



1st Sunday in Advent

Vol. 7 Issue 42

2 December 2018

## ON JORDAN'S BANK

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, in which we begin our spiritual preparation for Christmas. We will be invited in the next weeks to reflect and pray, and to give as we might to those in material need.

One of the features of the Advent Gospel readings is a focus on John the Baptist. He features in all four Gospels – the three 'synoptic' gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, so-called because they are identifiably similar in much of their material – and the rather different Gospel of John. In all the gospels he is presented as the forerunner of Jesus, a witness to what is to come. He is also the subject of that beautiful English hymn, 'On Jordan's Bank'.

Like the older prophets of Israel, John preached both warning and reconciliation. He warned his listeners that they were not to rely on their status as children of Abraham; that what we do and how we treat others is what matters, and is how we are to be reconciled with each other and with God.

When the people asked him 'what should we do?' his message was simple. Be honest with yourselves and change what needs changing. Turn away from greed, selfishness and abusive relationships. Share your goods with those in need, and live in peace with each other. Then, reconciliation will begin.

Simple advice, but I don't find it easy to follow. In reflecting on Luke's account of John the Baptist I am reminded of Pope Francis writing this year in 'Rejoice and Be Glad' that the call to holiness is for all of us, where we are, in our ordinary lives. During Advent we might reflect on the ways in which our hearts need to change, and where we need to be reconciled.

Jim McAloon, chair, Parish Pastoral Council

### Christmas Mass Schedule -

The Cathedral Choir will sing at the midnight Mass in St Teresa's pro-cathedral with the St. Teresa's choir, and will lead our parish Eucharistic celebration at 10.00 on Christmas morning in the college hall. There will be another parish Mass with music at 8.00 on Christmas morning in the hall. A Pastoral Area booklet with all Mass and Reconciliation options for this period is now available in the foyer, on the website and on the parish app.



### Christmas presents for children -

This year our parish Christmas tree will be placed in the foyer.

We invite you to place a small unwrapped gift under the tree for children supported by DCM (Downtown Community Ministry). Gifts will then be delivered to DCM on 18 December. Please drop your gift into the parish office, church or hall foyers anytime. Thank you!

**Raffle result** – The winners of the hamper raffle from the Parish celebration are Betty and Greig Rowan Thank you to all who purchased a ticket.

**GRAVE CARE** - The section at Karori cemetery containing the graves of our deceased clergy is looking very neglected (photo at right) and Fr James proposes a clean-up as a Christmas gift to the memory of those who have served us in pastoral ministry. Bring a fork, spade or broom and a rubbish bag, and meet Fr James at the cemetery entrance at 10.30am next Saturday 8 December for a 90 minute "Advent Clean".

### CARDINAL'S CARE APPEAL —

Our poverty and brokenness, marks of the human condition, were transformed by the redeeming love of Jesus Christ. Cardinal John calls our attention to this as he asks us to once again support his annual CARE APPEAL. By realising how gifted we are through our faith in Jesus, we will find it easy to reach out in loving service to those still held, in mind or body, in the poverty trap. The Care Appeal is fully explained in the letter accompanying today's newsletter, and envelopes are provided to facilitate your offering. Resettlement of refugees is one example where the Appeal has enabled an immediate response. Please make this Appeal a personal Christmas priority.

**RCIA** - The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults meetings are open to anyone interested: Wednesdays 5:30-7:30pm at the Catholic Centre:

28 November – 'The Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism and Confirmation' and 'The Sacraments of Initiation: Eucharist'  
12 December – 'The Structure of the Mass' and 'Sin and Forgiveness'.

**Please continue to support the food bank** with donations of 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 of St Mary's College Hall. Thank you.



**There will be no 5.30pm Mass at St Mary's College Hall on Saturday 8 December.** Parishioners are invited to support Cardinal John in the formal installation of St Teresa's, Karori, as the Pro-Cathedral at 5:30pm that day.

**Cathedral Choirs and Orchestra Christmas Concert** — contemporary and classic carols including a newly commissioned work by past choral scholar and local composer Luka Venter - Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, Saturday December 15, 7:00pm. Tickets at [Eventbrite.co.nz](http://Eventbrite.co.nz) .

**Christmas Crib Sets**— Do you have a miniature Christmas Crib set? Would you lend it to the parish to help create a display during the Advent/Christmas season? The plan is to have several scenes creating a “visual feast” in celebration of this special time. Please contact the Parish Office.

**Carols in Parliament** - The Council of Wellington Churches invites you to Carols in the Banquet Hall, Parliament Building, Sunday 9 December, 7:00pm. Speaker: Rev. Motekai Fakatou, Wesley Methodist Church. RSVP Essential by 4 December, to [cwc@gmail.com](mailto:cwc@gmail.com).

**Charismatic Mass** — Wednesday 5 December, 7.30pm, St Theresa's church, Plimmerton. Information: Anne Dodds 027 311 0551.

**Thank you** from Missionz for the generous donation of \$1633.50 donated by parishioners for the recent Mission Sunday Appeal.

**Advent Reconciliation** – Rite I Reconciliation will be available in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel Wednesdays 5, 12 & 19 December 7.00-8.00pm. Rite II will be celebrated at St. Teresa's, Karori 4.00pm on Sunday 16 December.

**Anointing of the Sick** — will be offered after the 12.10pm Mass on Monday, 10 and 17 December. This Sacrament is for all whose health is weak, those anticipating surgery, those in retirement and care-givers. Please call the Parish Office for transport assistance.

**2019 Mass Venues** — Due to a number of factors, not least the effort at setting up and packing down of the Hall each weekend, from the weekend of 2/3 February 2019 all Cathedral Parish Masses will be relocated. Saturday Vigil and Sunday Choral Masses will be celebrated at St Thomas More church in Wilton and Sunday 7.00pm Mass will be celebrated in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the Cathedral complex. Mass times will not change. More details about the venue and assistance with transport will follow. We are very grateful to St Mary's College Board of Trustees, Staff and students who have been so hospitable and accommodating.

‘Just as in each of our lives we always need to begin again, to get up again, to rediscover the meaning of the goal of our lives, so also for the great human family it is always necessary to rediscover the common horizon toward which we are journeying. *The horizon of hope!*... The season of Advent, which we begin again today, restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God's Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints!’ - Pope Francis, *Angelus* 1 December 2013

# Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish

22-30 Hill St, Thorndon  
PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140  
04 4961700  
cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz  
www.mcshwellington.org

**Lay Pastoral Leader:** Debbie Matheson  
**Priest in Sacramental Ministry:**  
Fr James Lyons

**Director of Music:** Michael Fletcher  
**Office Administrator:** Frank Doherty  
10:00am-3:00pm located in The Catholic  
Centre, 22-30 Hill St.

**Parish Council Chair:** Jim McAloon

**Sacred Heart Cathedral School**  
Guildford Tce, Thorndon  
**Principal:** Bernadette Murfitt Ph: 472 4047  
**DRS:** Jane Regan

## Mass Times

### MONDAY-FRIDAY

**Masses: 8:00am, 12:10pm**  
**Blessed Sacrament Chapel**  
**of the Sacred Heart Cathedral**

### SATURDAY

**Mass: 8:30am**  
**Blessed Sacrament Chapel**  
**Mass: 5:30pm**  
**St Mary's College Hall**

### SUNDAY

**Masses: 10:30am, 7:00pm**  
**St Mary's College Hall**

*Reconciliation and Baptism by appointment*

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

**Music Group** plays on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Saturdays of month at 5:30pm Vigil  
Mass.

**Liturgy Committee** meets 1<sup>st</sup>  
Tuesday of every month. Next  
meeting 4 December.

**Finance Committee** Next meeting  
Thursday 13 December.

**Parish Pastoral Council** Next  
meeting Thursday 17 January  
2019.

## Divine Mercy

### Sunday 6:20pm-6:50pm

Meet in the foyer of the Mercy  
Centre (Guildford Terrace). Entry by  
the steps that lead up to the gate to  
the Mercy Centre – not the first set  
of steps but the ones closer to St  
Mary's College.

**Rosary** Monday 11:30am-12:00pm  
in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of  
the Sacred Heart Cathedral.

**Prayer Group** 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>  
Mondays, 7.30 pm in the Catholic  
Centre lecture room 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

*Newsletter items should be sent to*  
[cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz)  
*by Wednesday midday.*

## Readings for the Week



**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – First Sunday in Advent**  
Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28. 34-36

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>** – Is 11: 1-10; Lk 10: 21-24

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>** – Is 25:6-10; Mt 15:29-37

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>** – Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup>** – Is 29: 17-24; Mt 9:27-31

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> – The Immaculate Conception of Mary**  
Gen 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday in Advent**  
Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:3-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6