



## The Cathedral Connection



Ascension Sunday

Vol. 7 Issue 13

13 May 2018

### GIFTING TOGETHER

The gift of self is the high point of all giving, and it happens more often than we realise. **Today we honour mothers**, and no one doubts the selfless devotion of those who nurture, protect and guide their children. The marriage vows capture another moment of selfless gifting, as bride and groom commit the rest of their lives to each other. The many thousands turning out to commemorate honour Anzac Day show recognition of the courage and bravery that places freedom and country before all else.

But these large and significant examples do not negate the many daily occasions when the good of “me” becomes secondary to the good of someone else or even several others. **Pope Francis** has given us a great lead on this with his recent writing on holiness, pointing out that we can gift one another with peace and joy by simply exercising our sense of humour! “If we allow the Lord to draw us out of our shell and change our lives, then we can do as St Paul tells us: *Rejoice in the Lord always; I say it again, rejoice!* [Phil 4:4]

The Pope’s call for us to relax and let our faith work for us, gifting ourselves to others with little acts of kindness and generosity, creates an environment for both personal holiness and healthy community life. He writes, *We can get so caught up in ourselves that we are unable to recognise God’s gifts.* [see Gaudete et Exultate, N.122-128]

**The Ascension** brings full circle the gift of God in Jesus and opens a week for us to pray and work for Christian unity. Efforts towards this also require generosity and a willingness to step beyond ourselves for the good of Christianity as a whole. Such self-giving leaves the past behind and looks around in awareness to see what I can do to make the name of Jesus a unifying influence for our troubled and greatly divided world.

The uniqueness of each person is precisely the gift that needs to be given.

Fr James

*Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish is a partner in the Wellington Central Pastoral Area with St Mary of the Angels (CBD), and the Catholic Parish of Otari (Wilton and Karori)*

# Sacred Heart Parish

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**Parish Priest:** Fr James Lyons  
**Lay Pastoral Leader:** Debbie Matheson  
**Director of Music:** Michael Fletcher  
**Secretary:** Frank Doherty 8.30am - 4pm  
Parish Office is in Catholic Centre, Hill St  
Hall Bookings: Frank Ph: 496 1700  
Parish Council Chair: Nicholas Burley  
**Sacred Heart Cathedral School**  
Guildford Tce, Thorndon  
Principal: Bernadette Murfitt Ph: 472 4047  
DRS: Jane Regan

## Mass Times:

**Saturday: 5.30pm**

**Sunday: 10.30am, 7pm**

Monday to Friday: Mass or Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 8am, 12.10pm, Saturday 8.30am in Cathedral Chapel  
*If a Requiem is scheduled, the 12.10pm Mass or Liturgy may not be celebrated on that day.*

**Reconciliation:** 11:50am to 12:05pm

Monday to Friday (Not Public Holidays)  
*If a Liturgy of the Word is scheduled at 12.10pm, Reconciliation may not be available that day.*

**Baptism:** By Appointment

*Deadline for newsletter material  
is Wednesday midday.  
Frank ph: 0-4-496 1700*

[cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz)

## Activities:



**Exposition of Blessed Sacrament** 7.30am prior to 8am Mass Thursday and Friday

**Rosary** Mondays 11.30am in Cathedral Chapel

**Music Group** plays on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of month at 5.30pm Vigil Mass

**Liturgy Committee** meet 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month. Next meeting 5 June.

**Finance Committee** meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday every 2<sup>nd</sup> month. Next meeting 14 June.

**Parish Council** meet 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month. Next meeting 7 June.

**Divine Mercy Devotions** every Sunday at 6.30pm

**Prayer Group Meeting** 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays, Connolly Hall 7.30pm

**Holy Hour** 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm

## Readings for the Week



### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> – The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11; Eph 4:1-13; Mk 16:15-20

### Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – St Matthias

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Jn 15:9-17

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>** – Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>** – Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11-19

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>** – Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup>** – Acts 25:13-21; Jn 21:15-19

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>** – Acts 28:16-20; Jn 21:20-25

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23



## Gift Discernment Workshop

Thank you to the 30 people who attended the Gift Discernment Workshop last Saturday. They explored how recognising and using our unique gifts enable us to be powerful channels of God's love and redeeming presence in the world. The facilitator highlighted three categories of gifts – faith and our experience of God; individual uniqueness and special interests; and life experiences. If you were not able to attend but would like to know a little about discerning your gifts, for mission and family life, please take one of the booklets located in the foyer.

**2017/18 Tax Receipts and New Envelopes** — please remember to collect yours in the foyer.

## Wellington Youth Orchestra

*presents:*

**Symphony No 5** Beethoven  
**Serenade for Strings** Elgar  
**Magic Flute Overture** Mozart  
*Conductor: Andrew Joyce*  
Monday May 14 @ 7.30 pm  
Sacred Heart Cathedral.

## MASS OFFERED FOR:

Mary Margaret Nicholapillai (RIP, Auckland 25 April Mother of Manjula and Grand-Mother of Aron); Josefina Pantaleon (anniversary, 6 May; mother of Geraldine Irinco); Loreto Irinco (anniversary, 13 June, father of Rom Irinco).



## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The feast of the Ascension marks the beginning of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which extends until Pentecost, next weekend.

Cardinal John asks all parishes to *'reflect upon how we each might do some small thing for Christian unity - prayer, reaching out to someone from another Christian church, contributing to foodbanks supported jointly by churches, taking part in an ecumenical service'*. He reminds us too that *'nothing is too small in the work of promoting Christian unity. We are restoring fractured unity piece by piece, and each of us has one or more of the pieces to put in place'*.

There is an Ecumenical Prayer Service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 12 King Street, Mount Cook, 7.30pm on Thurs 17 May, and below is a prayer that you may choose to pray daily during the coming week.

*'Eternal God, you belong to no culture and land but are Lord of all, you call us as Christians to welcome the stranger in our midst. Help us by your Spirit, to live as brothers and sisters, welcoming all in your name, and living in the justice of your kingdom. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen'*.

**April refugee intake** – Wellington Catholic Social Services would like to thank everyone who contributed in April to preparing homes for 39 former refugees in 11 households, plus providing bedding to two additional family reunification households. For more information about this work, or to contribute to preparing homes for 10 households arriving in June, please see our website:

<https://wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz/Supporting+refugee+resettlement> or contact CSS: email [refugees@wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz](mailto:refugees@wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz) or phone 04-3858642.

## NEXT SUNDAY is PENTECOST

The Archdiocese welcomes new Catholics at the 7.00pm Mass and the following day (Monday 21<sup>st</sup>) is the inaugural feast of MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH. Pope Francis introduced the Memorial Feast earlier this year. We will honour it with the usual 8.00am and 12.10pm Masses.

**The Christian Brothers Past Pupils' Association** annual Mass will be the 10.30am Mass at the Cathedral next Sunday 20 May, followed by lunch at 11.45am in Connolly Hall. Dave Olivier will speak about his time as Principal of Christian Brothers College at Mount Edmund, Pretoria, South Africa. Those interested in attending please phone Kevin McCormack 478-6792.

**The Compassion Soup Kitchen** is holding its annual Street Day Appeal on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of May and would appreciate volunteers who can help collect in the Wellington CBD, the Hutt City Area or Porirua City. If you can help please contact Paula on [volunteers@compassion.org.nz](mailto:volunteers@compassion.org.nz) or call/txt 0211811862.

**Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women** - Sat 19 May 1:15pm at Connolly Hall, Guildford Tce. Speaker: Shura Price, President Dove Wellington - "My journey guided by the Holy Spirit". All women welcome for fellowship, prayer ministry available. Enquiries: Shura 04 3899938.

**Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship** - Thurs 17 May 7:30pm for fellowship and prayer in at Connolly Hall, Guildford Terrace. Theme: What would you like to see happen at the monthly Joshua meetings? Contact Steve Ready (04) 970-7715 or 027-356-9555.

**Vigil for the Unborn:** Sat 19 May. St Anne's Catholic Church, Emmett Street, Newtown. Starts at 10.00 am with Mass. Ends at 12.00 p.m. Contact Family Life International, ph 2378343.

### St Mary's College Open Day

Guildford Terrace, Wellington. All Welcome. Thursday 14 June 2018 9.00 am to 11.30 am. We'd love to see you there!



**Please remember** to bring non-perishable food items, or toiletries (soap, toothpaste etc.) or laundry items (washing powder, cleaning products, nappies, etc). Collection boxes are beside the doors in the foyer. Thank you.

When we allow ourselves to be caught up in superficial information, instant communication and virtual reality, we can waste precious time and become indifferent to the suffering flesh of our brothers and sisters. Yet even amid this whirlwind of activity, the Gospel continues to resound, offering us the promise of a different life, a healthier and happier life.

- Pope Francis, 'Rejoice and be Glad' (Gaudete et Exsultate), 108.