



# 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 8 February 2026**

**5th Sunday Ordinary Time**

'These Beatitudes remain a paradox only for those who believe that God is other than how Christ reveals him. Those who expect the arrogant to always rule the earth are surprised by the Lord's words. Those who are accustomed to thinking that happiness belongs to the rich may believe that Jesus is deluded. However, the delusion lies precisely in the lack of faith in Christ. He is the poor man who shares his life with everyone, the meek man who perseveres in suffering, the peacemaker persecuted to death on the cross.'

- Pope Leo XIV, *Angelus*, 1 Feb 2026.

**Now**

**Blessing of the Boats**

Sunday 8 February 2pm

**Coming up**

**Teachers Commissioning Mass**

Tuesday 17 Feb 5.30pm

Sacred Heart Cathedral

**Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday 18 February

**Sacramental Parent Evening**

Tuesday 3 March 7pm St Anne's

**60th Diamond Jubilee of SFds**

18/19 April

**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

In today's Gospel Jesus challenges us to be "salt of the earth" and "light of the world". This is not a call to personal glory, but a challenge to active service. Salt must season and light must brighten. The First Reading from Isaiah clarifies how this light is to shine by moving from the sanctuary to the community: by sharing bread with the hungry and sheltering the oppressed. The Psalmist urges us to "give generously to the needy" and be unfailingly kind.

Last Friday we commemorated Waitangi Day. For us, living in Aotearoa New Zealand, these readings resonate deeply with the spirit of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

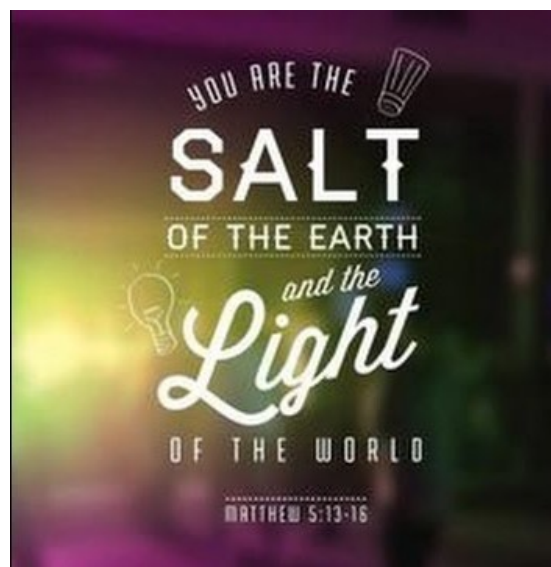
Just as Isaiah calls for justice as a prerequisite for God's light to shine, the Treaty as a covenant should be the foundation for justice, partnership, and mutual respect between Māori and Pākehā in our country. In this context to be "salt" means honouring these promises and "light" means exposing and healing the injustices of inequality or historical grievance.

St. Paul reminds us that our faith should not rest on "human wisdom" but on God's power.

This power is visible when we stand together (Together for the Treaty) with the marginalised. Justice is commanded by both our Gospel and our Te Tiriti covenant, ensuring that our salt never loses its flavour.

"You are like salt for all mankind ... You are like light for the whole world".

**Carolyn Carr**



**Sacramental Preparation**



**Sacramental Programme**

Enrolments are now open for the Wellington South 2026 Sacramental programme. This programme is available to all children who have been baptised into the Catholic faith and have reached Year 4 or above in the primary school system. Application forms are on the Website [here](https://www.wellingtonsouthcatholic.org)

**Responsorial Psalm** : The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.

**Gospel acclamation**: I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

**Remembering the Holy Souls**

**RIP** : Br Douglas Darwick

**Anniversaries** : Monsignor David Bennett



**For the latest information visit the Parish Website - [wellingtonsouthcatholic.org](https://www.wellingtonsouthcatholic.org)**

## Blessing of the Boats

The "Blessing of the Boats" is a tradition that is part of the Island Bay Festival starting on **Sunday 8 February**. At 2pm our Priests will be there to bless the boats. This blessing is part of the religious belief that if the boats



receive the grace of God, they and the fishermen will be protected from the elements and will also reap the bounty of the sea.

## St Bernard's School Site Update:

Many thanks to those parishioners that have assisted with sorting the remaining furniture and fittings following the school's closure at the end of 2025; this assistance has been most helpful. It follows the Ministry of Education, and Archdiocese, attending to the statutory requirements. It is likely that two of the on-site pre-fab classrooms will, in due course, be re-located to another Catholic school in Wellington. The land and buildings will in future be managed through the CPWS Parish Office and the Parish Finance & Property Committee.

**Baptism:** Taima Fagaloa was received into full communion with the Catholic Church last Saturday at St Anne's by Fr Doug



**The Ecumenical Youth Group** in Island Bay are entering the IB Festival Birdman Competition, at Island Bay beach on **Friday 13th**. Meet at the Volley ball nets beside Shoreland Park 5:15pm, please let Quentin the youth pastor know if your youth are coming - 022 198 1913. This will be the first meeting of the year, they will meet every 2nd Friday at the Presbyterian Hall, 88 The Parade, from Feb 27th.

## Readings for this week

**Sun 8 Feb** : Isaiah 58:7-10 ; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Matt 5:13-16

**Mon 9 Feb** : 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13, Mark 6:53-56

**Tue 10 Feb** : 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30, Mark 7:1-13

**Wed 11 Feb**: 1 Kings 10:1-10, Mark 7:14-23

**Thurs 12 Feb** :1 Kings 11:4-13, Mark 7:24-30

**Fri 13 Feb** : 1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19, Mark 7:31-37

**Sat 14 Feb**: 1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34, Mark 8:1-10



Thanks to everyone who came to say farewell to Fr Doug at the Masses last Saturday. He will be fondly remembered.



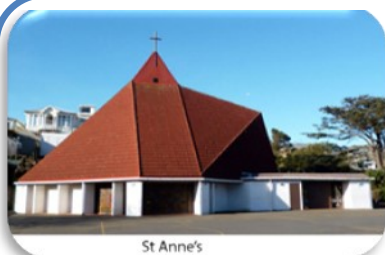
**Annual Mission Fair** : The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver invite you to the Fair on **Saturday 21 February 2026**, 10-2pm Convent Grounds, 1 Mersey Street, Proceeds will support the purchase of water tanks in Kibuye-Bondo Kenya and construction of toilets for Nseng-Long parish and village in Cameroon. For more information, contact the Sisters : (04) 383 8401.

## SFDS Jubilee Magazine and Jubilee Mass Sunday 19 April 2026:

The organising Committee are intending to publish a Jubilee magazine prior to the weekend of the Jubilee. Production of the publication is very well advanced, but should you have a snippet of information; please email Penny Holden holdenfa@gmail.com

The prime reason for the Jubilee is to acknowledge 60 years since the opening of the St Francis de Sales Church in 1966. Also being acknowledged over the weekend is 120 years of the presence of a Catholic church in Island Bay, 120 years of establishing Catholic education in Island Bay and 100 years since the opening of St Madeleine Sophie Primary School; of course, the forerunner of the present St Francis de Sales School.

**Sunday 19 April 2026** 12.30pm Jubilee Lunch, The Pines, Houghton Bay, Wellington; (\$55 per person to be paid in advance as there are no door sales). Please register your attendance by making payment to Catholic Parish of Wellington South bank account 02-0576-0064832-01



St Anne's

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