



The Ascension of the Lord

Vol. 8 Issue 19

2 June 2019

## AFTER THE ASCENSION

Today's first reading is St Luke's account of the Ascension, in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. One thing that struck me, re-reading it, was that even then, even after the Resurrection, the apostles still didn't get it. They still expected Jesus to 'restore the kingdom to Israel', that is, to throw the Romans out and re-establish Israel's independence.

Jesus's reply was to promise that the Holy Spirit would make the apostles his witnesses to the ends of the earth. You can't get much further from Jerusalem in the 30s of the first century than these islands of Aotearoa in 2010s, but since the days of St Paul, the Church has been described as the Body of Christ.

In exploring what this means, Rowan Williams, theologian and former Archbishop of Canterbury, reminds us that God, in Jesus, became a servant. Jesus often referred to himself as a servant, and so, as the Body of Christ, the Church too must be a servant of humanity.

Rowan Williams also points out that the Church is 'most truly itself' when it meets for the Eucharist. The Eucharist sustains and renews the Church, the people of God, but it also challenges the Church. In one of the Eucharistic Prayers we sometimes use, we pray that God will:

'Open our eyes to the needs of our brothers and sisters; inspire in us words and actions to comfort those who labour and are burdened. Make us serve them truly, after the example of Christ and at his command. And may your Church stand as a living witness to truth and freedom, to peace and justice, that all people may be raised up to a new hope'.

- Jim McAloon, Chair, Parish Pastoral Council.

*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).*

**Parish Consultation** - Over the past few weeks we have provided you with information and sought your input on understanding the needs and challenges of our Cathedral and Parish. Even as the Cathedral restoration project is quietly progressing, we are inspired by your feedback and support for making the most of the resources we have and managing our assets wisely for the maximum benefit of the community. We see this time as an exciting opportunity to cement our vision for the future, one which sees the re-opened Cathedral as a centre of worship and a hub of spirituality, culture, music, education and social activity. Opportunities for future sharing of your thoughts and ideas will be announced after the AGM.

**Vigil for the Unborn:** Saturday 15 June. St Anne's Catholic Church, Emmett Street, Newtown. Starts at 10:00 am with Mass. Ends at 12.00 p.m. Come-Pray-Sacrifice for unborn children and their families. For more information contact Family Life International NZ ph: 021 231 7954

**The Parish Smartphone App** keeps you connected and up to date with parish happenings. You can download the app at <http://get.theapp.co/2d6c>



### **Parish Events Coming Up**

**Pentecost Drinks** – You are invited to join the Parish Pastoral Council members for a drink after the Pentecost Vigil Mass at St Thomas More church on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June. Please do stop for a drink and an opportunity to get to know the team members.

**Parish AGM** will be held in the church directly after 10.30am Choral Mass at St Thomas More on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June. Reports from various ministry teams will be available and membership of the Parish Pastoral Council will be affirmed. Morning tea of scones with jam and cream will be served after the meeting.

**Feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus** – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June is our parish feast day. You are all encouraged to gather in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for a parish Mass at 5.30pm, followed by mulled wine and light supper in the foyer. More details closer to the time.

If a family uses the internet to be more connected, to then meet at table and look into each other's eyes, then it is a resource. If a Church community coordinates its activity through the network, and then celebrates the Eucharist together, then it is a resource. If the internet becomes an opportunity to share stories and experiences... in order to pray together and... rediscover what unites us, then it is a resource.... This is the network we want, a network created not to entrap, but to liberate, to protect a communion of people who are free. The Church herself is a network woven together by Eucharistic communion, where unity is based not on "likes", but on the truth, on the "Amen", by which each one clings to the Body of Christ, and welcomes others. Pope Francis: Message for World Communications Day, 2 June 2019

**New Parishioners** – A warm welcome to all new parishioners. We look forward to being able to invite you to our parish family gatherings. Please let us know how best to contact you by emailing the parish office on [cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz)

**Matariki—the Māori New Year** — will be celebrated with a Remembrance Miha (Māori Mass) Sunday 9 June, 11.00am, at Our Lady's Home of Compassion, 2 Rhine Street, Island Bay. Family entertainment from 1.30pm-3.00pm to create warmth and celebrate togetherness and new beginnings in Aotearoa. For more details: email [spirituality@compassion.org.nz](mailto:spirituality@compassion.org.nz) <<http://org.nz>> or ph Christine 3837769.

**Compassion Soup Kitchen Street Appeal.** Our Annual Street Appeal will be on Friday 14 June 2019 around the Wellington region. We are looking for volunteers! If you can help with being a Street Collector for one to two hours on Friday 14 June, please call (04) 385 9299 or sign up at [www.soupkitchen.org.nz/streetappeal](http://www.soupkitchen.org.nz/streetappeal) Come and join in the fun and be part of the story of Compassion!

**Please continue to support the food bank,** especially as the weather becomes colder, with donations of non perishable foods or toiletries and sanitary or laundry items. Collection boxes are beside the doors in the foyer of St Thomas More and the Cathedral Chapel. Thank you.



**WelCom** The June issue is out this week. Make sure you collect your copy – it's free and as always contains much good reading about the church in Wellington and Palmerston North, and further afield - as well as news and notices.

**Offertory Giving** - If you wish to gift your tax refund to the Cathedral Parish our bank account number is: **02 0506 0138488 00**. Please put your Planned Giving number in the reference section of the deposit. If you are not yet signed up to the parish planned giving programme and wish to do so then please contact Frank in the Parish Office.

**Retreat Day for Men** — Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship (Palmerston North) is hosting a one day retreat on Saturday 27 July at Our Lady of Lourdes, Shamrock St, Palmerston North. Theme: 'Up from the Waters', led by Fr Joe Grayland and Fr Robin Kurian. Lunch and morning/afternoon tea will be provided. Cost - koha/donation. For more information please contact Steve Ready 027 356 9555. or John Hammond [jo.mo.hamm@gmail.com](mailto:jo.mo.hamm@gmail.com),

**Stewardship Breakfast with Cardinal John** - Fellowship, hospitality and inspiring speakers, hosted by Cardinal John. Venue: Connolly Hall, Guildford Terrace, Thorndon, Wgtn. Date: Saturday 29th June 2019. Saturday 29 June 7.00am-9.00am. Cost: \$20.00 Please deposit your money to bank account 02-0536-0003306-000 with Reference: Stwdship Code: B-Fast. Any questions please ring Chris (04) 496-1706.

# Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish

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

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

**Liturgy Committee** next meeting  
Tuesday 2 July.

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

**Parish Pastoral Council** Next  
meeting Thursday 27 June.

**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** 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>  
Mondays, 7:30 pm in Connolly Hall.

*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 June – The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Lk 24:46-53

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>** – Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>** – Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11-19

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

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup>** – Acts 25:13-21; Jn 21:15-19

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>** – Acts 28:16-20; Jn 21:20-25

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11; Rom 8:8-17; Jn 14:15-16, 23-26.