



Our Lady of Perpetual Help

St Mary's Parish — Maungaturoto — Mangawhai — Wellsford

Saturday Vigil Mass - Maungaturoto: 4.00pm

Sunday Mass Times - Mangawhai: 8.30am Wellsford:10.30am

Weekday Mass Times

Wellsford: Tues & Sat 9.00am & Fri 11.30am

Maungaturoto Wed 10.00am Mangawhai Thurs 10.30am (private home)

Eucharistic Adoration

Wellsford: Fri. 10.45—11:20am. Maungaturoto: Wed 9.30—9.55am

email: wellsfordcatholicparish@gmail.com

4th Sunday Ordinary Time (a) - 29th January 2023

Zephaniah 2:3;3:12-13

Ps.146

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Matthew 5:1-12

blessed are the poor in spirit

In Matthew, the Beatitudes describe how a disciple of Jesus can move into the gifts of the new age of GOD's victory over the power of death. The direction of GOD's blessing is surprisingly towards the marginalised ones, for such people are *'the apple of GOD's eye'* – they are the ones singled out for blessing and a share in the new age! The opening advice contradicts all the conventions of traditional wisdom teaching.

When the Gospel of Matthew was translated into Greek, *'anawim'* was translated as; *'poor in spirit'*. Luke's version of the Beatitude says simply; 'the poor'. The phrase in Matthew; *'poor in spirit'* creates confusion. Many interpret that it deals with spiritual poverty. But Jesus blesses the poor ones, telling them that GOD's realm will be their special privilege and dignity. The other Beatitudes seem to be only other ways of saying the same thing. In all of the Beatitude sayings, the same poor people are spoken of by other names and what the Beatitudes promise is the same. According to the Acts, there were no rich in the early Christian community, because the followers of Jesus shared everything – but neither were there any who were in need.

Those who had taken on the name *anawim* were so called not only because they were poor, but also because they experienced persecution. *'The Poor of the LORD GOD'* or *'poor in spirit'* – is the same as saying, *'the persecuted ones'*. The Beatitude states that everyone persecuted in the cause of justice is persecuted in Jesus' cause. It is no surprise that Jesus was crucified as a threat to the powers-that-be. Nor should it be a surprise to us if, in our age, healing comes only when the wound and hurt is acknowledged.

While the WORD of GOD is good news to the poor, the natural instinct of those of us who are not poor is to maintain our dignity, worth, sanity and probably our advantage! We allow our own efforts to take over, in order to hold our world together. But we come to the moment of worship with a different attitude; with the strange expectation that we will be turned about. The texts of the liturgy overturn our familiar world in the way our unexamined assumptions are always based on the alien ideology of human knowing and human control. True discernment of GOD's victory in Christ over the power of death, subverts our unexamined or mistaken assumptions. Thanks be to GOD! - BF

“Indeed, the Beatitudes define the identity of the disciple of Jesus,” said Pope Francis to a crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square. “That might sound strange, almost incomprehensible to those who are not disciples, but if we ask ourselves what the disciple of Jesus is like, the answer is precisely in the beatitudes.” 13/2/22

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy Online Sessions (Evening):

Genesis – In the Beginning...

Part 1: The Creation Story (incl. study material) with Kieran Fenn fms.

Monday, 27 February, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM.

Part 2: The Creation of Adam (Michelangelo) with Dr Christopher Longhurst.

Monday, 06 March, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Fee: \$25 (NZD)/session or \$40 (NZD)/2 sessions

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/01/16/genesis-in-the-beginning/>

Tour on Palestine

NZ speaking tour on Palestine by Brother Peter Bray FSC, Vice-Chancellor of Bethlehem University founded by Br Peter's De la Salle Brothers in 1973. It was the first registered university established in the Occupied West Bank territory of Palestine and is the only Catholic university in the Holy Land. It currently has 3259 students (Muslim and Christian), 17,282 graduates and 214 faculty members. It celebrates its Golden Jubilee this year. Br Peter's speaking tour follows the New Zealand Catholic bishops publishing a statement last July urging action to solve the decades-old Israel-Palestine issue.

- Wednesday, 8 February, 7pm Poynton Room, Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New Street, Ponsonby, Auckland
- Thursday 9 February, 7pm St Francis Xavier Catholic School staff room, Whangarei, 1 Percy Street, Kensington

In preparation for his speaking tour, Br Peter has made three videos based on his daily work with Palestinians and Palestinian students at Bethlehem University. The videos are online here: <https://www.youtube.com/@nzcbc2977>

NZ CATHOLIC

Some headlines from the latest issue of NZ Catholic:

- De La Salle brother's Christmas in Bethlehem.
- Two new monsignors in Hamilton.
- SVDP gift an experience in Dunedin.
- Papal and NZ church year in review.

- *NZ Catholic - \$4 per issue.*

www.nzcatholic.org.nz



About the new Icon of **Our Lady of Perpetual Help** in the entrance of the Wellsford Church – written by the Studio of St. John the Baptist, Takapuna, Auckland, replacing a traditional print of the same subject, showing Mary protecting the Christ Child, while the Child looks at the angels Michael and Gabriel, who bear the symbols of the cross and the spear that point to his destiny as our Saviour.

The work dedicated to deceased members of the Partington family

[Tempra on Gesso with gilding]

To dear Father Bill
We are all blessed to be able to share a special celebration with you.

Prayer intentions for the week

For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Prayers for our Sick:

Petronella Ter Veer, Matteo Gray, Sarah Lambert, Frances Palmer, Philip Cotching, Aloysius Brom & family, Rose Quigley, Dan van Jaarsveld, Tom Gardener, Helen Bremford, Jocynen Dahl, Tina Meehary, Lorna Boccock, Laurel Ensor, Noel Paget,

Trevor Brjlevich, Tony Ruiterman, Lourdes Crisostomo, Bill Lewis, Beverly Simons, Peter Aukett,

Dallas Colville, Lucille Jenneker, Maree Cameron, Rita McCurran, Wilma Jansen, Gerard McCurran, Noo & Paerangi Tainiau, Kimberly Bartlett, William Jones, . . .

Prayers for the Dead:

For all those who have lost their lives in Ukraine and for our dead whose anniversaries occur around this time including: *Shane Ross (31st)*.

Readings: 4th Week Ordinary Time

Monday 30 January

Hebrews 11:32-40 Ps.31
Mark 5:1-20

Tuesday 31 January St John Bosco, priest

Hebrews 12:1-4 Ps.22
Mark 5:21-43

Wednesday 1 February

Hebrews 12:4-7,11-15 Ps.103
Mark 6:1-6

Thursday 2 February Presentation of the Lord

1. Malachi 3:1-4 Ps.24
2. Hebrews 2:14-18
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Friday 3 February

Hebrews 13:1-8 Ps.27
Mark 6:14-29

Saturday 4 February

Hebrews 13:15-17,20-21 Ps.23
Mark 6:30-34

Sunday 5 February 5th Week Ordinary Time

1. Isaiah 58:7-10 Ps.112
2. 1Corinthians 2:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

St Mary's Parish

Mangawhai - Maungaturoto – Wellsford

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BNZ account 02-0100-0120990-20 (or 020)

Reconciliations:

Wellsford: Sat. 8.30 – 8.55am Maungaturoto: Sat. 3.30 – 3.55pm.

Mangawhai: Sun: 8.00 – 8.25am