



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 22 February 2026

1st Sunday of Lent

In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen as he does. We must recognize that the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church.'

Pope Leo XIV, Message for Lent 2026.

Now

1st Sunday of Lent

Sunday 22 February

Next meeting of the Parish Council

Wednesday 25 February

SFDS—Diamond Jubilee Committee meeting

Wednesday 25 Feb 10.30 Presbytery

Coming up

Sacramental Parent Evening

Tuesday 3 March 7pm St Anne's

Next Combined Parish Mass

Sunday 8 March SFds

Weekend Mass

Vigil Mass

6pm St Francis de Sales

Sunday Mass:

9am Mass 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

The readings today take us into the heart of God's compassion and mercy. We have been given a beautiful world by our creator, and in God's wisdom, we have also been gifted a free will. That is a beautiful gift. One that enables us to decide how we respond to the world around us, to each other, and to the promptings of our Heavenly Father.

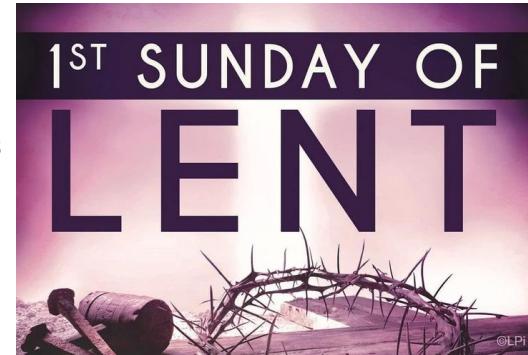
While it is a blessing it is also a life long journey. We all fall short. We are all in deep need of God's mercy. And the forgiveness of one another. We long to be restored and put right with God. Today, as we enter the Lenten season, we cry out with the Psalmist 'be merciful oh Lord, for we have sinned'.

As we journey with Jesus on his passion, we hear in the Gospel how he was tempted by the devil at his lowest ebb. Weary and hungry he is offered temporal things to satisfy the flesh along with the prospect of worldly status and power.

We too are tempted in this way. This Lenten season let us draw closer to our Saviour who understands our weakness. Let us meet him in the healing sacrament of reconciliation and in our forgiveness of one another.

Peace

Mathew Powell



Bishops Lenten Appeal

The beginning of Lent marks the start of the Bishops' Lenten Appeal. Donations can be made to Caritas directly via direct debit or credit card through the Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand website

<https://www.caritas.org.nz/ways-to-give> The bank account for Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is 03-0518-0211216-003. Please use "Lent" as the Code and your first and last name as particulars. Freepost envelopes are available at Mass throughout Lent.

Please take an envelope today if you prefer to give in that way.

Donations received by Caritas by 31 March will be sent a receipt for the 2025/26 tax year. Any donations received in the Caritas office after April 1st will be sent a receipt for the 2026/27 tax year.

Your generous support enables Caritas to help poor and marginalised communities around the world. Thank you. For more information, email: caritas@caritas.org.nz or call 0800 22 10 22.

Responsorial Psalm : Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Gospel acclamation: One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Remembering the Holy Souls

RIP :

Anniversaries : Msgr David Bennett, Glen Greco



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

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. **Mass** with Ashes was held last Wednesday at 9.30am at St Anne's Church with the students from St Anne's School.



LENT 2026 with FOOD FOR FAITH.

Visit www.foodforfaith.org.nz and sign up to receive daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor. Prepared especially for those seeking greater maturity of faith.

Sunday 8 March will be our next **Parish Combined Mass**. This will be followed by a shared cuppa.

This is also the day of the Newtown Festival when St Anne's Church grounds are used by the community. Newtown Festival has been going for 30 years and is a space for the large migrant and refugee communities to come and celebrate their culture and share their food with Wellingtonians. Now, the Newtown Festival is the largest festival in New Zealand. Due to the support of our school Principal, Matt, our Parish priests, pastoral council and liturgy committees we are helping with that, and the St Anne's complex has become the Pasifika and Filipino HUB of the festival – it has been a successful campaign for the last five years.

Readings for this week

Sun 22 Feb :Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7;Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Matt 4:1-11

Mon 23 Feb : Lev 19:1-2, 11-18 ; Matt 25:31-46

Tue 24 Feb : Isaiah 55:10-11 ; Matt 6:7-15

Wed 25 Feb: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32

Thurs 26 Feb :Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matt 7:7-12

Fri 27 Feb : Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matt 5:20-26

Sat 28 Feb: Deu 26:16-19; Matt 5:43-48



SFDS Jubilee Weekend Sat 18 April Sun19 April 2026

The St Francis de Sales church at 173 Clyde St, Island Bay, has a 'significant' heritage listing with the Wellington City Council. The Church was opened in 1966 and the community is invited to join in the Diamond Jubilee celebrations over the weekend of 18 – 19 April 2026.

Saturday 18 April 2026; following the Jubilee Remembrance Mass, at 10.00am, on Saturday 18 April there will be a **Guided Tour** at 11.30am of the Church's many features. These features include the striking mosaic of Christ on the cross, made from 135,000 pieces of ceramic glass and plastic tiles and the innovative coloured window at the Church's entrance that features the patron saint, St Francis de Sales. However, there are many more design and liturgical features, including an explanation for the design width of the central altar! These will be explained at the Tour.

Sunday 19 April 2026 12.30pm Jubilee Lunch, The Pines, Houghton Bay, Wellington; (\$55 per person, \$27.50 children under 12, under 5-year-olds free, to be paid in advance; there are no door sales).

Please register your attendance by making payment to Catholic Parish of Wellington South bank account 02-0576-0064832-01. Places are limited.

The Hope Project: Would you like to help?

Through partnership with Hope Project, the united churches of each city and town can see gospel booklets connect with most homes.

In the 2 weeks prior to Easter we will be delivering booklets. We pray for each household in the street as we walk. By Easter every home in our wider Island Bay community will be blessed with prayers for hope and a desire to seek/follow our Lord Jesus.

To join up contact Helen Reynolds on 021-257-8145, or helenreynolds15174@gmail.com

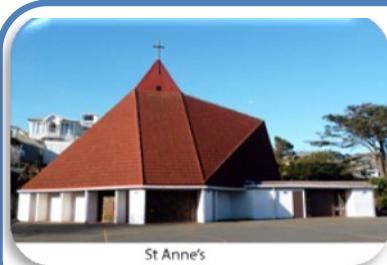
HOLY HOUR for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. JOIN US for an hour of adoration, reflection and prayer that the Lord may send more workers to the harvest! **7.30-8.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon on 4th Tuesday of each month**



XLT Youth Group

Come face to face in a personal encounter with Jesus at XLT - a night of praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, testimony, prayer and fellowship. All are welcome, so come as you are before the Lord and spend time in His presence. We can't wait to see you there! St Anne's Hall, Newtown **27th of February 7-9 pm**

Holy Hour with the St Peter Claver Sisters Blessed Sacrament exposed every Thursday at 1 Mersey St Island Bay. We pray for peace, families and vocations etc. All are welcome. Please contact the Sisters on 04 3838401



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