

For Your Diaries : 2017

March, "Silence" movie in cinemas now (R16)

This film tells the story of two Christian missionaries who face the ultimate test of faith when they travel to Japan in search of their missing mentor at a time when Christianity was outlawed and their presence forbidden. The celebrated director, Martin Scorsese's 28-year journey to bring Shusaku Endo's 1966 acclaimed novel to life will be in theatres this Lenten season.

7, 14 & 21 March, Spirituality Seminar with Fr Eddie Condra

7.30—9pm on March 7, 14 and 21. Held at SS Peter and Paul Church hall, Knights Rd, Lower Hutt. To register email tepunatapu@gmail.com or call Megan 04 477 6827

10 March, Friday Lenten Meditations

Each Friday in Lent, following the midday Mass, members of our choir will lead us in a short sung meditation. All are welcome to attend.

16 March, Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship Wellington

Come along and join us on Thursday 16th of March 2017 at 7:30pm for fellowship and prayer in Connolly Hall, Guildford Terrace, Thorndon (behind Sacred Heart Cathedral). Speaker: Michael Powell on DVD about "Following Jesus". Want to know more? Ring John Taylor (04) 389-8915 or 021-107-8538 or email: jntaylor@paradise.net.nz

18 & 19 or 22 & 23 March, Engaged Encounter Weekend

Engaged Encounter is a weekend experience for couples intending to be married. Weekends in March are 18-19 March, 22-23.

21 March, Public Lecture: Sr Gail Worcelo 'In the Spirit of Laudato Si'

Come and hear Sister Gail Worcelo speak - 'In the Spirit of Laudato Si', the latest encyclical of Pope Francis ushering in a new 'moment of grace' for our world today. Gail holds degrees in Clinical Psychology & Christian Spirituality and divides her time between life in the monastery and teaching and leading workshops around the world. Details: 4.30 - 7.30pm Te Wahanga Atawhai Mercy Centre, 15 Guildford Tce, Thorndon. RSVP Vaughan Smith, Sisters of Mercy, Thorndon 04 831 0300 or office@mercy.org.nz. Light refreshments available. Contributions as koha on entry gratefully received.

9 April, Explore Mercy Day

A time to explore a possible calling from God to become a Sister of Mercy. Single women are invited to attend an event at Mercy Centre, Thorndon, lunch included. Bookings are necessary. Please contact Sister Stephanie on 819 8312 or skit2@xtra.co.nz. Come along and bring a friend.

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A LEGACY OF FAITH



Remembering St Mary of the Angels in your will provides an ideal opportunity to make a statement of your faith and to give resources that will support your Church for years to come.

Please contact the Parish Office for further details. Phone (04) 473 8074.

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This is a must see for new businesses on a budget. Earthquake Engineering Evaluation IEP Report NBS 80%.

Contact by e-mail for further information:
mariabaldock@gmail.com

The Angelus

St Mary of the Angels Parish

Church and Presbytery

17 Boulcott Street

Wellington Central

Telephone: 04 473 8074

Parish website: www.smoa.org.nz

St Mary of the Angels is a diverse community which seeks to praise and thank God in a place of calm and beauty and strives to be Christ alive in Central Wellington

MASS TIMES

Sunday

7am St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall

9am Sacred Heart Cathedral

12pm St John's Presbyterian Church

5pm St Joseph's Church, Mt Victoria

Monday to Friday

St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall

7:30am, 12:05pm & 5:15pm

Saturday

11am St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING

St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall

11am Mass 4th Saturday of each month

ADORATION

St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall

Monday to Friday 6:45am - 7:30am

Friday 11:00am - 12:00pm

RECONCILIATION

St Mary of the Angels Presbytery

Monday to Thursday 11:30am - 12:00pm

12:30pm - 1:00pm

4:30pm - 5:00pm

Friday

11:00am - 12:00pm

12:30pm - 1:00pm

4:30pm - 5:00pm

Saturday

10:30am - 11:00am

4:00pm - 5:00pm

Parish Priest

Fr Barry Scannell SM
smoapp@xtra.co.nz

Assistant Priest

Fr Joe Savesi SM

Adult Education

Fr Kevin Conroy SM

Pastoral Worker

Sr Frances Gibbs CSB

Director of Music

Robert Oliver
robert.oliver@paradise.net.nz

Parish Accountant

Jeanette Temelo
smoamanager@xtra.co.nz

Parish Office

smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz

05 March 2017, 1st Sunday of Lent - Year A

Grand Gala Dinner

The Grand Gala Dinner fundraiser for the seismic strengthening of our Church took place on Friday evening. It was a wonderful affair and will surely help to narrow the funding shortfall.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all who were involved in organizing this major fundraising event. I thank the organizing committee who worked tirelessly on all aspects and fine details of the evening. My sincere thanks to all the businesses who sponsored the dinner and auction items, especially the caterers, Simply Food, who prepared such a splendid banquet - this gift was their way of contributing to the project. And finally, I thank all our Patrons who have been a great inspiration to me during this work.

Please keep these people in your prayers and continue to pray for the seismic strengthening work and fundraising efforts.

Rite of Election

Today at the 5pm Mass our candidates and catechumen will continue their journey towards being received into the Church with the Rite of Election. This rite is about the candidates/catechumen responding to God's call to them towards receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at Easter. This rite will be followed over the next few Sundays with the "Scrutinies".

Please continue to pray for our candidates **Peter Won, Susan Rooney, William Nicholas Shaw** and our catechumen **Jingwei Qiu** as they continue on their spiritual journey through the RCIA program. Please also pray for their sponsors, families and those that are guiding them on this journey.

Confirmation Programme for Adults

The St Mary of the Angels Confirmation programme for adults begins soon. If you have not been Confirmed, or know someone who would like to be, please register your interest with the Parish Office as soon as possible.

The programme will comprise of 4 one hour sessions on Thursday evenings commencing on Thursday 9 March at 7.15pm in the Parish Hall.

Registration forms are available at all Masses today and from the Parish Office during weekdays. Please return completed forms to one of the Pastoral team or the Parish Office. For more information please contact Father Kevin Conroy on kfxconroy@gmail.com

Father Barry Scannell s.m.
Parish Priest

This Week's Readings

First Reading Gen 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7
Creation of our first parents, and sin.

Second Reading Rom 5: 12-19
Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Gospel Reading Matthew 4: 1-11
Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Next Week's Readings

First Reading Gen 12: 1-4

Psalm 32

Second Reading Tim 1: 8-10

Gospel Reading Matthew 17: 1-9

Last Sunday's Collection

Total: \$4,868



Pastoral Area 2017

First Sacraments Programme

Registrations are now being taken for the children's first sacramental programme (Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion) for our Pastoral Area. Registration forms are available at the Catholic primary schools within the Wellington Central Parish area as well as the Sacred Heart Cathedral foyer and St Mary of the Angels Parish Office or at Mass.

To be eligible your child should be 8+ years of age before 1 November 2017 and already be baptized. Enrolments close on Friday 3 March 2017.



Mass has been offered for:

Recently Deceased: Joanna Veltman, Teeny Van Geyn

Anniversaries: Conegunda Fanlo, Richard Brugnol, Marivac Del Rosario, Joan Abbott, Cecilia Dickson, Leslie Kriebel, Donald McIver, Fr Barry Edwards, Fr Michael O'Meeghan sm, John Morris, Nelson Nunns, Aileen Gallagher, Fr Chris Penders AA

Prayers for the Sick: Veronica Heather, Mary Crompton, Jenni Rowell, Jeanette Parker, Teresa Jeong, Dr Peter Brooke, Clem Cull, Fr Kevin O'Donoghue sm, Maureen Ayling, Richard Wright, Losalia Leo, Patricia Smyth, John Foden, Imelda Reeve, Jan Tuinman, Kathleen Phelan, John Mora, Maria Kim, Leo Buchanan, Carol Aldridge



Please remember these and any others in the Parish who are ill. If you know of anyone confined to their home or who needs a visit with Holy Communion, please contact Sister Frances at the Parish Office.

Responsorial Psalm 50

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy in me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. **R**

My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. **R**

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R**

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R**



Miserere mei, Deus, dele iniqui-ta-tem me-am.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, blot out my iniquity.

Lenten Appeal

Lenten Giving Packs for the Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand Lenten Appeal are available today. You can either use the weekly donation envelopes or use a Single donation envelope. You may either return your donation envelopes during the Parish Offertory collection or send them to Caritas directly. A Freepost envelope is available for this option. Cash must not be sent through the post. Thank you for your generosity.

Prayer for Seismic Strengthening Work

Gracious God, Creator of the Universe, you made us in your own image and likeness.

You gave us wisdom and understanding, grateful hearts and creative minds.

We pray that our beautiful Church will be strengthened against the peril of earthquake through the generosity of parishioners, the community of Wellington and people throughout New Zealand.

We ask, Lord, that you abundantly bless those who have already donated funds, skill and expertise to this project.

May St Mary of the Angels Church be a symbol of a unified community that will gather to praise and thank you.

Mary our Mother, pray for us.

Young Angel Voices

The Young Angel Voices singing group meets on Thursdays at 4.30pm in the Community room at St Mary of the Angels Presbytery.

Information is available in the foyer of the Parish Hall. Children learn lots of fun songs, to read music and to produce their voices. All are welcome and there is no audition.

Engaged Encounter

Engaged Encounter is a weekend experience for couples intending to be married. Weekends in 2017 are 18-19 March, 22-23 July and 11-12 November. Registrations close 2 weeks before. Venue: Presbytery, 301 Karori Road, Karori, Wellington. For more details go to the website at <http://www.ceewellington.org.nz> or phone Kate & Simon Olsen: (04) 801 6192, or email Simon and Kate at simonolsen@gmail.com

Pope Francis' 2017 Lenten Message - Part 1: The Other Person is a Gift

Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God "with all their hearts" (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive (cf. Homily, 8 January 2016).

Lent is a favourable season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered us by the Church: fasting, prayer and almsgiving. At the basis of everything is the word of God, which during this season we are invited to hear and ponder more deeply. I would now like to consider the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (cf. Lk 16:19-31). Let us find inspiration in this meaningful story, for it provides a key to understanding what we need to do in order to attain true happiness and eternal life. It exhorts us to sincere conversion.

The other person is a gift

The parable begins by presenting its two main characters. The poor man is described in greater detail: he is wretched and lacks the strength even to stand. Lying before the door of the rich man, he fed on the crumbs falling from his table. His body is full of sores and dogs come to lick his wounds (cf. vv. 20-21). The picture is one of great misery; it portrays a man disgraced and pitiful.

The scene is even more dramatic if we consider that the poor man is called Lazarus: a name full of promise, which literally means God helps. This character is not anonymous. His features are clearly delineated and he appears as an individual with his own story. While practically invisible to the rich man, we see and know him as someone familiar. He becomes a face, and as such, a gift, a priceless treasure, a human being whom God loves and cares for, despite his concrete condition as an outcast (cf. Homily, 8 January 2016).

Lazarus teaches us that other persons are a gift. A right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognizing their value. Even the poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but a summons to conversion and to change. The parable first invites us to open the doors of our heart to others because each person is a gift, whether it be our neighbour or an anonymous pauper. Lent is a favourable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ. Each of us meets people like this every day. Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love. The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable. But in order to do this, we have to take seriously what the Gospel tells us about the rich man.

(continued next week)

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