

Wellington Central Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Parish, Thorndon

Otari Parish

St Mary of the Angels Parish, CBD

4th Sunday in Lent

Volume 5 Issue 3

26 March 2017

The Man Born Blind

The Season of Lent really has two motifs running through it. It is a time of preparation for Holy Week, the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. But it was (and still is) the time when the catechumens (those preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) received their final instructions. They did not stay for the Eucharist. Instead, after the scripture readings, they left the Church and were instructed in their meaning.

So the readings during Lent were chosen with great care. They always included three scriptures from John's gospel – the Samaritan Woman, the Man Born Blind, and the Raising of Lazarus. At first sight, these scriptures do not sound especially appropriate for Lent, but they had deep meanings and were used repeatedly to point out what was happening in the lives of the catechumens and the people generally. They are always used in Year A (this year), and can be substituted for the Year B and Year C scriptures, especially when there are catechumens present.



So today, the Man Born Blind. The blind man "sees" more and more clearly as his interrogation goes on. After the healing but before the interrogation he had "no idea," but after a long dispute, he says that Jesus is "a prophet." After more challenge, he proclaims further that Jesus is "from God." Finally, after the man's acknowledgment of ignorance (or blindness) and Jesus' personal teaching, he confesses, "I do believe, Lord."

On the opposite side are the sighted, not only physically but also figuratively because they are knowledgeable concerning the teaching of Moses and the Church. At first, they see the miracle, but question the authority. Then they question whether the man was blind at all. They concluded finally that the man is a sinner and excommunicated him (and Jesus along with him). Their blindness is thus complete.

This light / darkness theme is so much part of John's gospel. The catechumens and ourselves, are left with a stark choice. Are we progressing into the light, or are we still in darkness?

Some points for reflection may be:

- Do I realise my blindness and ask for sight? Does the Lord heal me? Talk to Jesus in prayer about this.
- Do I, at other times, become so proud of my knowledge and self-sufficiency that I become blinded? How do I do that? How can I change? Talk to Jesus about this.
- What work or phrase particularly appealed to me. Why?

Fr Ron

Sacred Heart Parish

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 Cathedral foyer. Please collect your envelopes as this saves the Parish the cost of postage. The 2017-18 envelope sets this time contain two extra months (April & May 2018). This is so that from next year, the Tax Receipts and Planned Giving Envelope Sets can be distributed at the same time.

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. If you are not part of the Planned Giving programme you are very welcome to contribute to the parish in this way. Donations can be made via Bank Direct Credit or Planned Giving Envelopes. By registering your donations with the Parish you could be eligible to claim a tax rebate of up to 33.3% at the end of the financial year. For further information please complete a planned giving form available in the Cathedral Foyer or contact the Parish Office.

Commissioning Postponed

The commissioning of Fiona Rammell as our Lay Pastoral Leader has been postponed from next Sunday, 2 April, to the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 11 May. Fiona formally begins her service the week of 29 May.

Raffle of Easter Hampers

The Sacred Heart Cathedral School Parents and Friends Committee is raising money for a new playground at the school. After each Mass next weekend (1 and 2 April) members of the committee and students will be selling raffle tickets. There are 12 hampers packed with Easter goodies to be won. The first prize hamper includes a copy of "There is a time for...", a family prayer book compiled by Father James. Tickets are \$2 each. Thank you for your support.



Cathedral School

The insert carrying news from our parish school is the first of a regular update by the Principal, Bernadette Murfitt.

Holy Hour

You are invited to a Holy Hour on Tuesday **28 March** beginning at **7.30pm** in the Cathedral chapel to pray for vocations to priesthood and religious life. This Holy Hour will include prayers, songs of praise, Scripture, times of silence and concluding with Benediction followed by supper.

The Annual **Acies** (Consecration Service) of the **Legion of Mary** will take place at St Joseph's Church Mt Victoria on **Sunday, 26th March at 2:00pm**.

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, Wellington on Sunday 9 April from 11.45am – 5pm, lunch included. Bookings are necessary. Please contact Sister Stephanie on 04-8198312 or skit2@xtra.co.nz. Come along and bring a friend!

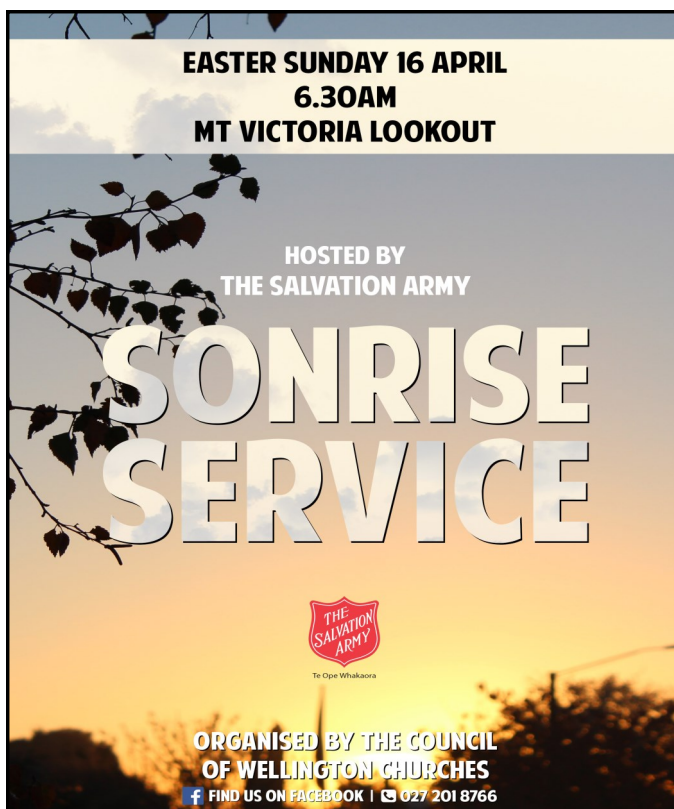
Events at Pa Maria

Pā Maria Marist Spirituality Centre, 78 Hobson Street, Thorndon:

- *Non-Residential Guided Retreat*: "Companions on the Journey". July 10-14, 9.30am-4.00pm each day. \$200.
- *Winter Film Series*: "Called Beyond Ourselves". 5 Evenings, 7.00pm-9.30pm. Two seasons available: 7, 14, 21, 28 August & 4 September OR 10, 17, 24, 31 August and 7 September. Kōha.

For further information and/or to register please contact Fr Brian Cummings SM: phone 212 4691 or 021 703 580 or email bgcummings@xtra.co.nz


Organ Fundraising Concert Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon 30 April 2.30pm by Johann Vexo organist Notre Dame, Paris. Tickets \$20+gst available at the door



EASTER SUNDAY 16 APRIL
6.30AM
MT VICTORIA LOOKOUT

HOSTED BY
THE SALVATION ARMY

SONRISE SERVICE


Te Ope Whakaaon

ORGANISED BY THE COUNCIL
OF WELLINGTON CHURCHES
f FIND US ON FACEBOOK | ☎ 027 201 8766

Downtown Community Mission

We need volunteers to help keep DCM clean, tidy and welcoming for the people who use our services. If anyone is interested, please contact Matthew at DCM on office@dcm.org.nz. Volunteers would need to be available when DCM shuts on a Wednesday, at 1pm. It is always a great place to be, whatever your contribution may be.



St Mary's College Open Day

Wednesday 31 May 2017,
8.30am-10.00am or
10.45am-12.20pm

Otari Parish

Parish Council Elections

Nominations will be called next weekend (1st / 2nd April) to fill 5 positions on the Otari Parish Council. Each parishioner will have the opportunity to nominate one person. All those nominated will be contacted and asked if they would like to accept nomination. Those who accept nomination will be asked to supply a photo with a brief résumé of themselves and why they would be happy to accept nomination. Actual voting will take place in May.

This coming Saturday there will be a time of reflection and prayer at St Teresa's Church Karori, from 4pm to 5pm, in preparation for the election process.



Extra Masses during Lent.

There will be a 6.30am Mass every Wednesday and Friday during Lent at St Teresa's Church, Karori. These will be in addition to the usual Masses.

Station's of the Cross

7pm every **Wednesday** St Teresa's Church, led by Catholic Women's League.

6.30pm every **Friday** St Teresa's Church, led by Tongan community.

Lenten Reflection Programme

Susan Chrisp is leading this programme after the 9.30am Mass in the St Teresa's foyer on Wednesdays during Lent. There will be a cup of tea to follow.



Divine Mercy Talk - as part of your Lenten devotion

The Divine Mercy group invites you to hear visiting speaker Ted Jordan explain his personal devotion to Divine Mercy, following the footsteps of St Faustina, after the 10am Mass on Sunday 2 April at St Teresa's church.

Ted promotes the Divine Mercy message across the Wellington region. That message was strongly supported by Pope St John Paul II. We look forward to seeing you there. Queries to Rose Celeste 476 4896, 021 894 030 youceleste@gmail.com

Parish Family Groups

(Passionist) Family Groups are made up of different families who come together on a monthly/ bimonthly basis to take part in a social activity like going on a picnic, a trip somewhere, to play cards or games. The activities are low cost and decided by the members of the group. The Passionist Family Group motto is a family for all. This is a good way for new members of the Parish to get to know other parish families and provides them with support.

In our parish (as in others) we have become disassociated with the Passionist Family Movement as such, as the costs of bringing over a Passionist priest from Australia to run seminars plus the travel costs of local co-ordinators, was quite high.

Family Groups have continued although the number of groups is relatively small. I really do believe in the concept of Family Groups and promoting their activities. To me, it is the liquid glue that holds the parish together.

But if we were to do continue, I wonder if it would be better to again come under the banner of Passionist Family Groups, so as to make use of their resources and support. It may be more difficult to do an awareness campaign alone.

I would like your feedback.

Fr Ron

Planned Giving

If you would like to join the Otari Parish Planned Giving Programme, and thus receive a receipt at the end of the tax year, please contact the parish office. A tax rebate of 33.3% may be claimed on all contributions and giving can be made through weekly envelopes or through bank direct credit payments. Envelopes and receipts for the new tax year will be distributed after Easter.



Good Companions for Senior Citizens

Tuesday 28th March, in St Teresa's Hall. Come along and enjoy the friendly company, entertainment and lunch from 11am 1pm. There is a koha of \$5.

Jimmy Mitchell - an evening of stories and songs

Jimmy Mitchell hosts retreats and speaks at conferences for youth and young adults all over the world. Jimmy is defined by his deep love for Jesus and is passionate about mentoring young people and supporting artists. He is an accomplished musician and a sought after international speaker. Jimmy first travelled to New Zealand to host Life Teen Summer Camp in 2016 and absolutely loved his time here, He is returning in April to be the key note speaker at the National Catholic Youth Ministry Conference in Christchurch. We are so privileged to be able to have Jimmy host an evening of stories and songs for young and old alike at Saint Anne's Church on Monday the **24th of April** from **7-8.30pm**.

St Mary's College Sevens Team

St Mary's College are the reigning National Sevens Champs. In that capacity we will be going to represent New Zealand at the Sanix World Youth Cup in Fukuoka Japan at the end of April.

We are desperately trying to raise the funds required to get us to the event. <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/stmaryswellington>

Accommodation Needed For Refugee Family

Lovely refugee family (mother with son and daughter) searching for 3 bedroom home to rent. Excellent reference available from St Joseph's parish. Please contact Amanda Calder on 4757994 or Francis Fanning on 3810900 if you can help.

Headlines from NZ Catholic 26 March-8 April:

Blood spilled in Wellington protest... *Vinnies world boss likes NZ...* Visiting sisters unpack Pope's green encyclical... *Kiwi lauded after Anglican evensong at St Peter's.*

Sacred Heart Parish

22-30 Hill St, Thorndon.
Box 1937, Wellington 6140 www.mcshwellington.org
Ph: 496 1700 Fax: 496 1719

Mass Times: Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 10.30am, 7pm
St Mary of the Angels Parish Mass : 9am
Monday to Friday: 8am, 12.10pm
Saturday 8.30am in Cathedral Chapel

Reconciliation : before 12.10pm Mass (Mon-Fri); after Sat Mass

Baptism: By Appointment

Parish Priest: Fr James Lyons
cathedral.parity@wn.catholic.org.nz
Secretary : Frank Doherty 8.30am- 4pm
Cathedral.parity@wn.catholic.org.nz
Parish office: Catholic Centre, Hill St
Hall Bookings: Frank Doherty Ph: 496 1700
Parish Council Chair: Nicholas Burley
Sacred Heart Cathedral School Guildford Tce, Thorndon
Principal: Bernadette Murfitt Ph: 472 4047
DRS: Jane Regan

Deadline for Cathedral Connection material is midday Wed.

Otari Parish

Box 17-011, Karori
Ph: 476 6131 Fax: 476 8131 www.otariparish.co.nz

St Teresa's Church, 301 Karori Rd, Karori.

Mass Times: Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 10.00am
Mass: Tuesday - Friday 9.30am;
Saturday 9am

St Thomas More Church, 30a Worcester St, Wilton.

Mass Times: Sunday 8.30am

Reconciliation and Baptism: by appointment

Parish Priest : Fr Ron Bennett
rbennett@actrix.gen.nz
Priest in residence : Fr Sanele Finau
frsanele@gmail.com
Administration : office@otariparish.co.nz
Parish Council Chair: Erwin Palado
St Teresa's Hall Bookings : Mira Ph: 476 2851
St Thomas More Lounge Bookings : refer to website
St Teresa's School 299 Karori Rd, Karori
Principal: Mary-Angela Tombs Ph: 939 1725
DRS: Ingrid Jacobs
Cardinal McKeefry School 166 Albemarle Rd, Wilton
Principal: Tania Savage Ph: 475 3262
principal@cardinalmckeefry.school.nz
DRS: Mary Ryan

St Mary of the Angels Parish

17 Boulcott Street, Wellington.
Ph: 473 8074 Fax: 04 473 8066 www.smoa.org.nz

Parish Priest: Fr Barry Scannell sm
Assistant Priests: Fr Kevin Conroy sm, Fr Joe Savesi sm,
Fr John Allardyce sm,
Pastoral Worker: Sr Frances Gibbs

Mass Times for Sunday
7am: St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall
9am: Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
Midday (Choral Mass): St John's in the City (Presbyterian Ch.)
5pm: St Joseph's, Mt Victoria

All weekday and Saturday Masses and Exposition will take place in the St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall. Reconciliation will take place in the St Mary of the Angels Presbytery, above the Parish Hall.

Monday - Thursday

Exposition: 6.45am – 7.30am
Mass: 7.30am, 12.05pm, 5.15pm
Reconciliation: 11.30am - 12pm, 12.30pm – 1pm, 4.30pm – 5pm
Holy Hour of Adoration and Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament: 6-7pm 1st Thursday of each Month in St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall

Friday

Exposition: 6.45am – 7.30am, 11am – 12pm
Mass: 7.30am, 12.05pm, 5.15pm
Reconciliation: 11.30am - 12pm, 12.30pm – 1pm, 4.30pm – 5pm

Saturday

Reconciliation: 10.30am - 11am, 4pm - 5pm
Mass: 11am



Recent Deaths

Eileen McCarthy,
aunt of Cardinal John,
RIP Havelock North, 19 March

Natalia Escobar Reyes,
mother of Angela Helbano, RIP
Philippines, 22 March

Kathryn Lucas,
RIP Dunedin, 15 March

Caroline Santos Ruiz

Anniversaries

Stephen Geenty
Kenneth Salmon



Papal Tweet

"It is vital that we sow the seeds of goodness in order to cultivate justice, foster accord, and sustain integration, without growing weary". - Pope Francis @pontifex 23 March

Readings for the Week



Sunday 26th March - 4th Sunday of Lent :

1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

Monday 27th March : Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday 28th March : Ezek 47:1-9,12; Jn 5:1-3, 5-16

Wednesday 29th March : Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday 30th March : Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

Friday 31st March : Wis 2:1, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday 1th April : Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-52

Sunday 2nd April - 4th Sunday of Lent :

Ezek 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45