



# 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 Hēhū Karaiti

**Sunday 14 December 2025**

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

*'We want to walk together by appreciating what unites us, breaking down the walls of prejudice and mistrust, promoting mutual knowledge and esteem in order to give to all a strong message of hope and an invitation to become "peacemakers"'*

*Pope Leo XIV, Homily, 29 November 2025*

## Now

### Advent Reconciliation

Saturday 13 December  
3pm SFDS

### Croatian Mass

Sunday 14 December  
11am St Anne's

### SimbangGabi

Starts Monday 15 December  
St Anne's 7pm

## Coming up

### Christmas Eve

**Wednesday December 24**

6pm Family Mass St Francis de Sales  
7.30pm Family Mass St Anne's

### Weekend Mass

**Vigil Mass**  
6pm St Francis de Sales

**Sunday Mass:**  
9am Mass 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 St Anne's  
Thurs: 10am St Anne's  
Fri: 9.15am St Francis de Sales  
Sat: 10am St Anne's

## Gospel Reflection

### Proclaiming good news to the poor

From our kitchen window I can see the cedar, reputedly from Lebanon, which grows at the entrance to St Anne's. Beyond the roof of the Muslim family living across the road from us, the top branches now billow in the wind above the church's glass roof. I contemplated the scene often last week, as I reflected on the visit to Lebanon by Pope Leo, who in a couple of days urged leaders of other faiths to build peace and reconciliation on their common beliefs, challenged young people to be courageous in their faith, and especially comforted family members who grieved for those killed in the terrible port explosion which rocked Beirut in 2020.

Lebanon's cedars are mentioned more than 100 times in the Bible, and the land was celebrated for its rich fertility in Jesus' own time. In today's first reading, Isaiah praises its fruitfulness as a sign of God's splendid bounty. There is a lovely parallel between our Old Testament reading and the answer Jesus sends in the gospel to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the blind seeing, the deaf hearing, the lame walking and the poor hearing good news. Even the dead are raised, 'and happy those who do not lose faith in me.' We are being challenged to believe in the prophet's word that God will provide a better future. Pope Leo was proclaiming an alternative to the despair that so easily takes root when countries turn to war and violence to resolve their problems. His message echoed that of other recent popes, that if we want peace, we must build on justice and reconciliation.

The word in our second reading, from the letter of St James, is that we need to be patient. 'Think of the farmer,' he writes, 'how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn and spring rains. You too must be patient; do not lose heart.' When we look at the damage done by cyclones, especially when slash has blocked bridges and caused widespread flooding, we are being forced to rethink how we care for our common home. We need to listen with new ears to what our poor Earth is telling us, if we are not to be brought to judgment, says St James. May the Lord who comes this Christmas help us to listen and learn.

**Dennis Horton**



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

**Gospel acclamation**: Lord, come and save us.

### Remembering the Holy Souls

**RIP :**

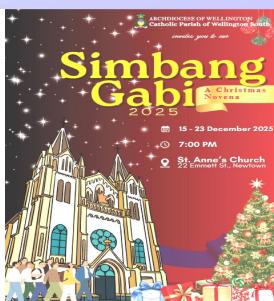
**Anniversaries** : Joe Natoli, Nick Apostolakis, Camillo Amitrano  
Raffaele Muollo, Antoniette & Antonino Basile, Ida & Antonino Muollo.



**The third candle** on the Advent wreath represents joy. Among the four candles, one is rose-colored: It is called Gaudete, meaning "rejoice." This liturgical color expresses the joy for the Savior's birth now near and encourages us to persevere on the spiritual path.

### **SIMBANG GABI :**

Once again we will be hosting Christmas Novena Masses from 15 to 23 December 2025 at **St Anne's Church**, Newtown, 7pm start. Let us prepare and reflect on the birth of Jesus through the lens of the Virgin Mary. All are welcome!



**CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE:** The Jubilee Year of Hope comes to a close in dioceses around the world on Sunday, 28 December 2025, feast of the Holy Family. All are welcome to the closing Mass for the Archdiocese of Wellington, which will be celebrated at 10.00am, Sunday 28 December 2025 at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

## **Christmas Timetable 2025/26**

### **Advent Reconciliation Rite II**

Saturday 13 + 20 Dec 10.30am St Annes  
Saturday 13 December 3pm St Francis de Sales

### **CHRISTMAS EVE Wed 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 Thurs December 25**

9am Mass St Anne's  
10.30am Mass St Francis de Sales

**NOTE:** There will be NO MASSES Fri 26, Mon 29, Tues 30 Dec, Wed 31 Dec

### **NEW YEARS DAY Thurs January 1**

10am Mass St Anne's

#### **Readings for this week**

**Sun 14 Dec** :Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 ; James 5:7-10 ; Mt 11:2-11  
**Mon 15 Dec** : Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17; Matthew 21:23-27  
**Tue 16 Dec** : Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13 ; Matthew 21:28-32  
**Wed 17 Dec**: Genesis 49:2, 8-10 ; Matt 1:1-17  
**Thurs 18 Dec** :Jeremiah 23:5-8 ; Matt 1:18-24  
**Fri 19 Dec** :Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Luke 1:5-25  
**Sat 20 Dec**: Isaiah 7:10-14 ; Luke 1:26-38



**World Youth Day 2027:** Interested in going to South Korea? Come join us for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul! Please fill out the expression of interest form below and email Regina Fernandes at [r.fernandes@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:r.fernandes@wn.catholic.org.nz) for any questions.

**Christmas Carols around Wellington Hospital** on Christmas Eve. Parishioners including Youth, are invited to support this event. We will meet at 6.45pm, 24 Dec. and gather inside the main entrance area Each year, people from various churches and community choirs come together to sing in groups around the hospital. All ages welcome, there is walking between the wards.



### **Island Bay community Christmas Carols**

Sunday 14 December at St Hilda's Church. 311 The Parade Island Bay. Starts 3pm. Catholics providing the sausages. All Welcome

#### **Where does your money go**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>
Aps	\$10,733	\$9,633
Cash	\$4,017	\$4,743
Envelopes	\$2,170	\$4,146
Other	\$10,413	\$8,743
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,333</b>	<b>\$27,265</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>
Archdiocese	\$1,722	\$1,876
Clergy Support	\$5,806	\$6,319
Pastoral	\$1,360	\$1,678
Maintenance	\$1,630	\$936
Admin/Wages	\$4,151	\$4,151
Insurance/Rates etc	\$3,246	\$6,115
Other	\$8,120	\$5,880
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,035</b>	<b>\$26,955</b>

Over the weekend of 18/19 April 2026 the Parish will be recognising the **60th Diamond Jubilee of the opening of the SFDS church** together with the 120th More details are to come but will include a Jubilee luncheon.

**The Parish Office** will be closed from 12.30pm on Tuesday December 23 and reopens on Tuesday 20 January.

During this time emails will still be answered.

Join us for **Divine Mercy** starting 9.10am every Sunday before mass at St Francis de Sales Church - all are very welcome to join us.

#### **Fr Doug Shepherd - Parish Priest**

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#### **Fr Biju Xavier - Assistant Priest**

022 1594548

frbijuxavier2010@gmail.com

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

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