



Our Lady of Perpetual Help

**St Mary's Parish** — *Maungaturoto* — *Mangawhai* — *Wellsford*  
**Saturday Vigil MAUNGATUROTO** – Mass 4.00pm (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays – Liturgy of Word & Holy Communion: 4.00pm.  
**Sunday - MANGAWHAI:** Mass 8.30am (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays).  
 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays Liturgy of Word Holy Communion: 8.30am.  
**WELLSFORD:** Mass 10.30am every Sunday  
 Tues 9.00am & Fri 11.30am Eucharistic Adoration Fri 10.45-11.20am

## Ascension of the Christ (a) - 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47:1-2,5-8

Ephesians 1:17-23

Matthew 28:16-20

### *Go to the whole world*

The physical absence of Jesus shifts responsibility to his followers. From now on they will continue his work of proclaiming, *'the realm of GOD'*.

The last five verses of Matthew conclude the message of the gospel in a simple but summary way. The scene is set in Galilee, where most of Jesus' preaching took place. The location draws our attention to an identity between the historical Jesus and the Risen Christ.

The Christian church began with the community formed by Jesus with his disciples. But in the present, the community lives with the absence of the historical Jesus. A community of disciples must recognise Jesus' presence in a new way and assume responsibility to continue the risen Jesus' mission.

The prospect of Jesus' return introduces a healthy tension into the community's life, as the disciples move towards completing GOD's new reigning. With regard to Luke's understanding of salvation history, the Ascension also marks the end of the time of Jesus and signals the beginning of the time of the church.

The ascending of Jesus signals the empowerment of the Christian community. Its life is linked to the *'heavenly Christ'* whom GOD has made ruler of all things and head of the community. The author (*Eph:1.17-23*) prays that *'the Father of glory'* will grant the Ephesian Christians a clear knowledge of GOD's reigning through the risen Jesus.

Jesus appears to the women and gives them the same message as the angel at the empty tomb, *"Go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there"*. The gospel affirms Jesus rose to be, *'here on Earth'*. *"He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee"*.

Those who believe in Jesus are the ones who practise justice and love. Baptism, *"in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit"*, can also mean baptism into the name of the Trinity. That means incorporation into partnership with the creative, liberative and advocacy work of the Trinity on Earth. The whole human race becomes a complete organism, a single body, with an equality between all the parts; like the love existing within GOD. That's the unchanging message that the disciples are entrusted with until the end of the era. The image of partnership with GOD, whose name is revealed by Jesus, outlines the task to which disciples are called and to which they are to remain true.

Jesus didn't talk about a god in heaven who is remote from would-be disciples. He talks about a GOD who is love; and about seeing GOD is a part of what we do; it is to see love. The GOD that Jesus presents isn't in heaven but in what people are doing. If we want to look for GOD, this is where we must search: GOD in the liberating practise of disciples. – BF

***"The account in the Acts of the Apostles focuses precisely on the task that is yet to be completed: "You will be my witnesses... to the ends of the Earth; this Jesus... will come back..."*** Pope Leo XIV

### **Situation Vacant**

Vaughan Sampson is stepping down from the position of Parish Treasurer. He has been looking after the parish finances for 8 years and has done a very professional job. We thank him for his wonderful work and wish him well.

If anyone in the parish would be interested in this area of service in parish life, and would like to take up this role, please contact Ken Hancock on 027 2946914.

### **Whole Parish Mass and AGM**

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday and there will be one Mass at Wellsford at 10.30am for the whole Parish to come together. Following Mass we will have our Annual General Meeting. Please consider being part of the Parish Pastoral Council. Your voice and ideas can make a difference. **Nomination forms are available at the back of the church.**

### **Jubilee Year of St Francis (1226–2026)**

Franciscan Friars Vocation Dinner – Auckland. You are warmly invited to join the Franciscan Friars for an evening of prayer, fellowship, and conversation. Wednesday **27 May** - 6:00pm (Mass and Evening Prayer, followed by a shared meal) at St Francis Retreat Centre (50 Hillsborough Road, Mt Roskill, Auckland). This gathering is a wonderful opportunity for single men aged 18–40 to learn more about Franciscan religious life and to ask questions in a relaxed and welcoming environment. RSVP / Enquiries: Br Philip Jeffares OFM +64 210 414 642 Br Yornes Panggur OFM +64 225 259 93 Email: [vocations@franciscans.org.au](mailto:vocations@franciscans.org.au)

### **World Youth Day Auckland 2026**

#### **10:00am-8:30pm Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August at Victory Convention Centre**

Join over 1,800 young Catholics at Victory Convention Centre for World Youth Day Auckland 2026 - a massive, joy-filled day of faith, community and WITNESS. Inspired by the Scripture chosen for the 40th World Youth Day, “You also are my witnesses, because you have been with me” (Jn 15:27). This year’s event is about fixing our gaze on Jesus and becoming courageous witnesses of Christ in our world. For more info and to register go to: <https://events.humanitix.com/world-youth-day-auckland-2026>

### **The Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship**

ALL MEN are invited to the Joshua 40-Year Celebration Weekend!

When: Fri pm **14 August to Sun midday 16 August**

Venue: Keswick Christian Camp, 5 Cooper Ave, Holden's Bay, Rotorua

Keynote Speaker: Robert Falzon, Leader of Australia's menALIVE and Author of "Importance of a Present Dad". Cost: \$247pp including accommodation and meals.

To Register: Follow the link below OR Scan the QR Code on porter attached OR contact Mike Lobo (021) 2809285 or Greg Sullivan (021) 437747 Link:

<https://menforchrist.wufoo.com/forms/joshua-40th-anniversary-celebration-rotorua>

**Wings.Nga Parirua** the Catholic Faith Formation Programme.

We all need to feel welcomed in our Church, to understand our faith and to recognise Jesus calling each of us into an intimate friendship with him. The hospitality at the heart of “Wings” gives space and time for people to come together, to become familiar with Jesus’ teaching in the Gospels, and the Catholic Church’s response to this teaching in the light of the Resurrection; to walk by faith in loving communion with Jesus in prayer.

Wings.Nga Parirau is open to all and could also be a welcoming place for those who have come through RCIA and Alpha to gather in communion with other parishioners. Please contact: Dianna Fouhy, [diannaf@cda.org.nz](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)

**Billings Life NZ Seminar:**

Billings Life NZ will host a two-day Natural Fertility Awareness seminar in Whanganui on **June 19 and 20**. The event is designed for couples using or considering the Billings Ovulation Method, health professionals or others wanting to learn more about the method, and people interested in becoming accredited Billings teachers. Find out more and register at [www.billingslife.org.nz/training-seminar](http://www.billingslife.org.nz/training-seminar)

**The Upper Room**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 6:30pm | Good George Mission Bay**

Young adults, you won’t want to miss this! Join us for a night of faith and fellowship in this special interview-style event, James Bergin will sit down with Frank Ritchie to explore his remarkable journey - from serving as a Wesleyan Methodist minister to entering the Catholic Church this Easter just past. Together they will reflect on the faith, discernment, and courage required to surrender fully to God’s call. This is a must-attend event, so be sure to grab your tickets early!

For more info and tickets go to @AKCYM on Facebook or search for the-upper-room-may-2026 on Humanitix

<b>Wellsford Roster</b>			
	<b>Sunday 17 May</b>	<b>Sunday 24 May</b>	<b>Sunday 31 May</b>
<i>Min/s of Word</i>	1. Ken Hancock 2. Maggie Kane	1. Mike Harris 2. Marie Rambaud	Whole Parish Mass
<i>Intercessions</i>	Ken	Marie	
<i>Minister of Eucharist</i>	Eranga Amarasekara	Alex Dumlao	Shared morning tea
<i>Morning Tea</i>	Marie Rambaud	Lynette & Mike Harris	
<i>Church Cleaning</i>		Maureen Hancock	Gay
<i>Leader</i>	Monica	Maureen	

## Prayer intentions for the week

### **That everyone might have food**

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

### **Prayers for our Sick:**

*Matteo Gray, Petronella Brom, Geraldine Choromanski, Veronica Grigg, Theresa & Barry McCarthy, Chris Ohlson, Gina Benade (Aust), Rosilene Finnegan, Richard McGrane (SA), Nanette Matheson, Michael O'Neil, Noreen Anderson, Liz Saunders, Joseph Cuminsky, . . . .*

*Bill Lewis, Adolph Layec, Matthew Gould, Christine McHugh, Jenny McKinnon, . . . .*

*Margaret Pride, Dallas Colville, Alec Colville, Wilma Jansen, Gerard McCurran, Loris Prictor, Gerry Kok, Jill Grace, Caroline Milner, Lagi Sands, Teresa Graham, . . . .*

**Prayers for the Dead:** For those who have died in the current conflicts around the world and for our dead whose anniversaries occur around this time: *Father Peter Penny (21<sup>st</sup>), Jamee Lee Cave (19<sup>th</sup>), Victoria Knowsley (21<sup>st</sup>), Virginia Tayler (23<sup>rd</sup>), Harry Korewha (23<sup>rd</sup>).*

## Readings: 8<sup>th</sup> Week Ordinary Time

### **Monday 18 May**

Acts 19:1-8 Ps.68  
John 16:29-33

### **Tuesday 19 May**

Acts 20:17-27 Ps.68  
John 17:1-11

### **Wednesday 20 May**

Acts 20:28-38 Ps.68  
John 17:11-19

### **Thursday 21 May**

Acts 22:30;23:6-11 Ps.16  
John 17:20-26

### **Friday 22 May**

Acts 25:13-21 Ps.103  
John 21:15-19

### **Saturday 23 May**

Acts 28: 16-20 Ps.11  
John 21:20-25

### **Sunday 24 May PENTECOST**

1. Acts 2:1-11 Ps.104  
2. 1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13  
Gospel: John 20:19-23

## **St Mary's Parish**

### ***Mangawhai - Maungaturoto – Wellsford***

Pastoral Council Chairperson: John Brockliss ph: 027 543 0856

Parish Co-ordinator: Jenni Woodside ph: 021 774 563

Priest Administrator: Fr. Bill Fletcher ph: 027 950 3885

Newsletter Editor: Marie Rambaud ph: 09 423 8907 / 021 054 4772

email: [rambaud.family@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rambaud.family@xtra.co.nz)

Parish Web address: [wellsfordcatholic.org.nz](http://wellsfordcatholic.org.nz)

BNZ account 02-0108-0707411-00

### **Reconciliations:**

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

**Mangawhai: Sun: 8.00 – 8.25am**