



4th Sunday of Lent

Vol. 8 Issue 10

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The Power of Repentance and Forgiveness

The parable of the Prodigal Son is probably the best known and best loved of all of Jesus' stories. The younger son discovers that, in spite of his sins he is deeply loved and forgiven by his father. Gandhi experienced this when he was fifteen. He stole something from his brother. However, he felt so bad about it that he made up his mind to confess it to his father. He wrote out his sin on a piece of paper, asking for forgiveness and punishment, while promising to never steal again.

At the time his father was very sick and in bed. Gandhi handed him the note and sat by his father's bedside waiting for judgment and punishment. His father sat up in bed and began to read the note. As he read it, tears came into his eyes. Gandhi himself began to cry. Instead of getting angry and punishing him, the father hugged the repentant son, and that was the end of the matter.

The experience of being loved while he was in sin had a profound effect on Gandhi. He said years later, 'Only the person who has experienced this kind of love can know what it is.'

Those who experience this kind of love, know something about the heart of God and in the power of repentance and forgiveness. God never closes his heart to any of his children. No matter what they do, if they return to Him, the one thing they can be sure of is an unconditional and generous welcome.

With every blessing

Fr Doug

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 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.

Stations of the Cross – During Lent Stations of the Cross will be led in the Blessed Sacrament chapel 7.00pm on Fridays.

Reconciliation— the sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered during Lent on Wednesdays 7.00-8.00pm in the Blessed Sacrament chapel at the Cathedral. On **Sunday 14 April** at 4.00pm there will be a Rite II Reconciliation, also in the Chapel. This is a short liturgy followed by opportunity for individual Reconciliation.

Parish Retreat — 'Give me your hand'. A retreat afternoon reflecting on the invitation Jesus makes to Thomas the Apostle to be reconciled with his disciples from whom he has been separated. For us, too, Lent is a special time of reconciliation and forgiveness. Jesus invites us to give him our hand and put it into his side. With Thomas we pray, 'You are my Lord and my God.' Led by Fr Jim Dooley SM, Connolly Hall, Sunday 7 April, 2:00-5:00pm. All welcome.

Lenten Study Groups

This year's Caritas Lenten study theme 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 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.

'I think of worried mothers and fathers watching their children move away, taking dangerous paths. I think of parish priests and catechists who wonder at times if their work is in vain. But I also think of the person in prison, who feels his life is over. I think of those who have made mistakes and cannot manage to see the future, of those who hunger for forgiveness and believe they don't deserve it.... I must not forget that I will never cease to be a child of God... who loves me and awaits my return. Even in the worst situation of life, God waits for me, God wants to embrace me, God expects me.'— Pope Francis: General Audience, May 2016

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.

The Pope's Astronomer— Cardinal John invites you to hear the Director of the Vatican Observatory, Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ, at The Cardinal's Lunch, Tuesday 7 May, 12:00noon-2:00pm, at Te Papa National Museum. Tickets cost \$115.00. Book through <https://cardinal-lunch.lilregie.com>.

Please continue to support the food bank this Lent 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 Thomas More and the Cathedral Chapel. Thank you.



Public transport—to the vigil Mass (5.30pm on Saturday) and the 10.30am (choral) Sunday Mass which are celebrated at St Thomas More Church, 30a Worcester St, Wilton. The most convenient bus service is No. 14 (catch the No 14 bus to Gloucester St at Worcester St, Wilton).

The Parish Smartphone App is a way of keeping connected and up to date with parish happenings. The app can be downloaded from <http://get.theapp.co/2d6c>

Safeguarding Workshop - Thursday 11 April, 6.45pm (cup of tea), workshop 7.00-8.30pm, at St Thomas More, Worcester St, Wilton. Facilitated by Brendy Weir, Safeguarding Adviser for the Archdiocese All parishioners welcome. Parish leadership and those volunteers working with children, young people or adults are required to attend.

Euthanasia and health care — Dr Leonie Herx, a professor of palliative medicine at Queen's University in Canada, will speak about the consequences of legal euthanasia for medical care, especially palliative care, in Canada. Tuesday 2 April, 7.00 - 8.30pm, Rutherford House - Room RHLT2, Victoria University, 33 Bunny Street (near the railway station). Koha appreciated.

Children's First Reconciliation – On Sunday 7 April, 57 children from all the parishes in the Wellington Central Pastoral Area will make their first reconciliation. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship - Meets Connolly Hall, Thursday 11 April, 7:00pm for 7:30pm. Speaker: Fr Kevin Connors on "You are called to be...". Information: Steve Ready, mob 027-356-9555 or email: joshua.wgtn@gmail.com.

Receptionist Position - the Archdiocesan Catholic Centre is looking for a part-time (20-30 hours per week) Receptionist. Please send your resume and covering letter to hr@wn.catholic.org.nz to receive a job description and application form.

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 2 May.

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.

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 31st – Fourth Sunday of Lent

Josh 5:9-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32.

Monday 1st April – Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday 2nd - Ezek 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-3, 5-16

Wednesday 3rd – Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday 4th – Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

Friday 5th – Wis 2:1, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday 6th – Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-52

Sunday 7th – Fifth Sunday of Lent

Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

Cathedral Parish Easter Week Liturgy Timetable

During Holy Week Cardinal John will preside at the liturgies at the pro-cathedral. He has asked the Cathedral parish to accompany him.

The Cathedral Choir will accompany Cardinal John for Palm Sunday and Chrism Mass, and thereafter join with St Mary of the Angels choir for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil. The choir will then rejoin us again at the 10:30am Easter Sunday Mass at St Thomas More.

The timetable of Masses and venues for our parish during this period is as follows:

Saturday 13 April, Palm Sunday 5:30pm Mass	St Thomas More, Wilton
Sunday 14 April, Palm Sunday 10:00am Choral Mass	St Teresa's pro-cathedral, Karori (no 10:30am Mass at St Thomas More)
Sunday 14 April, Palm Sunday 7:00pm Mass	Blessed Sacrament Chapel Sacred Heart Cathedral
Tuesday 16 April, Chrism Mass 7:00pm	St Teresa's pro-cathedral, Karori
Thursday 18 April, Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:30pm	St Teresa's pro-cathedral, Karori
Friday 19 April, Good Friday Stations of the Cross, 10:00am	Blessed Sacrament Chapel Sacred Heart Cathedral
Friday 19 April, Good Friday The Passion of the Lord, 3:00pm	St Teresa's pro-cathedral, Karori
Saturday 20 April, Easter Vigil, 7:30pm	St Teresa's pro-cathedral, Karori (no 5:30pm Vigil Mass at St Thomas More)
Sunday 21 April, Easter Sunday 10:30am Choral Mass	St Thomas More, Wilton
Sunday 21 April, Easter Sunday 7:00pm Mass	Blessed Sacrament Chapel Sacred Heart Cathedral