



# The Cathedral Connection

*Meri Kirihimete*



25 December 2022  
Vol. 11 Issue 48  
Christmas Day

## Emmanuel, God-with-us

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes may have eternal life” (John3:16)*

The time of waiting in anticipation and Advent preparation is over. Today we celebrate the birth of the light of the world, God's ultimate gift: Jesus. His gift given to us in love, with love and for love.

Christmas is a time for gift giving, but it is more than simply a day for exchanging material gifts. We gift when we open our hearts freely to one another. Christmas is a time to think about others and to take stock of what's important. It is a time for selflessness, a time for forgiving, and a time for reconnecting with family and friends. All of these actions are gift.

For some though Christmas can be a time of loneliness, a time of sadness and loss, a time of heightened financial trials and family struggles.

Whatever our circumstances, as we receive and celebrate the Gift of Jesus this Christmas may we be gift to each other, witnessing with joyful, compassionate, and generous hearts the lamp of Christ's love burning brightly in our lives.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May the peace of Christ reign in our hearts and homes. May joy be our enduring gift at Christmas and Faith, Hope, and Love be our treasures in the New Year.

Debbie Matheson, Frank Doherty, Sadie Laurenson, Fathers Alliston and Ron.

*The light of the Christmas star to you,  
The warmth of home and hearth to you,  
The cheer and goodwill of friends to you,  
The hope of a childlike heart to you,  
The joy of a thousand angels to you,  
The love of the Son and God's peace to you.*

*~ Irish Christmas Blessing ~*



## Readings For the Christmas Season

- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> – The Birth of the Lord**  
Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup>** – Acts 6:8-10,7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>** – 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:2-8
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>** – 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>** – 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup>** – Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14; Matthew 2:13-15,19-23
- Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>** – 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18
- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 – Mary, the Mother of God**  
Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>** – 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – 1 John 2:29-3:6; John 1:29-34
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>** – 1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>** – 1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup>** – 1 John 5:5-13; Mark 1:6-11
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>** - 1 John 5:14-21; John 2:1-11
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> – 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)

## CHRISTMAS/JANUARY HOLIDAY PERIOD

May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you this Christmas and throughout the New Year. During the Christmas season, and the month of January, our musicians and hospitality teams, along with the Cathedral guardians and parish personnel take the opportunity for some rest and refreshment in the quietness of our Wellington summer holiday period.

From Tuesday 24th January our Eucharistic services resume their normal schedule, and our Cathedral Guardians and parish Secretary return. Hospitality after 10.30am Sunday Mass and the Cathedral Connection newsletter and music ministry teams resume for 2023 over the weekend of 28/29 January.

Regular activities: Scripture Reflection, Rosary, Divine Mercy Devotion, Prayer Group, and Adoration, will resume in late January/early February. Details will be in the first newsletter of the year, published on 27 January.

On Wednesday Fr Alliston returned home to India to visit his family and will return to the parish on 4th February. In Fr Alliston's absence we thank the many Diocesan and Society of Mary Priests who will preside at our Eucharistic services.

If you need a Priest urgently during the office closure period please contact Fr Ron Bennett on [rbennett@otariparish.co.nz](mailto:rbennett@otariparish.co.nz) or 021 065 8997. If you have a non urgent matter that you require assistance with please email Debbie Matheson at [d.matheson@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:d.matheson@wn.catholic.org.nz) (Debbie will be on leave from 26th December to 5th January and 16th January to 24th January).

Meri Kirihimete

## CHRISTMAS CANDLE



The White Candle – On Christmas Eve, we light the white centre candle, the final candle on our Advent wreath. This candle is called the Christ Candle. It represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The colour white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Saviour. When we receive Christ as Saviour we are washed of our sins and made whiter than snow.

*“Come now, let us settle the matter”, says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool”.’ (Isaiah 1:18, NIV)*

## 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



**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.

**Raffle Winners** — Many thanks to everyone who purchased tickets in the Cathedral Fundraising Campaign Christmas raffle. The total raised was \$194.00. The winners of the two boxes of Christmas goodies are Marjorie Thomson and Joy Nagrampa. The fundraising team will be seeking donations in the new year for future raffles, for selling in the parish and other parishes around the Diocese. If you have any Christmas gifts that you could repurpose for raffles they would be gratefully appreciated and can be left at the parish office.

**Christmas Offering** - Traditionally, the collection at Christmas Masses goes to the support of Archdiocese Clergy. This year with Christmas on the weekend and with the majority of our givers on automatic payment you are encouraged to make your offering by either:

1. Depositing to the Cathedral Parish account **02 0506 0138488 000 (quote your planned giving number or name as particulars and Christmas as reference)**
2. Enclosing cash and your name (and planned giving number) in an envelope marked Christmas Offering. Thank you for supporting our Archdiocesan Clergy. Your offering will be receipted at the end of March 2023.

# CREED

## A Christmas reflection

Each Sunday Eucharist and on Solemnities we recite the 'Creed'. The Creed is a concise summary of our Catholics' beliefs and the core aspects of the Scripture and God's teachings. It is our unified common statement of faith and our pledge to what we believe. During the year we recite both the Apostles and Nicene Creed. Traditionally the Apostles' Creed has been associated with baptism, and the Nicene Creed has been associated with the Eucharist. While permissible to use the Apostles Creed throughout the year, the church particularly recommends its use during the seasons of Lent and Easter, as we prepare ourselves for renewing our baptismal promises at Easter. Our recitation of the Creed each Sunday is also an act of individual and communal worship. Often recited by rote, it can be rattled off, as something we just do, something we say every week. How often do we really think about what we are saying, do we give much thought to what the words really mean?

Below is a Christmas themed Creed by Walter Russell Bowie which is offered for personal reflection and sustenance during the holiday break.

### A Christmas Creed



I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to people all over the world, in towns both large and small.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself. I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.

## POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF PEACE 1 JANUARY

The greatest lesson we learned from Covid-19 was the realization that we all need one another...

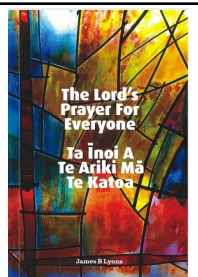
What then is being asked of us? First of all, to let our hearts be changed by our experience of the crisis, to let God, at this time in history, transform our customary criteria for viewing the world around us. We can no longer think exclusively of carving out space for our personal or national interests; instead, we must think in terms of the common good, recognizing that we belong to a greater community, and opening our minds and hearts to universal human fraternity. We cannot continue to focus simply on preserving ourselves; rather, the time has come for all of us to endeavour to heal our society and our planet, to lay the foundations for a more just and peaceful world, and to commit ourselves seriously to pursuing a good that is truly common.

... we cannot ignore one fundamental fact, namely that the many moral, social, political and economic crises we are experiencing are all interconnected, and what we see as isolated problems are actually causes and effects of one another. Consequently, we are called to confront the challenges of our world in a spirit of responsibility and compassion. We must revisit the issue of ensuring public health for all. We must promote actions that enhance peace and put an end to the conflicts and wars that continue to spawn poverty and death. We urgently need to join in caring for our common home and in implementing clear and effective measures to combat climate change. We need to battle the virus of inequality and to ensure food and dignified labour for all, supporting those who lack even a minimum wage and find themselves in great difficulty. The scandal of entire peoples starving remains an open wound. We also need to develop suitable policies for welcoming and integrating migrants and those whom our societies discard. Pope Francis, Message for World Day of Peace, 1 January 2023. The full message can be read at <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20221208-messaggio-56giornatamondiale-pace2023.html>

**THE LORD'S PRAYER FOR EVERYONE** breaks open this traditional prayer to fit our human situations.

Published by Fr James Lyons, to assist the work of the Sisters of Compassion, it will be on sale at our January 2023 Masses at \$20.00 per copy.

*The Lord's Prayer for Everyone* is within reach of all ages, speaking to the healthy and the sick, students, parents and grandparents, gardeners and pilgrims, backpackers, the anxious and the grateful.



# SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL PARISH

Please keep in your prayers

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[www.mcshwellington.org](http://www.mcshwellington.org)

[https://www.facebook.com/  
MCSHWellington/](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/](https://sacred-heart.school.nz/enrolment/)

## MASS TIMES

### Weekdays

There will be no weekday or Saturday morning Masses from 26th December. These will resume on Tuesday 24th January.

### Saturday

**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. Please contact Parish office.

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.

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

24 Dec - Rebecca Claire Franklin

26 Dec - Robert Joseph Serafino Bond

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

### A Little Story for Christmas



Before Emmanuel was born, his brother and sister felt that they were enough - and they certainly kept things busy at home. There was a lot of noise in the house after school when they were fighting for the couch, the TV, or the favorite snack. One time, even as

Christmas drew near, there were a lot of loud temper tantrums: she had ruined his video game and he had thrown her doll and taken her favorite snack. For these two, it was almost like Emmanuel would never come.

They weren't really expecting him, but Mom and Dad knew that he would arrive. They tried to remind the kids but it wasn't easy. However, on December 25th, all was quiet in the house. And that was the day Emmanuel came too, very quietly. He could have been the centre of attention, but he was the kind of baby that could not be heard unless you were very quiet. His brother and sister began to understand that. Actually it was like that even when he was older. It was because you didn't expect him, they said.

Emmanuel was Jesus, and we are his brothers and sisters. A little noisy at times, a little selfish, and sometimes we just don't expect him. We feel that we are enough. Even today, unless we stop to visit him, and come up quietly to the crib to talk to him in our hearts, we might never realize that God has come.



Answer to Word-Find: Jesus was born!  
[www.thekidsbulletin.com](http://www.thekidsbulletin.com)

### The Kids' Bulletin

Christmas Day  
December 25, 2022



Help the shepherds find their way to Bethlehem to see Baby Jesus.