

### The Role of a Deacon

Father Barry has asked me to write something for the Angelus today about my role as a Deacon at St Marys.

The basic role of a deacon is to serve. The very word "deacon" is taken from the Greek word diakonia, meaning service. Exactly what a deacon does varies depending upon the needs of those he serves. However there are three main areas of service; the Word, the Liturgy and Charity.

At Mass, the deacon is the ordinary minister of the proclamation of the Gospel (in fact, a priest, bishop, or even the Pope should not proclaim the Gospel if a deacon is present) His ministry also includes preaching and teaching. His liturgical ministry includes various parts of the Mass proper to the deacon, including being an ordinary minister of Holy Communion. His ministry of charity involves service to the poor and marginalized and working with parishioners to help them become more involved in such ministry. As clerics, they are required to recite the Liturgy of the Hours. Deacons, like priests and bishops, are ordinary ministers of the sacrament of Baptism and can serve as the church's witness at the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. Deacons may preside at funeral rites not involving a Mass. They can preside over various services such as Benediction and they may give certain blessings. They cannot hear confession and give absolution, anoint the sick, or celebrate Mass.

For myself I am unable to fulfill all the roles of a deacon at this parish (e.g. ministry of charity to the poor) as I am a full time student at the college of education, studying to become a teacher. Also I am a transitional deacon as opposed to a permanent deacon. This means that I am on the path to priestly ordination within the Society of Mary. I am hoping to get ordained in September up in my home parish of Whangarei.

Thank you for all your support and encouragement since I have been here. Your feedback about my homilies is very much appreciated. Please pray for me as I approach ordination (not to mention my exams!!)

*Deacon Matt Crawford sm*

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### Mass has been offered for

- Recently Died:** Peter Gilbert,  
Marie McMahan  
Patrick Brophy
- Anniversaries:** Fr Alex Taylor sm  
The Swensson Family
- Special Intentions:** 4
- Prayers for the Sick:** Fr Tom O'Connor sm,  
Patricia Smyth, Cecilia Dickson, Da Van Luyn,  
Des Cartright, Oinah Macpherson, Dulcie Campbell,

Mary Egan, Joan O'Neill, Kath Cosgrave, Ron Blair, Carolyne Collins, Peter Tawhaki, Nomaza Sidima-Jacob, Pat Smith, Mary Jarvis, Angela Hong, Maria Kasperowicz, Marie McWilliams, Paul Rajan, Bill Pryor.

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### Lost & Found

We have a collection of reading glasses, scarves and hats in our lost property box in the office. Call in to the office between 9am and 4pm during weekdays to have a look.

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### Social Justice Winter Dialogue Series 2010 Cultural Diversity

The Social Justice Group of the Wellington Central Cluster has arranged a winter lecture series linked to the theme of Cultural Diversity which has been selected by Caritas for their Social Justice Week in September 2010. The series will be hosted at St Joseph's Parish, Ellice Street, Mount Victoria.

Each session will involve an address of around 30 minutes to be followed by the opportunity for questions and discussion, and conclude with supper.

On **Wednesday 16 June 2010 (7.30pm to 9pm)** the Speaker will be Dr Moyra Pearce who is a third-generation Pakeha New Zealander. As a sociologist she has a doctorate on aspects of New Zealand identity encompassing ethnicity, culture, nationality and religion. Since August 2009 she has been employed in research and advocacy work for Caritas Aotearoa NZ to prepare material which addresses the growing cultural diversity of Catholic parishes.

Everyone welcome. A koha on the night for the Wellington Refugees as Survivors Trust which is raising funds for children who have psychological and therapeutic needs would be appreciated.

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### Church Guardians Meeting

Wednesday 23 June at 1.30pm  
in the St Mary of the Angels Presbytery

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### St Mary of the Angels Young Adults' Group

**World Youth Day 2010 Madrid:** It's that time again! Start thinking about whether you would like to join the pilgrimage.

For more information on joining the Wellington group see <http://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/wyd2011>. We welcome newcomers to the group, your ideas and your comments. Contact us at [smayacs@gmail.com](mailto:smayacs@gmail.com) or through Vicky Wall 027 327 4895 or Anna Fleming 027 463 7008. Join our facebook group "St Mary of the Angels Young Adults Group".