



ST. JOSEPH'S

CATHOLIC PARISH LEVIN

Te Pārihi o Hāto Hōhepa Taitoko

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear brothers and sisters,

Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'
(Luke 16:31)

Our Lord continues to teach us in a very strong manner about the dangers of accumulating wealth and being possessed by it. We see in today's parable how the rich man was so possessed by his immense wealth that he viewed the poor man Lazarus as an accursed man who is not worth helping at all.

The soul of the rich man in the parable has been so thoroughly corrupted by sin that he no longer possesses any shred of human decency. His depravity persists beyond the grave and into the netherworld. In the place of torment, his pride and lust for pleasure persists. This teaches us that there is no repentance after death.

By this parable, our Lord is calling us to repentance and ongoing conversion. We must never be quick to judge ourselves as better than the rich man in the parable.

To take this parable and any other parable out of the greater story of the descending of the Son of God in our midst and his suffering, death and resurrection is to fall into the trap of selfish activism. We will end up helping the poor to look good in the eyes of others and to make ourselves feel better about ourselves.

The lesson of this parable is hidden in the last sentence quoted above. The sacred scriptures of Moses and the prophets already contain the story of the truly rich man, our Lord who made Himself the truly poor man. The Old Testament foreshadowed the sacrifice of the Son of God in Abraham's obedience to God to sacrifice his own son Isaac.

Jesus is the Truly Rich Man. By His conception in the womb of His Mother Mary, has descended from heaven and had crossed the chasm that divided us from Him. On Good Friday, He became the poorest of man and descended in the netherworld to raise poor repentant sinners to Himself in heaven.

We desire more than just bread for each other, especially the poor. We desire eternal life for one another, for the poor to recline at the bosom of the Son of God at the heavenly banquet. This is the Spirit with which we help others.

Our Lord Jesus, has already set that heavenly banquet here and now for us at the Holy Eucharist. In listening to Moses and the prophets, the New Testament and to receive the very flesh and blood, soul and divinity of the truly Rich Man we, the poor, repentant sinners, can already now receive the true wealth of Eternal Life.

Let us pray that we will never be blind to Him, our true wealth, truly present in the Holy Eucharist.

Fr. Simi

OUR PARISH VISION

"A COMMUNITY RADIATING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST"



Parish Priest: Fr. Simione Volavola
stjosephlevin.priest@gmail.com

Parish Finance Chair: Harry Bennik
stjosephlevin.finance@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Bridget Lobb
027 511 2474
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Office Location and Hours:
56 Weraroa Rd, Levin 5510
Mon-Fri (9-10am) *Outside of these hours, please call the parish office.*

GENERAL NOTICES

TUESDAY SOCIAL CLUB

The Tuesday Social Club is being held in the Parish Centre at 1pm this week. Everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa, fun, and fellowship. See you there!



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FESTIVAL SUNDAY

Saturday, 27 September, marks the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul. To celebrate, the Vinnies members will host a Festival Morning Tea in the Parish Centre after 9:30am Mass this Sunday.



All are welcome to join us in honouring the work of St. Vincent de Paul and celebrating this special day!

MEALS ON WHEELS

We are rostered to do the Meals on Wheels in the week of 29th Sept - 03rd Oct. If you can help please contact Yoka on 022 5022645 or dekkernz@gmail.com



BE PART OF SOMETHING LIFE CHANGING!

Open Home Foundation International, warmly invites you to a special evening with Lun and Ngaiching Misao, Directors of OHFI's work in Kolkata India. They will share moving stories of children and families whose lives are being transformed from the risk of hunger, exploitation, and trafficking. The event will be held in the St Joseph's School Hall on Wednesday 15 October at 7.00pm. All are welcome – entry free and light supper provided. Please RSVP to Chris Olsen 0274477098 or chris.olsen5@hotmail.com.



THE CHOSEN - SEASON 5 SCREENING

Join us in the Parish Centre on Mondays from 13 October, at 6:00pm, for screenings of The Chosen, Season 5. We'll watch two episodes each week over four Mondays. All are welcome! For more details, please contact Nicole on 027 340 0340.

REMINDER FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS

If you are rostered to serve in any liturgical ministry at the weekend Masses, please arrive at the church at least 10 minutes before Mass begins. This allows us to be well-prepared and reverent in our celebration. If you are not present by this time, a replacement will be found to ensure the smooth running of the liturgy. Thank you for your commitment and service to our parish community.

PLANNED GIVING

Where does my money go?



Most of what is collected in our parish is applied right here. 50% Local Costs, 32% Clergy costs, 18% Archdiocesan costs. It has been a number of years since we have asked you to review your gifting.

Our Target

Our target is to get a 30% uplift in planned giving, that would keep our finances sustainable going forward without having to tap into cash reserves as we are now having to do.

Please pray on this.

Your prayerful discernment on this will be greatly appreciated.

PRAYER CHAIN

Our Parish Prayer chain will pray for your intentions. Just record them in the prayer notebook in the side chapel.



If you wish to join in praying for the intentions of your fellow parishioners, please contact the Parish Office.

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK: RESPONSIBILITY

Definition: Fulfilling one's just duties; accepting the consequences of one's words and actions, intentional and unintentional.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for giving me a particular part to play in this world You created. Please help me joyfully fulfill my responsibilities today to the best of my ability, out of love for You and for my neighbour. Amen.

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS

TWO WONDERFUL FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

This week, we celebrate two wonderful feasts - the first is the feast of the Holy Archangels and the second is the feast of the Holy Guardian Angels.

Some of us may be wondering...what are angels?

The term *angel* (Hebrew, *mal'ak*; Greek, *angelos*) means messenger. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 'angels are pure spiritual creatures of God who have understanding and will. They have no bodies, cannot die, and are usually not visible. They live constantly in God's presence and convey God's will and God's protection to men' [328-333, 350-351].

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, angels have infused knowledge, meaning they are infused with a perfect knowledge of all created things, including human nature. We are not mysteries to the angels. They know far more about us than we do ourselves!

God created all of the angels completely good. At one point in time, God allowed the angels to freely decide to be either definitively for or against Him. The angels that chose to be definitively for God remain in His service and His presence. They serve God and do His will constantly. The angels that chose definitively against God are what we call demons. But even Lucifer (Satan), the angel who was created with the highest natural intelligence, was created good. He then chose to reject God, saying, 'I will not serve!' He decided, using his free will, to instead spend his God-given goodness, beauty, power, and intellect on himself rather than on the Lord.

Saint Michael, the most venerated Archangel, who is known to be God's warrior, leads God's armies against Satan and the forces of evil. The other two archangels named in scripture are Saints Gabriel and Raphael. Gabriel, the messenger, delivers divine revelations - the most joyful message of all being the incarnation of the Son of God. Raphael, the healer, is known for aiding Tobias in the book of Tobit. We can pray to the Archangels for their intercession and to St. Michael, especially for protection from evil.

The Lord loves us, and his desire for us is to one day experience the greatest joy of joining Him in Heaven. He has given us each a companion - 'a guardian angel' - that has been assigned to guard us. Our guardian angels help us avoid spiritual dangers, guiding us on the journey towards our Heavenly home. The Church teaches that 'From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession. Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life.' [CCC 336]. While we may not be able to see fully the presence of these angels, we do get to see in different ways how they might intervene, protect us, provide for us, and intercede for us. They also console us and illuminate us.

A few parishioners have shared these experiences where their guardian angel helped them...

"I was once on a train headed into Wellington. I felt my guardian angel telling me to get up out of my seat and stand by the door. After several minutes, I decided to listen to this strong sense and gave up my comfortable seat. I stood in the doorway, holding onto a rail bar for stability. Only 3 minutes later, my train derailed and crashed onto the rocky gravel next to the lines. As the carriage swayed back and forth, ready to tip over, I watched as a huge hulk of iron burst through the floor and destroyed the seat I was originally in. Thank God for my guardian angel encouraging me to move, and thank God, no one suffered significant injuries!"

"Something I do that has never failed is whenever I am struggling to find a carpark in a busy parking lot, I always ask my guardian angel to help me find one. Within 30 seconds, I can always find an opening!"

Invite your guardian angel to help you each day. You may be surprised by the help you receive!

READINGS AT SUNDAY MASS

28 September 2025: 1ST Reading: Amos 6:1a, 4-7 **2ND Reading:** 1 Timothy 6:11-16 **Gospel:** Luke 16:19-31

Psalm Response: Praise the Lord, my soul!

5 October 2025: 1ST Reading: Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4 **2ND Reading:** 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14 **Gospel:** Luke 17:5-10

WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED FAMILY AND FRIENDS

May eternal light shine upon them and may they rest in peace,
Amen.

Linda and Adriaan Praat

Keith Mettrick



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CORNER

Thank you for your generous donations and support of the Vinnies. We have delivered 67 food parcels in the last month. A highlight was a little girl who came running out when the delivery team arrived who asked, "Do you have milk for my cereal?". She had water in the bowl. She was so happy to see the milk. Breakfast cereal and long-life milk will be welcome to bring another smile. Thank you all.

SVdP Levin Bank Account for donations: 11 6932 0308328 11

Simon (0274 445 757)

Margaret (027 439 1426)

John (027 626 4792)

BABY ASSIST

Please keep the gorgeous knitwear coming, mainly for boys' sizes 2 - 6, which would be great! Also, pants and tops would be greatly appreciated.

Brigette (027 379 2802)

SUZANNE AUBERT SAYS... *All our proceedings must be characterised by the principle of justice. Children are never too young, the aged are never too old to have it meted out to them; the good are never so perfect as to be insensible to its denial.*

Reflection: What exactly do we mean by 'justice'? It must be much more than punishing wrongdoers. Joseph, the 'just man', was unwilling to expose Mary to public shame when he found she was pregnant. Why? Because he recognised a mystery here and was fearful lest he hinder God's plan. In practice for me, it means giving the other person the benefit of the doubt, if there is doubt. And even if there isn't, I must recognise the mystery of God's designs.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to act with justice in all my dealings with others.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

- MON 29 SEP 9:30am** No Liturgy (*Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael*)
- TUES 30 SEP 9:30am** Liturgy of the Word (*St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor*)
1:00pm Tuesday Social Group
- WED 1 OCT 9:30am** Holy Mass (*St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Doctor*)
10:00am Rosary
- THURS 2 OCT 9:30am** Liturgy of the Word (*Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels*)
7:30pm Christian Meditation in the Side Chapel
- FRI 3 OCT 11:00am** Exposition, Reconciliation
12:00pm Benediction
12:10pm Holy Mass
- SAT 4 OCT 4:15pm** Reconciliation
5:30pm Vigil Mass
- SUN 5 OCT 9:30am** Holy Mass (*27th Sunday in Ordinary Time*)
11:00am Legion of Mary Kiribati Group in the Chapel

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FEASTDAY WEEKEND

SAT 27 SEPTEMBER

FEAST DAY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



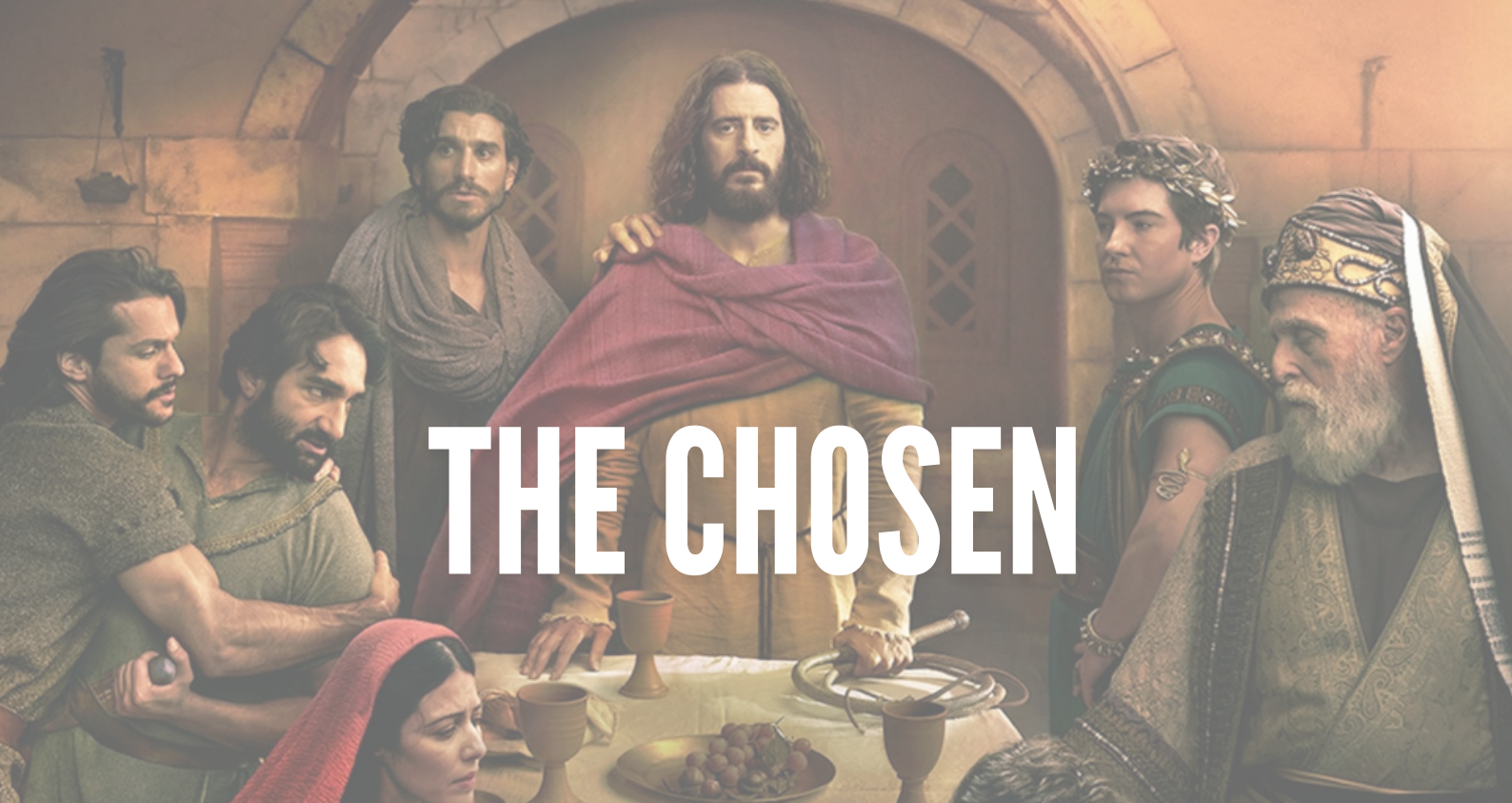
St. Vincent de Paul, inspire us to serve the poor with love and generosity. Teach us to bring hope and comfort to those in need, following your example of selfless service.
Amen.

SUN 28 SEPTEMBER

FESTIVAL DAY SUNDAY

9:30am Mass followed by a festival morning tea at the Parish Centre provided by the Vinnies members





THE CHOSEN - SEASON 5 HAS ARRIVED AT ST. JOSEPH'S!

Forget popcorn at the movies - come grab your blessings at the Parish Centre instead!

Screenings will run for four Mondays, beginning **13 October**.

🕒 6:00pm Start Time (Two episodes each night)

🍿 Popcorn optional, faith essential.

🙌 No tickets needed - Jesus already paid the price.

⚡ Warning: Side effects may include laughter, tears, and the sudden urge to tell random strangers about the Gospel.

Bring yourself, bring a friend, bring some snacks (miracle of the loaves and fishes not guaranteed 😊)

For more information, contact Nicole Boyce or reach out to the Parish Office on 027 511 2474

**Be inspired. Be encouraged.
Be part of something life-changing.**

You are invited to join us

Stories of Hope from Kolkata

We are holding a special event as Open Home Foundation International (ohfi) Kolkata directors Lun & Ngaiching Misao share their remarkable story and life changing work with vulnerable children in Kolkata's slums. Every day in these Kolkata communities thousands of children face the risks of hunger, exploitation, and trafficking. ohfi partners with local leaders like Lun & Ngaiching to bring safety, education, and hope where it's needed most. Their story is one of faith, courage, and perseverance - and it continues to change countless lives today.

Who We Are

ohfi is a non-denominational Christian organisation based in New Zealand, working globally so children are loved, protected, and thriving in strong communities. From New Zealand to Kolkata - and beyond - we are committed to creating a *Home in Every Way*.

When

We look forward to seeing you on

Wednesday 15th October 2025

At 7pm in the St Joseph's school hall 35 Durham Street Levin
Entry is free and supper is kindly provided by

The Sponge Kitchen Levin



RSPV

Please RSPV to Chris Olsen 0274477098 or chris.olsen5@hotmail.com by 8 October 2025 for catering purposes. We look forward to you joining us.



Archdiocese of Wellington News

50th Anniversary Mass

St. Francis Xavier Church, SV - Sunday, 9th November 2025 at 10:00 AM

Join us for a special Parish Mass celebrating 50 years since the opening of St. Francis Xavier Church. This will be the only Mass in the Parish that Sunday (usual Saturday vigil mass remains) — let's come together to mark this milestone with joy and gratitude. All are welcome — let's make it a celebration to remember!



Webinar Opportunity led by Cameron & Cheryl Surrey

Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College invites everyone for the webinar on “Raising a Catholic family in the Third Millennium” with Cameron & Cheryl Surrey on Wednesday, 8 October, 5.00-6.00pm on Zoom. To register, go to <https://form.jotform.com/250418045698059>.

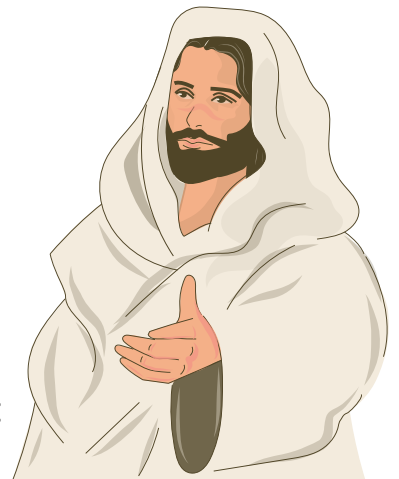
You can find the post for this webinar also on Facebook and Instagram.

Study with Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College

Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College enrolment for Bachelor Degree and Graduate Diploma in Theology for Semester One 2026 will run from 22 September – 21 November 2025. Go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/apply to enrol. You can find the post for this on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

“A Journey of Hope: Combating Pornography on the Internet - A Catholic Approach to Healing and Freedom”

A book by Fr Robert Steele, Parish Priest, Pukekohe in the Auckland diocese. Pornography leaves many trapped in cycles of shame and despair. A Journey of Hope offers a path to freedom through faith, healing, and practical strategies. With honesty and compassion, Fr. Robert Steele shows that God's mercy is greater than any struggle, and that real hope is possible. Available at Link: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0FR6FD8VJ>



Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct Feedback

“Please give your feedback.... As part of the National Office for Professional Standards’ commitment to ensuring a safe environment for all, they are carrying out a review of key safeguarding documents. They are currently reviewing the ‘Safeguarding Policy: Working Together for a Safe Church’ and the ‘Code of Conduct for Employees & Volunteers in Ministry in the Catholic Church’. They welcome and encourage you to submit feedback through their [Reviews page](#), with submissions open until 31 October 2025”

Catholic Social Teaching/Pope Quote



"Just as there is personal pain, so too there is the collective pain in our own day. Entire populations are crushed by the weight of violence, hunger and war, and they cry out for peace. This immense cry challenges us to pray, take action to end all violence, and bring peace to those who suffer. Above all, it pleads with God, whose heart trembles with compassion, to bring his Kingdom. The true consolation we must offer to those around us is showing that peace is possible, and that it grows within each of us, if we do not stifle it'. – Pope Leo XIV, Homily, 15 September 2025.

Come & See Vocations Morning - Saturday 18 October

From 9.30am till 12.30pm @ St Patrick's Church, Kilbirnie.

Are you thinking about priesthood? Join other like-minded young men for a morning of reflection, discussion and fellowship. Text 021 164 5800 or email l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz to let us know you're coming!



Inside the Conclave with Cardinal John Dew

Invite your friends, family and coworkers to a very special morning event on Tuesday 7 October 2025 at 6.30am at The Wellington Club (88 The Terrace, Wellington) to find out what happens inside the Conclave, from the only living New Zealander who's been inside. Cardinal John Dew will talk about his time at the Vatican during the funeral of Pope Francis and then taking part in the Conclave that elected Pope Leo XIV. Tickets are \$40 per person. There will be light breakfast nibbles, tea and coffee available from 6.30am, with the presentation commencing at 7.00am. Tickets can be booked at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/nz/YVJ>

HOLY HOUR for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

JOIN US for an hour of adoration, reflection and prayer that the Lord may send more workers to the harvest! 7.30-8.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon on Tuesday 23 September and every 4th Tuesday of the month.

Stay Informed on National Safeguarding Efforts

Stay Informed on National Safeguarding efforts: The National Office for Professional Standards (NOPS) is now publishing a quarterly newsletter with updates, resources, and information about the Church's safeguarding efforts.

Read the latest issue here: [NOPS Newsletter](#)

The Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation - Love is a Decision

Register online now on the Archdiocesan website for the next Course, consecutive Sundays 2 & 9 November 10.00am-4.00pm held at St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie.

Please note that couples attend both Sundays together in person to complete the course. The November course will be the last course for 2025. The first course in 2026 will be in March. Email: marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz

Hope and Renewal Summit



Prayer for the Summit: As we approach the final stretch before the Summit, we pray for unity in the Body of Christ and boldness in mission. May the Holy Spirit bind us together across parishes and ministries, and send us out with joy to share the hope we have in Christ.

Let us pray:

Father, make us one and send us out.

Unite our efforts in the mission of hope and love.

St Padre Pio, lover of Christ and servant of the Church, pray for us.

Holy Spirit, teach us to walk together with courage, compassion, and joy.

Amen.

To learn more or support the Hope and Renewal Summit, visit:

hoperenewalsummit.com or email: hoperenewal@pndiocese.org.nz

Care for Creation & Catholic Social Teaching

During September Christians reflect on the need to care for the earth, our common home. This is an integral part of our Catholic tradition of social teaching, which also emphasises themes like solidarity, human dignity, the promotion of peace, and the right of all to what is needed for a decent human life. In our Archdiocese the Commission for Ecology, Justice, and Peace is asked to reflect on church and society in light of this tradition.



The Commission extends an invitation to everyone interested in reflecting on ecology, justice and peace to gather on Saturday 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, from 9:30am to 12:30pm at St Joseph's Church, Mt Victoria. We will celebrate Mass and take time to share and reflect on issues of concern. We hope this will be a time of sharing and of making connections. A plate of food to share would be appreciated. Enquiries to Jim McAloon, jmcaloon@xtra.co.nz



2026

CALLED & EQUIPPED

Adult Formation Programme

Archdiocese of Wellington 

JOIN US...

on an exciting, new formation journey that offers personal faith formation and equips you for ministry.

For more information, email l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz

↙

Dig deeper into your faith

Understand what Church teaching means for us today

Learn how to share faith with others

Be trained and equipped to serve in your parish community

Called & Equipped Formation Programme

Are you looking for an opportunity to dig deeper into your faith, and to learn how to share it with others? Would You like to know more about what it means to be catholic?

Do you want to serve in your parish community, but feel you don't know enough?

JOIN US on an exciting journey that offers personal faith formation and equips you for ministry and service.

For more information, contact Lucienne Hensel at l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz or 04 496 1715.

SACRED MUSIC WORKSHOP



with Dr Robert Loretz

An opportunity to experience the depth and beauty of sacred music. Dr Robert will explore the history of sacred music along with practical singing workshops.

\$20 per person, incl. lunch and afternoon tea



[Register here](#)

Contact:
smoyasinging@gmail.com



11 October 2025
9:00AM –
4:00PM



St Mary's of
the Angels
Parish Hall