



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 23 March 2025

3rd Sunday of Lent

Jesus knows that conversion is not easy. He knows that we become discouraged, and perhaps it may seem that our commitment to do good is useless in a world where evil appears to rule. Thus he encourages us with a parable that tells of the patience of God. He offers the comforting image of a fig tree that does not bear fruit during the accorded season, but is not cut down. More time is given to it, another possibility.

Pope Francis, Angelus, 20 March 2022.

Now

24 Hours for the Lord

Friday 28 March 9-10pm

Coming up

Feast of the Annunciation

Tues 25 March 9am SFds

Jubilee of the Sick and Health Workers

Sunday 6 April 5pm St Anne's

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: 9am Mass St Francis during Lent
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

On Kia ora e te whanau

I appreciate the opportunity to write these reflections as it necessitates exploration of a gospel reading, admittedly something I should do more regularly. Today's gospel includes the parable of a man who planted a fig tree. He told his gardener to cut it down as it was taking up space without fruiting. The gardener asked for it to be given a chance to respond to fertiliser, and if it didn't fruit, to then cut it down.

Jesus used parables to illustrate his teaching. I sometimes search for the origins of words and I looked up parable. Its root is parabolē in Greek. This led to parabola in Latin which led to the English word parable. A parabola is a U-shaped symmetrical curve; one side reflects the other. This gave me a deeper understanding of the word parable; it could be seen as an image, a sort of reflection.

And then I found this on <https://ncec.catholic.edu.au>: "The word parable comes from the Greek and means comparison, analogy or juxtaposition. A parable is a type of narrative with an emotive or moral significance which initiates comparison. They are usually short stories, memorable through an image – often drawn from nature or daily life".

I now intend to listen more deeply to parables, to focus on the image they create and their significance for me here, today. The image of an unproductive fig tree resonates. I love my garden and I used to have a fig tree. It did bear fruit but they had little flavour. Like the parable, I gave it another year ... a few times. After much consideration, I cut it down and have planted a feijoa instead. My mother planted a feijoa in her garden many years ago and it may have been the most productive feijoa in the eastern suburbs providing many people with delicious fruit. My feijoa has yet to bear fruit but I have more hope that it will bear good fruit than I had for the fig. And it is important that our fruit is good. Sometimes we need to remove what is not fruitful, what is not good and what is taking up space where something else good could grow, be it in our garden or elsewhere in our lives.

**Arohanui
Maria**



Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Gospel acclamation: Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Remembering the Holy Souls

RIP Fr Harry Costello (Whanganui)

Anniversary: Doris Whiting, Antonio Cuccurullo



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



Baptisms:

We welcome into our Parish family *Yzahlyn Ambas* who was Baptised at St Francis de Sales Church last Saturday by Fr Biju



Bishops' Lent Appeal

2025: Put your compassion into action Giving envelopes for the Bishops' Lent Appeal 2025 have been distributed from the foyer.



Every donation given will support Caritas' lifechanging humanitarian and development work around the world – and create change not just for today but for the future. The Bishops' **Lent Appeal** is essential to our mission, providing much of the resources necessary to continue our life-changing work in Aotearoa, the Pacific, and beyond. We are grateful for the generous support your Parish gave to Caritas last year. With continued support this year, we can offer hope to communities facing hardship.

Pick up your envelopes from the foyer today

XLT YOUTH WORSHIP 2025: JOIN US for our first XLT in 2025! An evening of relevant worship, adoration, reconciliation and fellowship for college students and young adults. Friday 28th March @ 7pm at St Anne's Hall, Emmett Street, Newtown.

Planned Giving: With the end of the financial year coming up and cash being less readily available, now is the best time to switch to bank transfer or automatic payment if you are currently using planned giving envelopes. If you wish to know more or make the switch to bank transfer/ap, please contact the Parish Office.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD @ Sacred Heart Cathedral A Lenten opportunity to join millions of Catholics around the world in prayer and adoration during this Jubilee Year.

Our Parish has booked

9pm to 10pm on Friday evening 28 March.

There will be Parish led Taize music and prayer Everyone is welcome to visit the Cathedral and spend some time in adoration during this period. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available.

The Archdiocesan **Marriage Preparation Course** – Love is a Decision – register for the June Course on the Archdiocesan website, consecutive Sundays 8 & 15 June 10am-4pm, St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie. Register early as there are limited spaces. Courses available for 2025 will be in September and November. Couples are encouraged to enrol in a course well in advance of their wedding date in case they need to defer due to sickness etc. Any queries, please email marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz

Divine Mercy at St Francis de Sales starts 9.10am Sundays at St Anne's starts 6pm after the 5pm Mass every Sunday. All welcome

[Catholic Parish of Wellington South Facebook](#)

JUBILEE OF THE SICK AND HEALTH WORKERS - Sunday 6th April. A special Mass will be celebrated at 5pm on Sunday 6th April at St Anne's Church, Newtown to pray for the sick and those entrusted with their care. All caregivers, nurses and doctors at our hospitals and care facilities are especially welcome.

During Lent Fr Biju will be saying Mass every Tuesday morning at 9am at St Francis de Sales Church. You are welcome to join him.



Reconciliation is available every Saturday morning at St Anne's before and after the 10am Mass. 2 Priests will be available.

HOLY HOUR: You are invited to come to a Holy Hour on Tuesday 25 March at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart beginning at 7.30 pm to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Included in the hour will be prayers, praise and worship, scripture reading and silence, concluding with Benediction. All are welcome.

Readings for this week

- Sun 23 Mar:** Ex 3:1-8,13-15; 1Cor 10:1-6,10-12; Lk 13:1-9
- Mon 24 Mar:** 2Kings 5:1-15; Lk 4:24-30
- Tue 25 Mar:** Isaiah 7:10-14; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
- Wed 26 Mar:** Deut 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19
- Thur 27 Mar:** Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23
- Fri 28 Mar:** Hosea 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34
- Sat 29 Mar:** Hosea 5:15-6:6; Lk 18:9-14



St Anne's

Fr Doug Shepherd - Parish Priest

027 248 3562

doug.shepherd@wellingtonsouthcatholic.org

Fr Biju Xavier - Assistant Priest

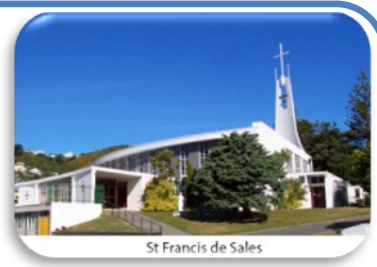
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St Francis de Sales