



7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vol. 8 Issue 5

24 February 2019

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Our words and actions show who we are. They reflect our beliefs. This week's Gospel leads us into a personal spiritual reflection on how we share our love and our resources with others; helping us to critique our efforts at being faithful disciples.

Jesus teaches us that love of neighbour and forgiveness of one's enemies is central to leading ethical lives. HIS commands are clear: Love must replace hatred, blessings should defeat curses, generosity ought to supplant selfishness, and forgiveness must overcome enmity. David in today's first reading is an example par excellence of one man loving his enemy.

As you reflect on today's readings you may wish to ponder the following question: 'is there a contentious relationship in my life where I can follow David's example and refuse to pick up the spear?' For just like David and Jesus' disciples, we too are called to extend mercy in the same manner that the Father does. The Lord is kind and merciful and will shower immeasurable blessings on those who are gracious to others.

*'May you treat each other in the same friendly way Christ has treated you.
May you clothe yourselves in sincere compassion,
kindness and patience.
May the Lord watch over you,
keep you in his care,
and bless you with his peace'.*

Flor McCarthy SDB

Debbie Matheson – Lay Pastoral Leader

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).

Farewell Terry Hurliman – and THANK YOU for your generous gift of service and witness of discipleship that you have given to the Sacred Heart Cathedral community over the past 30+ years as Sacristan. We will miss you!.

"Creating a more just and caring society in New Zealand - where must we start?" Fr Neil Vaney SM will present a workshop on the church's social teaching on Wednesday, 13 March, 7:30-9:00pm, in Connolly Hall. Christianity has a unique emphasis on treating our fellow humans with respect and love because we are all made in the image of God. We must face the question that if we live in a nation so blessed in climate and fertility how is it that so many of our brothers and sisters are living with poverty and constant stress. We need to explore root causes for this situation and ask how, as faith inspired parishioners, we should be responding.

Palms: As the parish begins preparations for Ash Wednesday we are collecting old palms for Ash Wednesday. Baskets will be available in the foyer at St Thomas More and the Cathedral for your old palms.

The Children's Sacramental Programme begins Thursday 7 March for all children in year 4 or 8 years plus. Please register with the Parish Office by this Thursday 28 February 2019.

Lenten Study Groups

The theme of the Caritas Lenten programme this Lent is "Living Our Lives with Love" and is taken from "Gaudete et Exsultate – Rejoice and Be Glad" by Pope Francis. The themes are new beginnings, patience, compassion, mercy and love. The programme highlights the call to let love permeate all that we do. During Lent we are called both to turn away from those things that encumber our faith journey with God and to turn towards God; the Caritas Lenten Programme can help us on the journey. The Lenten Study Groups will be on Thursday 7.30-9.00pm on the ground floor of the Catholic Centre and Thursday 10.45-11.45am in the Cathedral foyer or, For further information contact Jane Kelly, 473 3622 or

email sarah.jane.kelly47@gmail.com

Ash Wednesday Masses – Will be celebrated at 8.00am & 12.10pm, 6 March, in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. You are invited to join with St Paul's Cathedral parishioners in an ecumenical service at 6.00pm at their Cathedral.

Breakfast at St Thomas More Church. You are warmly invited to join the St Thomas More Community for monthly breakfast at 9.30am next week - Sunday 3rd March. Breakfast will be over in time for your Mass. Breakfast is simple and free, a koha is appreciated.

Cathedral update: Since the temporary restraint was applied to the Cathedral and Connolly Hall and the chapel reopened, it may not look like much is happening towards re-opening our Cathedral. But, in fact, a lot is going on it is just not visible. The architects and engineers are working hard on the documents for the strengthening, which take months to complete. Cardinal John has established a fundraising committee which is planning a campaign, and work is being done on grant applications and promotional material. The maintenance work which we were originally fundraising for before the closure has now become part of the strengthening project. Thank you to all who have donated money for the maintenance project to-date, this will still be used for this purpose.

THANK YOU – FAREWELL

Last Sunday was a very special occasion for me – a farewell to and from a Parish that claimed my heart for over 11 years and which gave me shelter, companionship and purpose to my ministry as priest. You said your “thank you” to me and movingly showed your affection. My gratitude is similarly marked by affection. In many ways we have gifted ourselves to each other, learned from one another and continued in our efforts to follow the way of Jesus Christ. Such a pattern will keep us bonded wherever we may be.

A while ago, in our weekly newsletter, I wrote about the wonderful gift of life that we share with all creation; a gift from the God who is Love and made visible in Jesus. I wrote, *“This puts life in a class of its own, with a dignity beyond compare. And because life comes from love, it is itself creative and reaches for company. Each life is born to grow and to unite with other lives. Jesus came to help this vital process, urging us to think of others before ourselves...”*

I believe this conviction of the value of life is at the centre of everything that makes a parish, or any community thrive and grow. The seeds of this conviction were planted a long time ago in Sacred Heart Parish and they are transforming into healthy shoots. I have been privileged to have had a part in this process and, with the quality of your new leadership team, this will certainly continue.

The presence of so many of you at the “Farewell Mass”, the calls and the messages you wrote, speak volumes of the treasure that is the faith we share. I carry them with me in a heart overflowing with gratitude; they speak for your prayers and you’re certainly in mine.

- Fr James

World Day of Prayer Friday 1 March, 7:30pm, St Anne’s Anglican Church, cnr Northland/Randwick Rd. This year’s service has been prepared by the Slovenia WDP Committee with the theme of the banquet (Luke 14:15-24): “Come – Everything is ready”. Join St Anne’s Anglican Parish Northland/Wilton, the Catholic Parish of Otari, St Luke’s Anglican Parish Wadestown, and the Wadestown Presbyterian Church. All are welcome. Offerings will be taken up for the WDP projects. Supper will follow.

Holy Hour —Tuesday 26 February, 7:30 pm, Cathedral chapel, to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Readings, prayer, silence, Benediction, followed by supper. All welcome.

Limited Copies of Fr James’ books; “There is a time for...” and “As Good As Gold” are still available after Mass.

Mass Venues and Transport

The Saturday 5:30pm Vigil Mass and the Sunday 10:30am Choral Eucharist are celebrated at St Thomas More church, Wilton. The Sunday 7:00pm Mass is celebrated in the Sacred Heart Cathedral Chapel.

There are a few people who have asked for assistance to get to Masses at St. Thomas More. Rather than arrange a roster of cars to meet people at the Cathedral, we thought it would be a more friendly and sociable experience if we could arrange a small group of people to assign to transporting a nominated parishioner. If you are happy to offer assistance please contact the parish office.” A reminder please that at St Thomas More, there is a considerable area of on-street parking; please leave the off-street carpark by the church for those with mobility or other needs.

Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish

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Moderator: Fr Ron Bennett (Otari)
Lay Pastoral Leader: Debbie Matheson
Assistant Priest: Fr Doug Shepherd
Director of Music: Michael Fletcher
Office Administrator: Frank Doherty
Office Hours: 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

8:30am (8:00am & 12:10pm)
Blessed Sacrament Chapel
of the Sacred Heart Cathedral

SATURDAY

8:30am - Blessed Sacrament Chapel
5:30pm - St Thomas More, Wilton

SUNDAY

10:30am - St Thomas More, Wilton
7:00pm - Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Reconciliation and Baptism by appointment

PARISH ACTIVITIES

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

Liturgy Committee next meeting
Tuesday 5 March.

Finance Committee Next meeting
Monday 11 March.

Parish Pastoral Council Next
meeting Thursday 28 February.

Divine Mercy Devotions - Sunday
6:00pm-6:30pm Blessed
Sacrament Chapel, Sacred Heart
Cathedral.

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

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

Newsletter items should be sent to
cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz
by Wednesday midday.

Readings for the Week



Sunday 24th – 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk6:27-38

Monday 25th – Ecclus 1:1-10; Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday 26th – Ecclus 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday 27th – Ecclus 4:11-19; Mk 9:38-40

Thursday 28th – Ecclus 5:1-8; Mk 9:41-50

Friday 1st March – St David, patron of Wales

Ecclus 6:5-17; Mk 10:1-12

Saturday 2nd - Ecclus 17:1-15; Mk 10:13-16

Sunday 3rd – 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ecclus 27:4-7; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45