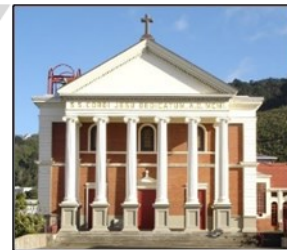




The Cathedral Connection



26 December 2021
Vol. 10 Issue 48
The Holy Family



Christmas - the gift of presence

*'He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary and was made man' -
Emmanuel – God is with us.*

Four weeks of focused spiritual and practical preparation are now complete, and we turn our focus to the celebration of the birth of the 'Light of the World'. Alleluia! Each Christmas we celebrate not only the nativity scene, that happened over 2000 years ago, but our redemption through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

The gift of advent was the gift of preparation. Each week the scriptures focused us on a particular theme - Hope, Faith, Joy, Peace - inviting us to be a closer reflection to our life with Jesus; inviting us to respond to Jesus, and to imitate Him. Each week we heard Him call us to be a

'light to the world'; to live lives infused in forgiveness, kindness, service, and presence.

As the year draws to a close, and we are hopefully able to spend time with our families and friends, I pray that the gift of presence is yours and that during this Christmas season your Christ light will continue to shine brightly.

We give the gift of presence to others when we respond to requests of help, with a smiling heart and light in our eyes. Our presence can be the light of Christ, in our community, in our neighbourhood, in our workplace. How our light shines will be different for each one of us as we all have different gifts and talents, interests, and dreams.

Remember we can also to give the gift of presence not only to others, but to ourselves. Perhaps over the holidays we might prioritise taking some time out to discern and acknowledge what excites us; to dream about how and where we can share our gifts and talents to witness the 'light in the world' in our community and to recognise Emmanuel, God with us, in us and beside us. What gift of presence is Jesus inviting each of us to share in 2022 and with whom?

On behalf of Fathers Ron and David, Frank, and myself, thank you for the gift of yourselves to us this year. May your hearts be lifted in praise this Christmas for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the joy He brings to our lives. Have a wonderful Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Debbie Matheson
Parish Leader/Lay Pastoral Leader

Readings For The Week

Sunday 26th – The Holy Family

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52

Monday 27th – 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:2-8

Tuesday 28th – 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

Wednesday 29th – 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

Thursday 30th – 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40

Friday 31st – 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18

Saturday 1st January – Mary Mother of God Solemnity

Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

Sunday 2nd – The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

OUR MISSION & VISION
To joyfully share God's love. To be a missionary people united in the hearts of Jesus and Mary.



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)

The Cathedral Parish Office is open to receive visitors. Please note that you must have and show your My Vaccine Pass to the Catholic Centre Reception Staff before entering the Catholic Centre Building. You will be required to either scan the Covid-19 Tracer App QR Code or use the manual sign in system. Office Hours are on the back page. Otherwise please phone the Parish Office on (04) 496 1700.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Dear brother, dear sister, if your hands seem empty, if you think your heart is poor in love, this night is for you. *The grace of God has appeared*, to shine forth in your life. Accept it and the light of Christmas will shine forth in you. - Pope Francis: [Homily 24 December 2019](#)



CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS



Carols will start 20 minutes before the 10.00pm Christmas Eve Mass. **If you wish to sing then Face Masks must be worn.**

THANK YOU FROM FR DAVID

Sincere thanks for the many kind words and gestures from parishioners that have been shared with me in recent days. Many years ago I remember an elderly man saying to me, "David, I am sure that you will learn much from the story of God in people's lives." How true this is. The kindness and goodness that I have experienced in the Cathedral Parish is a wonderful sign of God working through our lives and I am deeply grateful for this. God bless, *Fr David*

Christmas Thoughts

Anonymous

"It's sharing your gifts, not purchasing gifts;
It's not wrapping presents, its being present
and wrapping your arms around the ones you love;
It's not getting Christmas cards out on time,
It's sending any card, anytime, at the right time;
It's not having the biggest and best Christmas light display,
It's displaying the Christ light that comes from your heart;
It's not Santa coming down the chimney,
It's Jesus coming down from heaven,
and giving us the gift of eternal life."

<http://www.appleseeds.org/christmas-quotes.htm>



Some Special Gifts

Source Unknown

Here are a few suggestions for special gifts:

- a firm handshake to a shaky soul,
- a kind word to a lonely person,
- a warm smile to the disheartened,
- a sincere concern for someone troubled,
- a feeling of compassion for the neglected,
- a comforting thought for the bereaved,
- a respect for the dignity of others,
- a defence of the rights of individuals,
- a word of witness to help a seeking soul,
- a **Merry Christmas** to all.

<http://www.appleseeds.org/christmas-quotes.htm>



WHEN PARISH ACTIVITIES RESUME IN 2022

NORMAL WEEKDAY & SATURDAY MORNING MASSES: Resume from Tuesday 25 January 2022.

CATHEDRAL CONNECTION: Resumes from weekend 29-30 January 2022

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: Resumes on Tuesday 25 January 2022.

WEEKLY ROSARY: Resumes on Monday 31 January 2022.

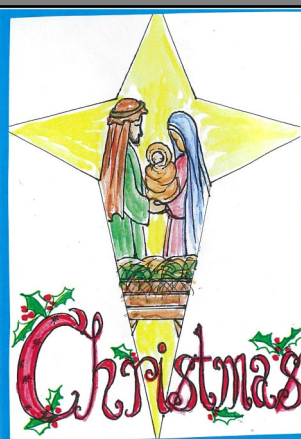
ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Resumes on Thursday 3 February 2022.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION: Resumes on Sunday 6 February 2022.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY



WELLINGTON CITY MISSION



Christmas 2021
Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart Cathedral,
This comes with love at Christmas to bring a special prayer that God will bless you day by day and keep you in His care and at this special season and throughout the coming year may He guard and guide you and keep you ever near.
We thank you very much for your continual support + help for the poor. God bless you all.
Dora Olivia & The Community

WELCOME



We congratulate and welcome Lisa Beech as our new Parish Music Coordinator/Leader on a Part-time

temporary contract for the Cathedral Parish. Many of you will know Lisa from her various roles with Caritas and our Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Office. Lisa is a very accomplished musician and starts with us on 8 February.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE AND MASSES IN JANUARY

Parish Office Closure

The parish office will close for the Christmas Holiday season from 5.00pm on Thursday 23rd December and reopens at 11.00am on Tuesday 25th January. If you require the assistance of a Priest during this time please phone (04) 496 1700 and listen to answer machine message. Debbie will be available by email from 10th January and Fr Ron will be back from holiday on 22nd January.

Masses - January 2022 (Don't forget your "My Vaccine Pass")

January is traditionally a time when people take the opportunity to spend some time with friends and family, to have some time of rest and relaxation, something we would probably all welcome after the challenges of this year. During January our priests also take time away for some well deserved rest. In order to accommodate this, our Pastoral Area (St Mary of the Angels, Otari Parish and ourselves) will have a reduced weekday Mass schedule. Our Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses will continue as usual, however there will be no Weekday or Saturday Morning Masses or Liturgies in the Connolly Hall Chapel. This continues until after Wellington Anniversary weekend when our normal Mass & Liturgy of the Word schedule will resume. Between 27 Dec 2021 and 25 Jan 2022 there will be Weekday Masses at St Mary of the Angels (Boulcott Street, City) daily at 12.05pm and at St Teresa's (Karori) on Wednesdays & Fridays at 9.00am. Our Christmas and January timetable is available on the parish website. www.mcshwellington.org Please join us for New Year's Day Mass at 10.00am at St Thomas More Church in Wilton

MASSES UNDER THE NEW COVID "TRAFFIC LIGHT" FRAMEWORK

Wellington is now in the "Orange setting" and under these restrictions, and [as previously advertised](#), All Masses in our parish are now available for access only with a "My Vaccine Pass". Various other gatherings operating from parish premises will fall into both the restricted and unrestricted category. Please check advertising notices, or with the coordinators of the gatherings to ascertain their category. If you need assistance getting a pass please contact Frank in the parish office.

The changes to the new access system requires extra processes to enable us to gather, which in turn requires extra people to assist us to meet the obligations placed upon us. If you are able to offer your assistance please contact Debbie or Frank in the parish office or one of the Mass Co-ordinators.

Your co-operation, patience and help is appreciated as we settle into these new requirements. We ask that you please:

1. Arrive early for Mass to allow time for everyone to be seated before Mass begins.
2. Have ready your Vaccine Pass available for sighting/verifying;
3. Continue to scan in using the My-Covid app or manually sign in;
4. Sanitise on your way into the church and wear a mask whilst inside the church.

Restricted Number Masses (for people with and without a Vaccination Pass) in our pastoral area are detailed below. Further options are available and a list of these can be found here: <https://mcshwellington.org/2021/12/masses-for-those-without-my-vaccine-passes-in-the-wellington-archdiocese/> Please remember you must register for these Masses between 9am Wednesday and 12.00noon Friday at <https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/mass-registrations/> or phone the relevant parish office.

Let's Talk....

If you, or anyone you know, are experiencing difficulties with the current Covid orange setting restrictions to access Mass or other parish services, please talk to one of the Parish Leaders, Fr Ron, Debbie, Randy Reyes, Clint Ramoo or Jane Kelly. We really want to be able to reach out and have a dialogue. Rest assured that the concerns that any parishioners raise are kept in confidentiality.

NZCatholic



NZ Catholic—Some headlines for this issue:

- Bishop Steve Lowe appointed Bishop of Auckland.
- Catholic groups back Matariki public holiday.
- Otago church closed after more than 100 years.
- The saint who is behind the Santa Claus legend.

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/7cf1046d-de15-49c7-9232-0e8ea6146abf>

Please continue to support the

food bank, 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. The baskets will continue to be cleared over the holidays.



New to this parish?

Nau Mai Haere Mai - Welcome

If you would like to become a member of our parish or know more about us then please complete the form at: <https://mcshwellington.org/join-the-parish/> or contact the parish office Ph. 496 1700 after 25 January 2022.

You and Your Parish - Working Together.



Donations for Sacred Heart Cathedral strengthening, and restoration campaign

can be made to bank account number: **02-0506-0138488-025**
Particulars: Your surname & initials
Code: Your phone number. **Reference:** REOPEN. Check out the Cathedral Fundraising Campaign website: www.cathedralcampaign.org.nz



SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL PARISH

Please keep in your prayers

PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140,
Ph: (04) 496 1700

cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz

www.mcshwellington.org

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

Parish Leader / Lay Pastoral Leader:

Debbie Matheson

Parish Moderator:

Fr Ron Bennett

Secretary:

Frank Doherty

Office Hours:

12:30pm to 4:30pm Tue-Fri

Parish Council Chair:

Randy Reyes

Sacred Heart Cathedral School

Guildford Tce, Thorndon

Ph: 472 4047

Principal: Bernadette Murfitt

DRS: Jane Regan

MASS TIMES

My Vaccine Passes are required to attend these Masses or Liturgies. Masses for those without My Vaccine Passes are listed on the [parish website](#)

Weekdays

(Except Public Holidays)

8:00am Monday to Friday

12:10pm Tuesday to Friday

All in the Connolly Hall Chapel

Saturday

8:30am – Connolly Hall Chapel

5:30pm (Vigil for Sunday) -

St. Thomas More, Wilton

Sunday

10:30am: St. Thomas More, Wilton

7:00pm: Connolly Hall, Chapel, Thorndon

Reconciliation: by appointment.

Baptism: by appointment. Contact Parish office.

Gabrielle McLeavey

Brian and Moira Dunn

Ken Matheson

Nicholas & Thomas Dyne
(Graham & Rosaleen Taylor's grandsons)



Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer

Ron Blackwell

Marie Byrne

Rocky Dunmire



Mass offered for

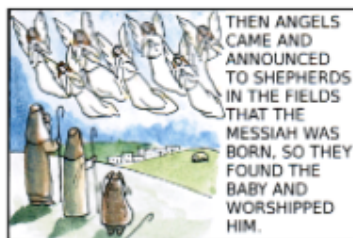
Rebecca Claire Franklin
Anniv. 24 Dec

Robert Joseph Serafino
Bond. Anniv. 26 Dec



CHILDREN'S CORNER

The Christmas Story



FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR GOD TO SEND THEM A MESSIAH WHO WOULD SAVE THEM FROM THEIR SINS. FINALLY HE CAME, A POOR BABY BORN ON A COLD NIGHT. SEE HOW MUCH GOD LOVES US, THAT HE WOULD COME TO US AS A TINY, INNOCENT BABY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!

The Holy Family Puzzle

Unscramble the letters to fill in the blanks. Use the letters in boxes to fill in the blanks with numbers part-way down.

Every year Jesus and His (NTSPRAE) went to Jerusalem for the (SVOPSARE) festival. When (SUJES) was twelve, they went to the (LFSETVIA) as usual, but Jesus stayed in the (MPELET) afterwards. (RMYA) and Joseph thought He was with their relatives in the caravan, but when they couldn't (DNIF) Him they went back and (CHDEASRE) for Him. On the (HDRIT) day they found him. When they asked Jesus why He had done this, He replied, "Did you not (WNKO) that I must be in my ?"

Then he went home with them to (ZRNATHEA) and was obedient to them, and grew up in (DSIWMO) and age and grace.

