



2nd Sunday of Lent

Vol. 8 Issue 8

17 March 2019

Prayer – Being in the Presence of Love

Today's Gospel passage – the Transfiguration - would have been a 'moment to be treasured' for Peter, James and John. No wonder Peter wanted to prolong the moment – “let us build 3 tents...” He didn't want the moment to end. Prayer is that meeting place with God. Our Catholic tradition has a richness of ways of encountering God in prayer. What they have in common is that they join in the prayer of Jesus to the Father. All prayer is through, with and in Jesus.

This Lent can be a good time to look at our prayer life. I would like to mention 2 forms of prayer that you may have heard mentioned recently.

Lectio Divina: The Latin phrase “*lectio divina*” means “divine reading.” It is a way of praying with the Scriptures. As one reads and invites the Word to become a transforming lens that brings the events of daily living into focus, one can come to live more deeply and find the presence of God more readily in the events of each day. The method follows four steps: lectio (reading), meditatio (meditation), contemplatio (contemplation), and oratio (prayer).

Meditation: Whereas most forms of prayer involve words and song, either written, memorized, or spontaneous, meditative prayer concentrates on just 'being in God's presence.' Meditative Prayer began in the earliest centuries of the Church, when men and women went into the Desert to find God. Cassian went to meet them with them. He asked them 'What is prayer and how do you pray?' The answer he received was simple and profound. Go to a quiet place and spend time with God. Take a word or a phrase, and gently say it over and over. When distractions come, return to your word. Cassian wrote about what he had been taught.

St Benedict, who began the monastic tradition, knew Cassian's writing, and used it in his directions for his monks. Through the centuries, the practice of meditation continued through monasteries and convents. Many are rediscovering meditation and *Lectio Divina* as wonderful forms of prayer, seeing them indeed as a “moments to be treasured.”
- Fr Ron

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).

LENTEN ACTIVITIES



Flax Cross Making Friday **12 April;**

St Thomas More Lounge,
Worcester St.

This Social evening is an opportunity for Otari and Cathedral parishioners and school communities to spend time together. Just bring along your own dinner/takeaways at approx. 6.15pm. After dinner the Tongan Community will lead us in Stations of the Cross in the Church at 7pm. Then everyone will be shown how to make flax crosses from Harakeke (NZ flax). Dessert, tea and coffee will be provided. The flax crosses will be used by all church communities on Palm Sunday.

Caritas' Annual Lenten appeal envelopes can be returned during the parish offertory collection, or by mail to Caritas. A freepost envelope is available but please do not send cash in the post.

Reconciliation— the sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered during Lent on Wednesdays 7.00-8.00pm in the Blessed Sacrament chapel at the Cathedral.

Lenten Study Groups

The theme of this year's Caritas Lenten programme 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. All welcome, please come along.

Stations of the Cross – During Lent Stations of the Cross will be led in the Blessed Sacrament chapel 7.00pm on Fridays. We need one more leader for 5 April. Can you help? Please contact the parish office.

Parish Retreat — As an opportunity for Lenten Reflection, Fr Jim Dooley SM will offer a retreat afternoon on Sunday afternoon, 7 April. Further details next week. All welcome.

'The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home... Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded.' - Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*

A Parish Visit: Cardinal John will visit the parish next Saturday, 23 March to celebrate the Vigil Mass, 5:30pm, at St Thomas More. Also at this Mass our RCIA Candidates will be presented. Do join us for the special celebration!

Sacristans – The parish needs you! This is an important service role fulfilled mainly before and after Masses. It is not an onerous one, and can be very rewarding. Ideally we would have a number, so that we can assign people on a roster. If you would like to know more about the role of a Sacristan, please contact Debbie or Fr Doug.

A Caring Space — for all who care for a loved one, a chance to step away for a few hours. An opportunity to gently explore, together with God, the way this role is changing your life, hopes, dreams and above all the relationship with the one you care for. Led by Veronica Parton and Christine Walkerdine at All Saints Church, 6 Norfolk St. Belmont, Lower Hutt. Tuesday 2 April, 11:00am - 2:00pm. Cost \$10. Register with Veronica Parton 021 238 6675 or email vjpdap@gmail.com

End of Life Choice Bill Rally: Everyone is invited to join and support Pacific People say NO to the End of Life Choice Bill. The Select Committee is due to report back to Parliament at the end of the month so it is time to gather together and urge Members of Parliament to vote against this Bill. All are welcome. Tuesday 19 March 2019 11:00am to 2:00pm at Parliament Grounds. MP's will come out between 12 noon and 1:00pm.

Parish welcome to Fr Doug

On Friday 29 March at 5:30pm in the Cathedral Foyer we will welcome Fr Doug to our faith community. This will be a great opportunity to get to know him and for him to get to know us. Please bring a plate of finger food to share.

Abrahamic Meditation Day. Sunday April 7, 9.45am-2.30pm, Pa Maria, 78 Hobson Street, Thorndon.

Come join us for a time of meditative prayer together, sharing the practice in the Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions. Please bring a vegetarian plate for a shared lunch.

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship

- Thursday 21 March 7:00 for 7:30pm, Connolly Hall.

Speaker: Fr Peter Ewart on "Be Servants of the Living God". Information: Steve Ready, mob 027-356-9555 or email:

joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

Mass offered for:

Nina O'Flynn, RIP 8 March.



Farewell to Margo and Peter Gresham

– Margo and Peter are moving up to Whanganui at the end of this month and we cannot let them go without saying thankyou and farewell. They have been long time and very involved parishioners. Please join with the 10.30am community after Mass at a special morning tea on Sunday 24th March to bid them farewell.

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

8:00am & 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 2 April.

Finance Committee Next meeting
Wednesday 10 April.

Parish Pastoral Council Next
meeting Thursday 28 March.

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 Connolly Hall.

Lenten Study Groups - See inside
for details

Stations of the Cross - See inside
for details

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

Readings for the Week



Sunday 17th – Second Sunday of Lent

Gen 15:5-12; 17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1; Lk 9:28-36

Monday 18th – St Patrick, bishop, patron of Ireland

Jer 1:4-9; Acts 13:46-49; Lk 10:1-12, 17-20

Tuesday 19th – St Joseph, husband of Mary

2 Sam 7:4-5, 12-14, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Lk 2:41-51

Wednesday 20th – Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday 21st – Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31

Friday 22nd – Gen 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday 23rd – Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday 24th – Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 3:1-8, 13-15; 1Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13-1-9.