



The Cathedral Connection



11 December 2022
Vol. 11 Issue 46
Third Sunday of Advent

Who Is Jesus?

In many ways the great question of the New Testament is quite simple – ‘Who is Jesus?’ We seek to live out that answer by way we live our life.

We will have doubts, just as John the Baptist, cooped up in his prison cell, wanted to be quite certain that he had got it right – that Jesus really was the promised messiah.

In John’s Gospel the works Jesus does are called ‘signs’ because they indicate Jesus’ identity; that is the same in this passage from Matthew’s Gospel. The compilers of the lectionary help us appreciate this by coupling the reading from Isaiah with the passage from Matthew. Isaiah gives us a great vision of hope announcing the coming of God to his people, and that is accompanied by great signs in nature, but also by the healing of the blind, the deaf, the lame and the dumb. When Jesus answers John’s disciples, he simply points to the signs he gives to indicate who he is.

Matthew is the Gospel which most emphasises the continuity between the Old and New Testaments. This is above all true of the beginning of Mathew’s Gospel, the first two chapters are full of quotations, references and allusions to the Hebrew Scriptures – Matthew actually begins his Gospel of Jesus Christ by a genealogy from Abraham. In those first two chapters, there are five formal statements like that in today’s passage: ‘this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet’.

We are very familiar with the Annunciation by the angel Gabriel to Mary in Luke’s Gospel and her response; Matthew gives us a similar scene of annunciation, but the recipient is Joseph, betrothed to Mary, who hears the announcement and accepts the commission.

The opening of Paul’s letter to the Romans offers a similar line of argument. He talks of the Good News which has been promised in the past and has now happened in Jesus.



Fr Ron

Readings For The Week

Sunday 11th – Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-6,10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Monday 12th – Numbers 24:2-7,15-17; Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday 13th – Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13; Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday 14th – Isaiah 45:6-8,18,21-25; Luke 7:19-23

Thursday 15th – Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30

Friday 16th – Isaiah 56:1-3,6-8; John 5:33-36

Saturday 17th – Genesis 49:2,8-10; Matthew 1:1-17

Sunday 18th – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

OUR MISSION & VISION

To joyfully share God’s love. To be a missionary people united in the hearts of Jesus and Mary



METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL
OF THE SACRED HEART

“Brothers and sisters, in this Season of Advent, let us be shaken out of our torpor and let us awaken from our slumber! Let’s try to ask ourselves: am I aware of what I am living, am I alert, am I awake? Do I try to recognize God’s presence in daily situations..?”

(Pope Francis, Angelus. 27 November 2022)



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)

YOUR PARISH NOTICES AND EVENTS

Divine Mercy Devotions - Sunday 6pm-6:30pm in Connolly Hall Chapel. All welcome. The last gathering for 2022 will be 18 December. We will resume on 5 February 2023.



Rosary - Every Monday (except Public Holidays) from 11.30am in Connolly Hall Chapel, all welcome. The last gathering for 2022 will be 19 Dec. We will resume on 30 January 2023.

Scripture Reflection - Every Tuesday evening from 5pm-5.30pm there is an opportunity to be nourished by the Word of God, coming together in an online Zoom gathering. All are welcome. <https://tinyurl.com/3xhax96d> Meeting ID: 848 2624 7342 Passcode: 404496

Next Tuesday 13 December will be the last opportunity to join us for this year however the reflection opportunities will return in the New Year.

Sacred Heart Cathedral Prayer Group - We meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month in Connolly Hall Chapel from 7.30pm-9pm. All are welcome. The last gathering for 2022 will be on 19 December 2022. We will resume on 13 February 2023.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Thursday

Every Thursday from 7am until 7pm at Connolly Hall. Please contact Sr Marie Gore if you would like to participate on a regular basis and commit to one hour, or just pop in for a visit for a few minutes. mariegore023@gmail.com.

Please note that the last adoration for 2022 will be on Thursday 15 December and will finish at 6pm.



THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT



And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.' (Luke 2:8-11, NIV)

The liturgical colour for this weekend is pink, and the pink or rose-coloured candle is customarily called the Shepherd's candle representing Joy.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION TIMES

During the season of Advent, Rite I Reconciliation will be available before the Saturday Vigil Mass from 4.30pm on 17 December, also before the 10.30am Sunday Mass from 9.30am on 18 December. Rite II Reconciliation will be offered as a joint parish liturgy at 4pm on Sunday 11 December at St Thomas More Church, Wilton.

CATHEDRAL PARISH CHRISTMAS/JANUARY 2023 EUCHARISTIC TIMETABLE

Christmas Eve—10.00pm Mass with Cardinal John Dew at St Teresa's Pro Cathedral Karori. Carols from 9.40pm. There will be no 5.30pm Vigil

Christmas Day—10.00am Mass at St Thomas More church, Wilton. *There will be no 7.00pm Mass in Connolly Hall Chapel.*

There will be no weekday or Saturday morning Masses from 24th December. These will resume on Tuesday 24th January

Weekend Sunday Eucharistic services will be celebrated as usual:

Vigil Mass — Saturday 5.30pm St Thomas More church, Wilton

Sunday 10.30am St Thomas More church, Wilton

Sunday 7.00pm Connolly Hall Chapel, Thorndon

CATHEDRAL FUNDRAISING



Raffle - Last weekend we were due to have tickets for Christmas Raffle available for sale but due to "technical problems" namely we didn't have any raffle tickets we were unable to sell them. This weekend we have tickets and they will be for sale after Masses. \$2.00 per ticket or \$5.00 for 3 tickets.



Thank you one and all! Once again, our Fundraising Bake Sale has been a wonderful success raising over \$1,200 to go towards our Cathedral Refurbishment. Many thanks to everyone who contributed in so many ways. May you all be richly blessed especially during this special season.

Don't worry - there will be more Bake Sales in 2023!

SIMBANG GABI – A FILIPINO CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Christmas Novena Masses is a four-century-old tradition in the Philippines. It is practiced around the world where ever there are Filipinos. The early Filipinos were typically farming people, and they greeted the dawn of a new day in the fields while working the land. The missionary fathers decided to integrate the early start to a Filipinos' day with preparing for Christ's birth during Advent, resulting in the Christmas Novena Masses.

During Advent, the missionary friars held nine days of Masses leading to Christmas day which were celebrated typically at about 4:00 AM when the roosters crow to announce the coming of a new day. Hence, it is called "Misa de Gallo". The Christmas Novena Masses are also known as "Simbang Gabi", which literally means "Evening Mass".

This year seven parishes in the Archdiocese will celebrate the Christmas Novena Masses, sharing this Filipino Christian tradition with the parish community. Everyone is invited to experience this preparation for Jesus' birth as one community in Christ. All the Masses will be celebrated in English.

SIMBANG GABI 2022

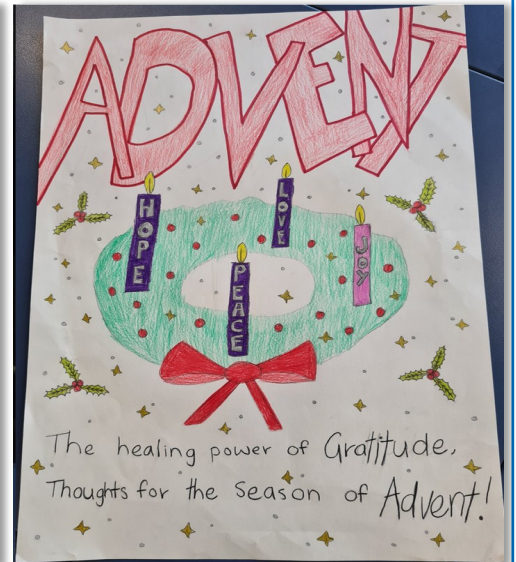
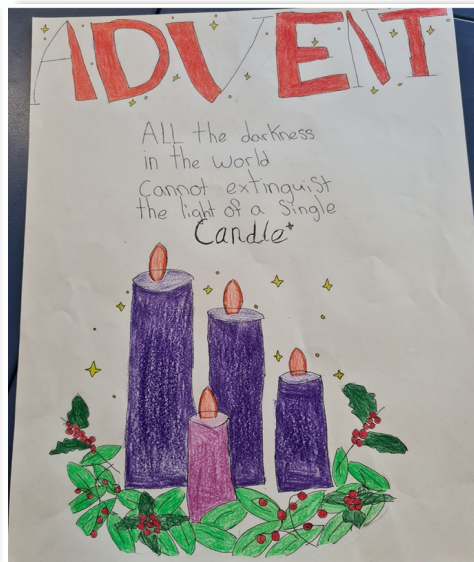
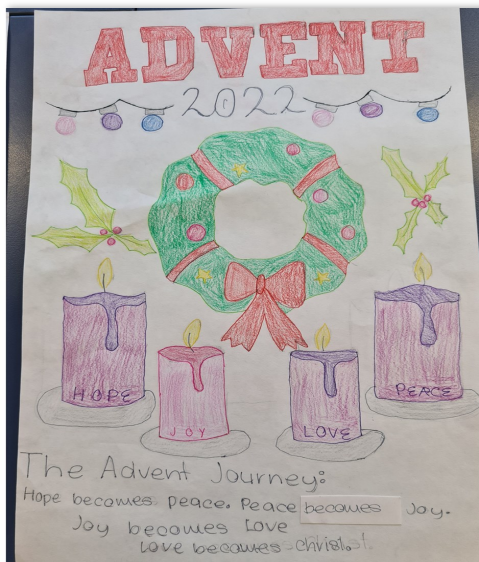
7:00 PM @ St Teresas Church, Karori

Dec 15, Thursday
Cardinal John Dew

Dec 16, Friday Fr Dennis Nacorda	Dec 20, Tuesday Fr Cirilo Barlis
Dec 17, Saturday Fr Kevin Mowbray	Dec 21, Wednesday Fr Alliston Fernandes
Dec 18, Sunday Fr Tikoua Kautu	Dec 22, Thursday Fr Doug Shepherd
Dec 19, Monday Fr Dennis Nacorda	Dec 23, Friday Fr Ron Bennett

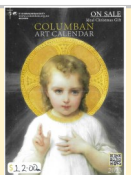
ADVENT AND OUR PARISH SCHOOL

The wonderful children from our Parish School offer these images and words of inspiration as we move through Advent. John Grevatt, School DRS, writes: 'As the school and church year comes to an end at Sacred Heart Cathedral School, the mood is about to change from preparation, hope and expectation to celebration. Throughout our school, we have been focusing on the four areas of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. Together we share our story of God, who before time began loved us, and chose to come among us'. The parish newsletter will feature some class work and reflections this week and next. Many thanks to John and all the Staff and Students and let us keep all of them in our prayers as they prepare for the end of the their year.

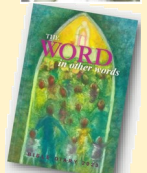


Now Available - 2023 Columban Art Calendars

The Columban Art Calendar is an iconic Calendar, well-known for its traditional religious paintings and liturgical information. It is a major fundraiser for Columban Missionaries. 2023 marks the 101st edition. **\$12.00ea available from our Connolly Hall Stall or the Parish Office.** These make a great Christmas gift.



Missio Aotearoa is selling *The Word in Other Words*, a Bible Diary for 2023 – a helpful companion to encounter Christ in the Scriptures. It would be a meaningful and useful Christmas Gift at \$20 each, plus postage \$4.50 up to 3 copies. To order call (09) 489 6549 or 027 922 9902 office hours Monday to Thursday, or email info@missio.nz



ANOINTING MASS

ANOINTING MASS

For those who wish to receive the Sacrament of Anointing, there will be Anointing offered during the 8.30am Mass on Saturday 17 December and all are welcome.

COVID, COLDS AND FLU

As well as the measures which we continue to take as we gather for Mass and other events, please remember: **if you are not well, PLEASE STAY HOME.** And if you should find yourself with a coughing or sneezing fit at Mass, or in a meeting, please step out of the gathering, at least until you're ok. We all want to be as safe as possible. Many thanks.

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/MCSHWellington/>

Parish Pastoral Leadership Team

- Debbie Matheson: **Parish Leader / Lay Pastoral Leader**
- Fr Ron Bennett: **Parish Moderator**
- Fr Alliston Fernandes

Music Coordinator/Leader:

Appointment pending

Secretary:

Frank Doherty

Office Hours:

10.00am - 4.30pm Tues, Thurs, Fri.

Parish Council Chair:

Randy Reyes

Sacred Heart Cathedral School

Guildford Tce, Thorndon

Ph: (04) 472 4047

Principal: Bernadette Murfitt

DRS: John Grevatt

If you would like your child to attend Sacred Heart Cathedral School please download an enrolment form

<https://sacred-heart.school.nz/enrolment/>

MASS TIMES

Weekdays

(Except Public Holidays)

All held in the Connolly Hall Chapel

12.10pm Monday (Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion)

8.00am Tuesday to Friday

12.10pm Tuesday to Friday

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: see notice on page 2 and by appointment.

Baptism: by appointment. Please contact Parish office.



The latest edition of our parish school newsletter

is available at:

<https://sacredhcs.schoolzineplus.com/schoolnews?nid=198>

Brian Dunn

Gabrielle McLeavey

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



Marie Byrne

June Swain

Wilijono Tanudjojo

Sadie Laurenson



Mass offered for

Lorraine Murray RIP 5 Dec
Mother of Andrew Murray
(Principal St Mary's College, Wellington)



ANNIVERSARIES

14 Dec - Dan Kelly

8 Jan - Michael Cecil-Gibson

For all the dead. Those near and dear to us and those who have no one to pray for them.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Advent is Half Over!

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. That means that half the wait is over! If you have an advent wreath, this is the week to light the pink candle. Pink is a symbol the joy we have because we're half-way to Christmas.



In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the people that John the Baptist was a prophet and messenger. A prophet is someone who tells the truth. In the Old Testament the prophets told God's people the truth about God. Saint John was a prophet because he told the people that the Messiah, or saviour, was coming soon, and that they needed to repent of their sins.

Saint John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by calling people to repentance. You can help prepare for Christmas by thinking and talking about how Jesus came to earth on the first Christmas. Can you tell somebody the story of the first Christmas today?



Answer to front page: St. John was in prison. Answer to match up puzzle: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.

The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent
December 11th, 2022



Saint John the Baptist was the messenger who prepared the world for Jesus' coming.

Where was he in today's Gospel reading?
Connect the dots to find out!
Then you can finish colouring in the picture.