



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Vol. 9 Issue 5 23 February 2020

Ah perfectionism my old friend. Often leaving me struggling against myself, or giving up before I've even given something a go because I 'know' that I can never do it to the level I or others would like me to. I'm not sure about you, but when I hear the call to love my enemies and pray for those who persecute me, I freeze.

These words come early in Jesus' ministry and nearly three years later his own enemies would capture and persecute him. Would he really love and pray for his persecutors? Heck, I think we all would have understood if he decided to deny his earlier teaching; but, as we all know, there on the cross, Jesus cried out: "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

So if Jesus can do it, then surely I can, right? Each of our readings offers us guidelines to help us reach our potential. Indeed, loving our enemies takes a lot of learning about others as well as ourselves. It is a process of growth and transformation.

Christ showed his eternal love for us when he sacrificed his life on the cross. It was not sin that took Christ to the Cross, but love. And it is this love that guides us. His hands outstretched on the cross offer us that gift of transformation. This is not a one minute wonder product, but something that allows us to grow and mature, and it takes time. As we learn about others we move beyond our own prejudices and fears and grow in ourselves.

As Pope Francis says "... the way to perfection is found in these small steps ... small steps of charity and love." So, don't let a drive to always get things right first time stop you from starting. Allow holiness to shape your life for the good of others as well as yourself. Christ's love is a gift of transformation to be perfectly holy, by eliminating hatred and in turn gifting ourselves to each other in love.

Michael Fletcher
Director of Music

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).



Ash Wednesday

is this week, 26 February.

Services in our Pastoral Area:

Sacred Heart Cathedral Blessed Sacrament Chapel: 8.00am & 12.10pm also a combined Service at **St Pauls Anglican Cathedral** at 6.00pm

St Teresa's, Karori 6.30am, 9.30am & 7.00pm

St Mary of the Angels, Boulcott St. 7.30am, 12.05pm & 1.05pm also a Combined Service with St John's Presbyterian Church at 5.15pm.

An Encounter with Mercy

A teaching series that explores the mystery of forgiveness through the healing ministry of Jesus in the parables of Luke's Gospel. Lost, Restored, Healed, Forgiven. Led by Fr James Lyons. All welcome. Please register. Wednesdays 4th March, 25th March, 1st April - 7pm. The Chapel of Our Lady of Compassion, 2 Rhine Street, Island Bay, Wellington. Ph. (04) 383 7134 or (04) 383 7769.

Mission Expo — In response to Pope Francis' call to focus more intentionally on mission, Cardinal John will be announcing a Year of Mission in the Archdiocese. This will be launched by a Mission Expo at Viard College on 14 March. More information is in this month's WelCom.

Would you like a visit from our Parish Priest?

Fr David Dowling loves to visit and is very open to invitations for tea or a meal or just a chat. If you would like a visit then please contact Fr David at the parish office on (04) 496 1700 or email: d.dowling@wn.catholic.org.nz.

Palms for Ash Wednesday — the ashes used on Ash Wednesday are made by burning palms from last year's Palm Sunday. If you still have your palms, there are baskets at the back of St Thomas More church and in the Cathedral foyer to collect these.

Seasons for Growth - for those who have been touched by change, loss, separation, divorce, illness, and more. Catholic Social Services is offering this four-session programme which can help to process and respond well to such experiences during Thursdays, March 5-26, 5:30-8:30pm at the Catholic Centre. Cost \$30, please register by email seasons@wn.catholic.org.nz or phone 385 8642.

Urgently Needed — Cathedral Guardians. Do you have a spare morning or afternoon (3-4 hours only) during the week on a regular basis? Can you help with being a welcoming face in our Cathedral and help keep our doors open? This is a very important and rewarding part of our ministry as an inner city church, providing an "oasis" for all visitors. If you can help or want further information then please contact Frank in the Parish Office Ph. 496 1700.

Starting from our roots, let us sit around the common table, a place of conversation and of shared hopes. In this way our differences, which could seem like a banner or a wall, can become a bridge. Identity and dialogue are not enemies. Our own cultural identity is strengthened and enriched as a result of dialogue with those unlike ourselves.

Pope Francis: Querida Amazonia, February 2020

REOPEN THE CATHEDRAL FUNDRAISING UPDATE

We are excited to announce that Fr James Lyons has graciously accepted the role of Campaign Chair. We continue working to secure lead/ cornerstone gifts in the quiet phase of the Campaign. Cardinal John hosted an event specifically for religious leaders on 29 January inviting them to support the Campaign. Since the last report, we have received several major gifts and commitments from individual supporters, bringing us closer to our goal and public launch of the Campaign.

Holy Hour You are invited to a Holy Hour on Tuesday 25 February beginning at 7.30 pm in the Cathedral chapel to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. This Holy Hour will include prayers, Scripture, singing, times of silence and conclude with Benediction followed by supper.

Forty Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion, February 26-April 5. If you'd like more information – and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact: 0212317954 or visit www.flii.org.nz/40daysforlife

Thursday 27 February - Marriage Enrichment Evening – With the Marriage, Family and Young Church Office, Yvonne and Brian Pauling will run an evening seminar based on their successful Imago Relationship workshops, 'Getting the love you want.' They will guide couples through an enjoyable evening of communication tips and insights to enhance their relationship. A glass of bubbles will be served on arrival! Register with Felicity Giltrap, ph 496-1719 or email f.giltrap@wn.catholic.org.nz

Lenten activities — *there are two possibilities for Lenten reflection:*

A. Joint Cathedrals Lent Programme - Five thought provoking sessions on the theme of Mission are being jointly hosted during Lent by the Anglican and Catholic Cathedrals. The dates and venues are 7.00pm - March 4 and April 1 in Connolly Hall, and March 18 and 25 at the Anglican cathedral. Speakers include Cardinal John, Anglican Bishop Justin Duckworth and Dean David Rowe. Further details will follow.

B. Hear the cry of the earth - Laudato Si' Lenten Series - This is a joint initiative between ourselves and Otari parish, reflecting on Pope Francis's encyclical on care for our common home. There will be three sessions with speakers involving dialogue and sharing at St Thomas More church on Tuesday 3 March and Thursdays March 12 and 19 7.30-9.00pm. For more information contact Jim McAloon, jmcaloon@xtra.co.nz or 0272447784.

Please keep in your prayers:

Fr Justin Taylor SM
Anne Kelly
Judy O'Connell
All those affected by the CoVID-19 Virus



Mass offered for —

Margaret Johnson - RIP
12 Feb. *Mother of Peter Johnson*

Frits Bergman - RIP 16 Feb

Don Matheson - RIP 17 Feb.
Father-In-Law of Debbie Matheson



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

Parish Priest: Fr David Dowling
Lay Pastoral Leader: Debbie Matheson
Director of Music: Michael Fletcher
Office Administrator: Frank Doherty
Office Hours: 10:00am-3:00pm, in the Catholic Centre, 22-30 Hill St.
Parish Council Chair: Jim McAloon

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

Mass Times

MONDAY-FRIDAY

8:00am & 12:10pm

Cathedral Blessed Sacrament Chapel

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: Weekdays 11:50am-12:05pm; Saturday after 8:30am Mass, or by appointment. **Baptisms** by appointment.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Liturgy Committee next meeting
7:00pm Tuesday 5 March.

Finance Committee next meeting
Thursday 12 March.

Parish Pastoral Council next meeting
7.30pm Thursday 27 February.

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Thursday & Friday
7:30am until the 8:00am Mass.

Prayer Group 1st and 3rd Mondays,
7:30 pm in Connolly Hall.

Divine Mercy Devotions - Sunday
6:00pm-6:30pm Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

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

The Parish Smartphone App can be downloaded from:
www.mcshwellington.org/parishapp



<https://www.facebook.com/MCSHWWellington/>

Readings for the Week

Sunday 23rd – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lev 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

Monday 24th – Jas 3:13-18; Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday 25th – Jas 4:1-10; Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday 26th – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20 - 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday 27th – Deut 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

Friday 28th – Is 58:1-9; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday 29th – Is 58:9-14; Lk 5:27-32

Sunday 1st March – First Sunday in Lent

Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11



Psalm Response Today: 'The Lord is kind and merciful'.