

For Your Diaries : 2017

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

22 & 23 April, Engaged Encounter Weekend

Engaged Encounter is a weekend experience for couples intending to be married.

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. 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.

26 March, SMAYAC Paekakariki Escarpment Trip

Join us as we walk the Paekakariki escarpment and take in the spectacular views. The plan is to meet at Pukerua Bay train station at 10:30am, and take the 10:50am train to Paekakariki please make sure you're there on time! From there we'll walk the track back to Pukerua Bay with a lunch stop along the way (so bring lunch and something to drink). The walk will probably take about 3 hours. If the weather is bad, then we'll postpone the trip till the following Sunday the 2nd of April. We'll send out a confirmation email in the morning on the day to let you know what's happening. You will need a packed lunch and something to drink, good walking shoes, clothing for wet & windy conditions and money for your train fare. For enquires please email smayacs@gmail.com

8 April, The Salvation Army International Staff Songsters

The Salvation Army in New Zealand is host to the Army's premier choir in the international arena, the International Staff Songsters. 7.00 pm Wellington City Corps, 92 Vivian Street. Prices Adult: \$25.00, Seniors/Students: \$20.00, Children (13 years and under): Free of charge, Door sales only. Phone 04 801 9278 or email wellingtoncity_corps@nzf.salvationarmy.org.

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

19 March 2017, 3rd Sunday of Lent - Year A

Seismic Strengthening Update

The work on the seismic strengthening of the Church is rapidly drawing to a close. The Maxwell Fernie Organ is being re-installed by the South Island Organ Company and much of the finishing work inside the Church is well advanced so that the Church will be ready for our Easter ceremonies. In the next couple of weeks we will retrieve our pews from storage and they will be reassembled in the Church.

As the work concludes we still need to raise approximately \$800,000 to pay our final accounts. I am very much aware of the generosity of so many over the past four years to the seismic strengthening project. I now need that generosity to be extended so that are able to move back into the Church without having any debt.

If you make a donation before 31 March 2017 you can claim the tax refund in this financial year.

Planned Giving

Planned Giving envelopes for the next financial year are available at all Masses today. The envelopes are labelled alphabetically by surname and can be found in the entrance foyer of each Church after Mass today, and from the Parish Office during the week. Please collect your envelopes as it will save us the cost of postage.

As we come to the end of the tax year (31 March) it is a good time to review your financial commitment to the Parish. Any lump sum given before 31 March can be claimed in the current tax year. A tax rebate of 33.3% may be claimed on all your contributions. Tax receipts will be issued in April for the 2016/2017 financial year.

If you are not part of the Planned Giving programme you are very welcome to contribute to the Parish in this way. There are two ways to contribute to the Parish through the Planned Giving Programme;

- Direct Credit
- Planned Giving Envelopes

We really need the generosity and support of all parishioners at this time. For more information or to become a Planned Giver, please contact the Parish Office or see a member of the Pastoral Team after Mass.

Father Barry Scannell s.m.

Parish Priest

This Week's Readings

First Reading Exodus 17:3-7
Give us water to drink.

Second Reading Rom 5:1-2, 5-8
The love of God had been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Gospel Reading John 4:5-42
The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Next Week's Readings

First Reading 1 Sam 16:1. 6-7. 10-13
Psalm 22

Second Reading Eph 5:8-14

Gospel Reading John 9:1-41

Last Sunday's Collection

Total: \$5,025



Engaged Encounter

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

Young Angel Voices

The Young Angel Voices singing group meets on Thursday 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.

Mass has been offered for:

Recently Deceased: Fr Pat McCullough, Brother Ed Jones sm, Joy Murphy,

Anniversaries: Coralie Leyland, Rita Kirwan, Baldo Sutich, Margaret McNeill, Denis Boyd, Deidre Sweeney, Father Michael Tomasi sm

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 94

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **R**

Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **R**

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R**



Hódie, si vocem ejus audiéritis, nolíte obduráre cor-da ves-tra:

Today if thou shalt hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Welcoming Refugees to Wellington

Thank you to everyone who donated household and food items for the families who arrived in Wellington on 3 March, or contributed to set up homes and to sort and check donated goods. We set up 14 houses for the families and also provided a pantry pack full of basic food items. It is inspiring what we can do together. Thank you to everyone who contributed items, time and effort to make new New Zealanders welcome.

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.

St Vincent de Paul

Our next St Vincent de Paul meeting is on Tuesday March 21st at 6pm in the Presbytery. New members are most welcome.

SMAYACs Paekakariki Escarpment Trip

Join us on the 26th of March as we walk the Paekakariki escarpment and take in the spectacular views. The plan is to meet at Pukerua Bay train station at 10.30am, and take the 10.50am train to Paekakariki please make sure you're there on time! The walk will probably take about 3 hours. You will need a packed lunch, something to drink, good walking shoes, clothing for wet & windy conditions and money for your train fare. We can pick people up from the Cathedral after the 9am mass or anywhere else on the way. If you are keen to come along email smayacs@gmail.com to let us know you will be joining the group or contact Hans on 021 0278 0387.

Pope Francis' 2017 Lenten Message -Part 3 The Word is a gift

The Gospel of the rich man and Lazarus helps us to make a good preparation for the approach of Easter. The liturgy of Ash Wednesday invites us to an experience quite similar to that of the rich man. When the priest imposes the ashes on our heads, he repeats the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". As it turned out, the rich man and the poor man both died, and the greater part of the parable takes place in the afterlife. The two characters suddenly discover that "we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it" (1 Tim 6:7).

We too see what happens in the afterlife. There the rich man speaks at length with Abraham, whom he calls "father" (Lk 16:24.27), as a sign that he belongs to God's people. This detail makes his life appear all the more contradictory, for until this moment there had been no mention of his relation to God. In fact, there was no place for God in his life. His only god was himself.

The rich man recognizes Lazarus only amid the torments of the afterlife. He wants the poor man to alleviate his suffering with a drop of water. What he asks of Lazarus is similar to what he could have done but never did. Abraham tells him: "During your life you had your fill of good things, just as Lazarus had his fill of bad. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony" (v. 25). In the afterlife, a kind of fairness is restored and life's evils are balanced by good.

The parable goes on to offer a message for all Christians. The rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers, who are still alive. But Abraham answers: "They have Moses and the prophets, let them listen to them" (v. 29). Countering the rich man's objections, he adds: "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead" (v. 31).

The rich man's real problem thus comes to the fore. At the root of all his ills was the failure to heed God's word. As a result, he no longer loved God and grew to despise his neighbour. The word of God is alive and powerful, capable of converting hearts and leading them back to God. When we close our heart to the gift of God's word, we end up closing our heart to the gift of our brothers and sisters.

Dear friends, Lent is the favourable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbour. The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take. May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God's word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need. I encourage all the faithful to express this spiritual renewal also by sharing in the Lenten Campaigns promoted by many Church organizations in different parts of the world, and thus to favour the culture of encounter in our one human family. Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter.

ST MARY OF THE ANGELS EARTHQUAKE STRENGTHENING APPEAL

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