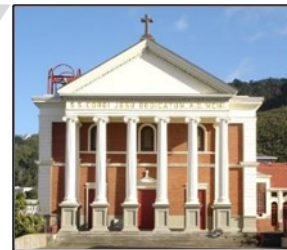




The Cathedral Connection



18 December 2022
Vol. 11 Issue 47
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Preparation for God's coming into the World

As we enter into the final week of Advent we can see how God was preparing his people from ages ago for the coming of His Son. In the first reading we hear about the prophecy that the Messiah, whose name will be *Immanuel* (Hebrew "God with us"), would come from the line of David and be born of a Virgin. This prophecy, said to be around 8th century BCE by Isaiah is given to king Ahaz in the midst of an imminent invasion of Judah by the teaming up of the Northern tribes of Israel and Syria. The sign of a young woman who shall conceive and bear a son is given to strengthen the king in the face of the challenging situation ahead of him.

This fulfillment can be noted in the Gospel where the angel tells Joseph who was already married to Mary (having completed the first stage of a 2-stage Jewish wedding) that Mary's child is divinely conceived. Joseph was initially baffled, and it needed an angel's explanation to indicate that fact to him. One could only wonder what might have gone on in Joseph's mind as he comes to grasp this reality.

Fulton Sheen highlights the preparation the Jews had for Christ's coming in contrast to the rise of other religious figures in history when he writes:

Socrates had no one to foretell his birth. Buddha had no one to pre-announce him and his message or tell the day when he would sit under the tree. Confucius did not have the name of his mother and his birthplace recorded, nor were they given to men centuries before he arrived so that when he did come, men would know he was a messenger from God. But, with Christ it was different. Because of the Old Testament prophecies, His coming was not unexpected. There were no predictions about Buddha, Confucius, Lao-tze, Mohammed, or anyone else; but there were predictions about Christ. Others just came and said, "Here I am, believe me." Christ alone stepped out of that line saying, "Search the writings of the Jewish people..." (The Life of Christ, p. 1-2)

It is wonderful to see the manner that God prepared his people to enter into human history. It is time to prepare our hearts to receive him anew. May the disposition of Mary who pondered on the Word and of Joseph the just and righteous man prepare us too to welcome the Lord's birth.



Fr Alliston

Readings For The Week

Sunday 18th – Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Monday 19th – Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Luke 1:5-25

Tuesday 20th – Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday 21st – Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45

Thursday 22nd – 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56

Friday 23rd – Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66

Saturday 24th – 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Luke 1:67-69

Sunday 25th – The Birth of the Lord

Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

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

Advent is a time in which, instead of thinking about gifts for ourselves, we can give words and gestures of consolation to those who are wounded, as Jesus did with the blind, the deaf and the lame. (Pope Francis,

ANGELUS, December 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.

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.



From Fr Alliston

Dear parishioners, I will be visiting home after almost 3 years between 21 Dec to 3 Feb. I hope to spend this time with extended family members who would also be travelling around Christmas and also take time to visit my mission communities in India. Wishing each of you a Blessed Christmas 2022. Hope to see you in a Spirit-filled New Year 2023.

Please let us keep all our school staff and students in our thoughts and prayers as we ask God to protect and refresh them especially during this holiday period.

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT



As we begin our last week of Advent we light the last purple candle on our Advent wreath.

Often called the Angels' Candle, it symbolises peace.

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.' (Luke 2:13-14, NIV).

ADVENT RECONCILIATION TIMES

During the season of Advent, Rite I Reconciliation will be available before this Saturday's Vigil Mass from 4.30pm and also before the 10.30am Sunday Mass from 9.30am.

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 - This weekend raffle tickets for a Christmas hamper will still be on sale after Masses. \$2.00 per ticket or \$5.00 for 3 tickets.

Make sure to get your tickets!



School Holiday Parking – Thorndon Cheap Car Parking will be available from Monday 19 December 2022 until Friday 27 January 2023 in the Sacred Heart School

Playground off Guildford Tce, Thorndon. The fee is \$10.00 per car per day and will go towards our Cathedral Refurbishment Fundraising. The fee should be paid directly into the Cathedral Parish Fundraising Account: **02 0506 0138488 025** Please use your Surname and Car Park as Description and Reference respectively with your payment. Please note that cars are parked at the owner's risk and expense and as limited spaces are available it will be on a first come first served basis. We thank our Cathedral Parish School for partnering with us and their generosity in making the parking area available for us.

THE 'O' ANTIPHONS AND ADVENT PRAYER

For over a thousand years, the 'O antiphons' have been part of the prayer of the church. They are recited in the last week of Advent, in the service of evening prayer, before and after the Magnificat, Mary's canticle at the beginning of Luke's gospel. The antiphons draw on the book of Isaiah, which early Christian writers saw as prefiguring Christ's coming. You might like to pray with one of these each evening from 17 December.

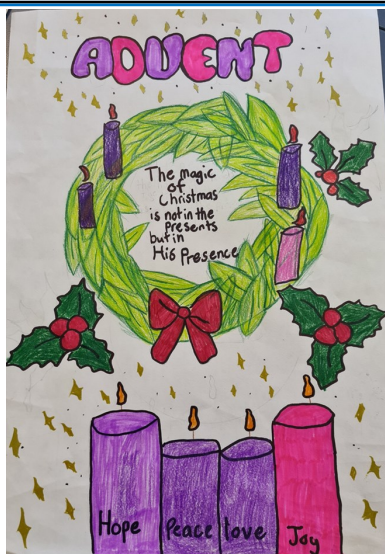
- 17 — *O Wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High. You fill the universe and hold all things together in a strong yet gentle manner. O come to teach us the way of truth*
- 18 — *O Lord of Lords and leader of Israel, you appeared to Moses in a burning bush and you gave him the Law on Sinai. O come and save us with your mighty power.*
- 19 — *O stock of Jesse, you stand as a signal for the nations; kings fall silent before you whom the peoples acclaim. O come to deliver us, and do not delay.*
- 20 — *O key of David and sceptre of Israel, what you open no one else can close again; what you close, no one can open. O come and lead the captive from prison; free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.*
- 21 - *Rising Sun, you are the splendour of eternal light and the sun of justice. O come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.*
- 22 — *O King whom all the peoples desire, you are the cornerstone which makes all one. O come and save us, whom you made from clay.*
- 23 — *O Immanuel, you are our king and judge, the One whom the peoples await and their Saviour. O come and save us, Lord our God.*

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'.



SIMBANG GABI – A FILIPINO CHRISTMAS TRADITION

As advertised last week, the Filipino Christmas tradition of Simbang Gabi, a novena of Masses is being celebrated in the days before Christmas, each evening at St Teresa's Karori. at 7:00pm until Friday 23 December. Everyone is invited to experience this preparation for Jesus' birth as one community in Christ. All the Masses will be celebrated in English.

MISSION FUNDRAISING

Don't forget to put aside envelopes with used stamps on them. These are still a useful fundraiser.

You can bring these for the stamps to be collected to both St Thomas More and Connolly Hall; there are collection boxes at both places.

COVID, AND STAYING WELL

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/MCSHWelington/>

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=176>

Brian Dunn

Gabrielle McLeavey

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



Marie Byrne

June Swain

Willijono 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

Jesus' Birthday is almost here!

Now there is only a week left until Christmas!



In today's Gospel reading God gave St. Joseph a special job. He told him to take care of Mary and the baby Jesus. St. Joseph thought he was just an ordinary person and didn't expect to have such an important responsibility, but he did what God asked.



God has given us a responsibility too. We have to love Jesus as much as we can. How can you love and honour Jesus at Christmas time? If your family has a nativity scene you can pray to Jesus while you look at it. Right now you have a few days left to get ready for Jesus' birthday. Ask St. Joseph to help you prepare for Jesus' coming.



Answers to Cross-Word: Across 2: School 6: Announced 7: deep 8: the 10: virgin 12: child. Down 1: name 3: house 4: man 5: eleven 7: David 9: high 11: Lord

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18th, 2022

Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!