

For Your Diaries: 2020

25 February, Holy Hour

You are invited to a Holy Hour beginning at 7.30pm in the Cathedral chapel to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. This will include prayers, Scripture, singing, times of silence and conclude with Benediction followed by supper.

26 February, Ash Wednesday Combined Service

Join us for a combined Ash Wednesday service with St John's Presbyterian Church at 5.15pm in the church.

1 & 8 March, Marriage Preparation Course

Getting married soon? The Marriage Preparation Course "Love is a Decision" is being held in Wellington on these dates. Contact Felicity Giltrap at marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz to book.

3, 12 & 26 March, Hear the Cry of the Earth Series

A series of three evenings to inform and inspire people in the Wellington West area to consider realistic ways to respond to the challenges of climate change. There will be guest speakers, time for discussion, reflection and practical action. 7.30 - 9pm in St Thomas More Church, Wilton. Contact person is Estelle: ev.henrys@gmail.com

8 March, Young Church Academic Mass

We invite all students to join us as we celebrate the start to the academic year at the 2020 Young Church Academic Mass at 5pm. This will be an opportunity to pray for students and the coming year. All welcome.

Update your details!

Due to recent changes to the way Inland Revenue are processing material, you can now upload an electronic receipt to your online myIR account to claim a tax credit for your donations. For this reason, we will be working to make the transition to electronic receipts for the end of the financial year. Please take the time to make sure the parish office has the correct email address on file for you by calling 473 8074 or emailing smoaooffice@xtra.co.nz

If you are not currently a planned giver and are interested in making regular donations to the parish, contact the office for more information about our planned-giving programme.



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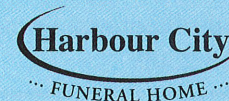
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Please contact the Parish Office for further details.

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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

Parish Priest

Fr Kevin Mowbray SM

smoapp@xtra.co.nz

Assistant Priests

Fr Peter McAfee SM

Fr Pat Brophy SM

Fr Joe Savesi SM

Pastoral Worker

Sr Frances Gibbs CSB

In Residence

Fr Brian Wysocki SM

Director of Music

Robert Oliver

chant4robert@gmail.com

Parish Accountant

smoamanager@xtra.co.nz

Parish Office

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am - 4pm

smoaooffice@xtra.co.nz

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MASSES

Sunday 7am, 9am, 11am, 5pm

Mon-Fri 7.30am, 12.05pm, 5.15pm

Saturday 11am

EACH MONTH

4th Saturday Sacrament of Anointing
at 11am Mass

ADORATION

Mon-Fri 6.30am - 7.20am

Friday 11am - Noon

RECONCILIATION

Mon-Thurs 11.30am - Noon
12.30pm - 1pm
4.30pm - 5pm

Friday 11am - 11.50pm

12.30pm - 1pm
4.30pm - 5pm

Saturday 10.30am - 10.55am
4pm - 5pm

23 February 2020, 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

On Friday 14 February, the Abortion Select Committee sent its recommendations regarding the Abortion Legislation Bill to Parliament, recommending by a majority that it be passed with only very minor amendments. The amendments fail to deal with substantive concerns raised by The Nathaniel Centre and the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference in their submission to the Select Committee. Ongoing concerns are summarised below:

1. There are always at least two human lives at stake in an abortion. The proposed Bill removes completely the human rights of the unborn child. Every unborn child is a member of the human family.
2. The proposed Bill will enable abortions to occur without requiring any justification up to 20 weeks gestation – in reality this will create abortion on demand up to 20 weeks.
3. It is unacceptable that the proposed Bill significantly lowers the threshold for obtaining abortions after 20 weeks gestation. The proposed criteria for the statutory test are vague and open to broad interpretation and will legally allow abortions up to birth. Given that the wording of the statutory test virtually mirrors the current wording for eligibility up to 20 weeks, we believe that the proposed criteria will, in practice, lead to abortion on demand after 20 weeks.
4. While the Committee acknowledges they heard from women who might not have chosen abortion if they had received more support, there are no provisions for ensuring they are given important information about the consequences of having an abortion (including associated risks), are informed of all their options or receive the additional support needed to help them make a different choice.
5. No provisions are proposed for ensuring women receive mental-health support after an abortion
6. The proposed law will not assist women to deal with the coercive realities that surround many abortions.
7. Disabled unborn children will be more vulnerable under the proposed law. The current law explicitly prevents abortions on the basis of "fetal abnormality" after 20 weeks. That the proposed law does not do this represents a major step backwards in terms of disability rights.
8. The proposed law will allow for abortions on the basis of gender discrimination up to 20 weeks, and arguably beyond that given the broad parameters of the statutory test for abortions after 20 weeks.
9. A woman of any age can self-refer under the proposed law, including pregnant teenagers. Under the current law, the process of requiring a doctor to refer, and two certifying consultants to sign off, provides layers of scrutiny and support for pregnant teenagers that will no longer exist. There are no safeguards in the proposed law to ensure that teenage mothers are not seeking an abortion because of abuse or coercion or a lack of awareness of other options.
10. The proposed Bill fails to adequately protect health practitioners' rights to freedom of conscience.
11. The ability to introduce 'safe zones' is a disproportionate over-reach that restricts the rights of New Zealanders to freedom of expression – there are existing legal protections that are sufficient.

This Week's Readings

First Reading **Leviticus** **19:1-2, 17-18**

You must love your neighbour as yourself.

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 3:16-23**

All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Gospel Reading **Matthew** **5:38-48**

Love your enemies.

Next Week's Readings

First Reading **Genesis** **15:15-20**

Psalm **50**

Second Reading **Romans** **5:12-19**

Gospel Reading **Matthew** **4:1-11**



Last Sunday's Collection

Total: \$6,958

Guardians Needed

Each day our church is looked after by Guardians who take it in turn to spend an hour in the church ensuring that the many visitors feel welcome and that they respect our sacred place. **We are in need of a Guardian on Mondays 1.30-2.30pm and Wednesdays 3.30-4.30pm.** If you would like to consider being a part of this important service to the parish community please contact the parish office.

Mass has been offered for:

Anniversaries: Richard Bruynel, Marivac Del Rosario, Joan Abbott, Cecilia Dickson, Leslie Kriebel, Pauline Ritchie, Donald McIvor, Janis Horan, Fr Barry Edwards, Fr Michael O'Meehan sm, Edward Hunt, John Morris, Nelson Nunns

Prayers for the Sick: Peter Aldridge, Tony Crawley, John Adams, Fr Tom O'Connor sm, Geoff Sweet, Dianne Sweet, Losalia Leo, Patricia Smyth, John Foden, John Mora, Kerry Barber, Pam Finlayson, Paul Sparnaay, Brendan Gilmore, Shirley O'Brien, Pat Johnson, Peter Aston, Henry Prendergast, Fr Pat McCann sm

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 118

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

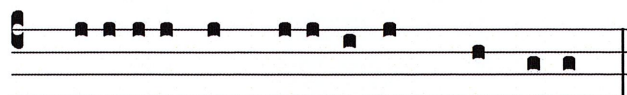
My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **R**

It is the Lord who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **R**

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **R**

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R**



Miserátor et misé-ri-cors Dó-minus:

The Lord is compassionate and merciful

Ash Wednesday Schedule

Mass times for Ash Wednesday, 26 February:

7.30am, 12.05pm, 1.05pm

Combined service with St John's Presbyterian Church:
5.15pm

2020 Young Church Academic Mass

We invite all students to join us as we celebrate the start to the academic year at the annual 2020 Young Church Academic Mass on **Sunday 8 March** at 5pm. This will be an opportunity to pray for students and the coming year. The Celebrant will be Cardinal John Dew. All welcome.

Calling tertiary students!

We are looking for tertiary students who would like to be a part of this Mass. If you have any experience in being involved in Masses, do get in touch with us at youth@wn.catholic.org.nz or call Marian Lima on 04 496 1731 / 022 534 2309.

Great Fathers Programme

Greenstone Doors are running a free 8 week course, the Great Fathers Programme, starting **Thursday 27 February** at 6:30pm. Facilitated by two great fathers that are passionate to deliver this programme to see dads engage with their children on another level. Some of the topics covered include: being the father you want to be, gender difference, coping with change, and building your child's self-esteem. This course will be held at *Greenstone Doors*, 15 Dudley St, Lower Hutt and is for fathers with children of any age. To register please contact Francis 04 566 5037 or francis@greenstoneddoors.co.nz

Pā Maria Marist Spirituality Centre

The programme at Pā Maria for 2020 is now available - if you would like a copy, please contact Brian Cummings SM at bgcummings@xtra.co.nz

Seasons for Growth Programme

For those who have been touched by change, loss, separation, divorce, illness and more, *Seasons for Growth* can help to process and respond well to such experiences. Catholic Social Services will be offering this programme over 4 sessions on consecutive Thursday evenings 5.30-8.30pm, from **5 March**. These will be held at the Catholic Centre on Hill St, and the cost is \$30 to cover materials and research. Please register by **Wednesday 26 February**, contact Katrin: 385 8642 or seasons@wn.catholic.org.nz

2020 Lent Appeal

During Lent, NZ's Catholic Bishops invite us to provide for the needs of the poor through the work of Caritas. Money raised through the Bishops' Lent Appeal helps to fund both development and emergency relief work around the world. You can donate to this appeal each week in Lent by using the Lenten Giving packs that have been distributed this week along with this Angelus newsletter, or you may make a one-off donation by using the single donation envelopes at the back of the church. These envelopes can be returned through our regular weekly collection or posted freepost directly to Caritas. Make sure to include your contact details so that Caritas can issue you a tax receipt. Alternatively, you can also donate online at www.caritas.org.nz

Parishioner News



Congratulations to **Paul and Francisca Sparnaay** as they celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary! Our prayers and thoughts are with them, and we ask God's blessing on them.

Social Worker Vacancy

Catholic Social Services is seeking a part-time Therapeutic Social Worker to join their team. Applications close 5pm, **Thursday 27 February**. For more information phone 04 385 8642 or email reception@wn.catholic.org.nz

St Vincent de Paul Foodbank

There has been a 124% increase in demand for food parcels in December from the Vinnies Foodbank in Newtown. Consequently the foodbank is now running very low on all non-perishable items including cereals, tinned fish, tinned vegetables, spaghetti, two minute noodles, rice, long life milk etc. Even laundry powder, soap, toothbrushes, shampoo & conditioner etc. are greatly appreciated. Our collection basket is placed at the back of the church on weekends for these items. There is also a foodbank list of items at the foot of the St Vincent de Paul Statue at the back of the church, as well as a cash deposit box.. If you can help with any of these items it would be greatly appreciated.



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