for doing this reflection I wondered what I would write about. I did not feel much connection to it; I did not feel it spoke to me. But reading it again today it struck me deeply. The first sentence with its lengthy description that creates a beautiful rhythm sets the scene for the crux of the story, that "God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness." And that gives me hope. In this time when there are increasing threats to justice in our 'wilderness', here at home in Aotearoa New Zealand as well as overseas, we all need to have hope and hold it firmly.

I then spoke to a friend about this reflection, and she asked if there was anything to do with landscape in the reading. (I am a landscape architect). I smiled and then read this passage out to her: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth." Her question made me realise that there is in fact so much in this reading that speaks to me. Sometimes it takes a second look or a prod from someone else to see and hear what you don't see or hear at first. This also happened to me on Sunday evening when I gathered with a group of women to talk and eat together. We share a love of our faith but also sadness regarding issues in the church. We find it hard at times to be hopeful, but we gain strength and insights from our gathering.

While I deeply value the hills that embrace us here in Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington and do not want to level them, and the world would be boring with only straight paths, this reading tells me that God can come to me in my wilderness, particularly when I gather with others, and can give me hope and smooth my rough way.

**Ngā mihi
mahana
Maria**



Responsorial Psalm: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Gospel acclamation: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God. .

Remembering the Holy Souls

RIP: Fr Mervyn McGettigan (Dunedin) Fr Geoff Gray (Christchurch)

Anniversary: Nina & Antonino DeGregorio, Mariateresa Esposito Mary O'Riordan, Raffaele Muollo, Ioana Brown, Giovanna Cangiano



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

2nd Sunday of Advent

We call the second Candle "The Candle of Peace". Like the first candle, it is also purple. Often called the Bethlehem Candle, it reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to

Jesus.
We light this Candle of Peace in anticipation of Christ's coming return and in remembrance of how his birth was promised and foretold since creation's beginning.



Community 'Christmas Remembrance Service' to be held at Old Saint Paul's, Wellington on 13th December (Friday) at 6:30pm.

An opportunity to gather so that we can Remember, Reflect, and Receive support from one another - at this poignant time of the year. ALL are welcome.

FOOD FOR FAITH for Advent.

Sign up at www.foodforfaith.org.nz to prepare for Christmas receiving daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor's Food For Faith website.

XLT worship night for Youth and Young Adults was held at St Anne's last Friday evening. A night of fellowship, prayer, food, live praise & worship, Reconciliation and Eucharistic Adoration. Archbishop Paul, Fr Doug and Fr Alfred were there for this last XLT for 2025!



Readings for this week

- Sun 8 Dec:** Baruch 5:1-9; Phil 1:3-6,8-11; Lk 3:1-6
- Mon 9 Dec:** Gen 3:9-15,20; Eph 1:3-6,11-12; Lk 1:26-38
- Tue 10 Dec:** Isaiah 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14
- Wed 11 Dec:** Isaiah 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
- Thur 12 Dec:** Isaiah 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
- Fri 13 Dec:** Isaiah 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
- Sat 14 Dec:** Ecc 48:1-4,9-11; Mt 17:10-13



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



Baptisms:

At a special ceremony at St Bernard's school on Wednesday Fr Doug Baptised 12 students and some of their siblings into the Catholic faith.

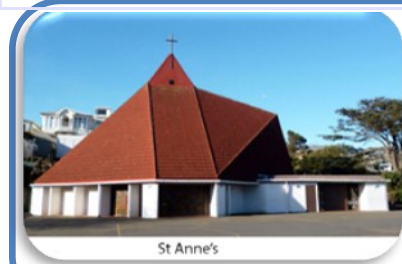
We also welcome Nathan and Evan Sajith who were Baptised at St Francis de Sales Church last Saturday by Fr Doug



The last session of our **ecumenical youth group** in Island Bay will be on Dec 13th, in the Presbyterian Church lounge, 88 The Parade. All welcome aged 11 and over. This will be a movie and popcorn night! This will also mark the end of Peter Crossan's time as the leader of this group, our prayers are with him as he becomes the full-time youth pastor at The Street Church.

This December we ask you to support our Seminary Formation Programme.

Your generous donations will help cover the costs of their education at Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland, as well as their travel to and from the Archdiocese and ongoing pastoral care. Please consider making a gift to help nurture and support those preparing for a life of service to the Church. Donations can be made to 02-0536-0003306-13; Reference: your name; Code: AB Appeal.



St Anne's

Fr Doug Shepherd - Parish Priest
027 248 3562
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; Web Site: <https://wellingtonsouthcatholic.org>



St Francis de Sales