



The Cathedral Connection



12 February 2023
Vol. 12 Issue 3
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Love: The Heart of the Matter

In Jesus' time, *Law and Prophets* was used to denote Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament for us Christians). In today's Gospel passage we find Jesus as the authentic interpreter of the Mosaic Law who comes to indeed fulfil, deepen and enhance the true essence of what the Law truly desires and not to undo them.

Sin begins in the heart and in the will of an individual. Jesus by restating the Law from the Old Testament directs it to the source of the impulse rather than merely considering the external act. In being critical of the Pharisees and the Scribes, Jesus actually identifies their hypocritical attitude and not keeping to what the spirit of the law indicated.

We have four striking examples in today's Gospel passage (Matthew 5:17-37) that deal with anger, adultery, divorce and oaths respectively.

It is not merely murder/violence but even the fundamental attitude of being angry and thereby resorting to any such thing as insults or bitterness in speech, that Jesus forbids.

Attraction and desires are God-given and so good. However, if not kept confined to that which is morally right or made use of inappropriately by giving consent to lustful thoughts it leads to objectifying a person and so fails to honour their dignity.

Divorce may be considered legal even in Jesus' time, but Jesus does state that this was against God's original intention for marriage. It went against the dignity and the rights of the individual especially, the vulnerable women in Jesus' day and so was not in keeping with God's perfect will for mutual fidelity in relationships.

Oath-taking reflects the evil condition of a human being, whereby an oath is taken as a means of protection from the tendency to lie. The integrity of a disciple, for Jesus, ought to be such that there is no need to swear in order to make another believe the veracity of one's word.

In all these attitudes, Jesus is driving at the basic call to love which seeks out the good of the other person and which entails being patient, respectful and honest. In order to attain this, we would need to do whatever it takes to deal with the seriousness of sin in the heart.



Fr Alliston

Readings for the Week

Sunday 12th	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37
Monday 13th	Genesis 4:1-15,25; Mark 8:11-13
Tuesday 14th	Saints Cyril, monk, and Methodius, Bishop. Genesis 6:5-8,7:1-5,10; Mark 8:14-21
Wednesday 15th	Genesis 8:6-13,20-22; Mark 8:22-26
Thursday 16th	Genesis 9:1-13; Mark 8:27-33
Friday 17th	Genesis 11:1-9; Mark 8:34-9:1
Saturday 18th	Hebrews 11:1-7; Mark 9:2-13
Sunday 19th	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

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

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)

"Being a Christian is not just about following commandments: it is about letting Christ take possession of our lives and transform them."
Pope Francis, [Twitter, 10 April 2013](#)



YOUR PARISH NOTICES AND EVENTS

Divine Mercy Devotions - Sunday 6:00pm-6:30pm in Connolly Hall Chapel. All welcome.

Rosary - Every Monday (except Public Holidays) from 11.30am in Connolly Hall Chapel, all welcome.

Scripture Reflection - Every Tuesday evening from 5:00pm-5.45pm 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

Sacred Heart Cathedral Prayer Group - We meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month in Connolly Hall Chapel from 7.30pm-9:00pm. All are welcome. **Resumes for 2023 on 13 February.**



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Thursday

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

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

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

Children's Sacramental Programme Term One 2023 - FIRST RECONCILIATION

For your child to be eligible, he/she must already be baptised and be at least 8 years old. The first parent's session is at 7.00pm on Thursday 16 February 2023 at St Thomas More Church in Wilton.

For registration and/or further enquiries, please contact Geraldine mcsh.sacramentalprogramme@gmail.com or the parish office at cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz

NEXT PARISH FORMATION NIGHT THIS WEDNESDAY

Come and learn more about our MISSION as Catholics in our fifth PARISH FORMATION NIGHT on Wednesday, 15 February 2023, from 7 pm to 8 pm at Connolly Hall Chapel.

For more information, please get in touch with cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz

PARISH LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

The liturgical season of Lent invites us to take time to search our hearts and our practices, to consider what we cherish, to recognise and find the treasures in our lives, and prune the rest. The following opportunities are available in our parish that may encourage and assist you this Lenten season.

Stations of the Cross – Each Friday during Lent Randy Reyes, Clint Ramoo and Sr Marie Gore will lead Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm in Connolly Hall chapel.

Reconciliation – Rite I Reconciliation is available by appointment and will be available 40 minutes before our weekend Eucharist at St Thomas More church on the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th weekends of Lent. Rite II Reconciliation will be celebrated as a Pastoral Area at 4.00pm on Sunday 2nd April at St Thomas More church.

Lectio Divina – The ancient practice of Lectio Divina involves scriptural reading, meditation, and prayer. Each week there is an opportunity to gather and reflect communally on the coming weekend's gospel. You can join on-line on Tuesday's 5.00-5.40pm (see notice above). Alternatively, you could consider practicing Lectio Divina as a family during Lent. A resource is available <https://catholic-link.org/pray-lectio-divina-steps/>

Caritas Lenten Appeal – During Lent, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops invite us to monetarily support the work of Caritas as they reach out to the most poor and vulnerable members of our local and global communities. Lenten appeal donation envelopes are available at the back of our churches or donations can be made via internet banking: Westpac, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, 03-0518-0211216-00, Please include the following information with your donation: Particulars: Your first and last name, Code: Lent Reference: Your street address or email address.

ASH WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY

Collecting Old Palms

In preparation for Ash Wednesday we are now collecting your old palms from last year so they can be burnt and used for distribution during our Ash Wednesday Services. Please leave them in basket in the Church foyer area or at the back of the Connolly Hall Chapel. Thank you.



Receiving Ashes

We have three opportunities for parishioners and visitors to receive the ashes this year. Ashes will be distributed at both the 8am and 12.10pm Masses in our Connolly Hall Chapel also there will be a joint Anglican and Lutheran and Catholic ecumenical Lent service at 6.00pm with the distribution of ashes at St Paul's Anglican Cathedral. All are very welcome, and it would be good to see as many Sacred Heart Cathedral parishioners as possible at St Paul's.

Valentine's Day Mass

St Valentine's Day Mass 2023

Tuesday 14 February at 6.30pm

St Joseph's Church, 152 Brougham St, Mt Victoria.

POPE FRANCIS AND THE LITURGY AN INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

Liturgy Workshop based on Desiderio Desideravi

The National Liturgy Office are running a workshop based on Pope Francis' recent Apostolic Letter Desiderio Desideravi. The venue is Ss Peter & Paul's Church, Lower Hutt. Sat. 25th Feb. 2023. 10.00am – 3.00pm. Attendees: Anyone involved in liturgies or interested in learning about key liturgy components.

For more info and to register please contact Christine on 496-1706 or email c.walkerdine@wn.catholic.org.nz

Archdiocese of Wellington - Catholic Schools Commissioning Mass 2023

You are warmly invited to the Archdiocese of Wellington Catholic Schools Commissioning Mass for 2023. We celebrate Eucharist and whanaungatanga, and all who serve within each of our Catholic School and College communities are commissioned and blessed in their ministries. 5.30pm Wednesday 15th February, St Mary's of the Angels, 17 Boulcott Street, Wellington Central.

Anointing Mass

The sacrament of Anointing the Sick is administered to bring spiritual and physical strength during an illness, especially near the time of death.

"The special grace of the sacrament has as its effects: the uniting of the sick person to the passion of Christ, for his own good and that of the whole Church; the strengthening, peace, and courage to endure in a Christian manner the sufferings of illness or old age; the forgiveness of sins, if the sick person was not able to obtain it through the sacrament of penance; the restoration of health, if it is conducive to the salvation of his soul; the preparation for passing over to eternal life" (CCC 1532).

If you or someone you know would like to avail themselves of this Sacrament, it will be celebrated during the **8.30am Saturday morning Mass on 25th February**.



NZ Catholic Bishop's Conference

The bishops and congregational leader's of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand have issued a statement of commitments adopted

in response to the continuing work of the Royal Commission on Abuse in Care. This can be found at:

<https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/jan10-letter/>

Greenstone Aunties Needed

Greenstone Doors is urgently looking for volunteers to become part of a rostered team to help at a residence in Mt Victoria where two mothers will require support.

The volunteer will need to have experience with the care of newborn babies. The role is to help parents build skills and confidence as first-time mothers in a supportive environment.

Hours are 9am-5pm and/or overnight. Commitment is for at least one day or night a fortnight. For more information contact Wendy 0272549222 or email manager@greenstonedoors.co.nz

If you would like more information about Greenstone Doors, please visit <https://www.greenstonedoors.co.nz/>



Volunteer Refugee Resettlement Coordinator

Catholic Social Services (CSS) are looking for someone who is passionate about enabling former Refugees to get a great start in their new life in Aotearoa NZ.

CSS collaborates with Red Cross, other Catholic parishes and community groups in the Wellington area are providing household goods to assist in the resettlement of people arriving into NZ via refugee pathways.

The coordinator role is to ensure the smooth running of the resettlement project. This volunteer role requires a commitment of approximately 8 hours per week. It is anticipated that there will be 7 -10 intakes across a year.

For more information please contact Wellington Catholic Social Services on 043858642 or email reception@wn.catholic.org.nz

Engaged Encounter

This is a weekend experience for couples intending to be married. Weekends for 2023 are 18 & 19 March, 19 & 20 August, and 25 & 26 November. Venue is Otari Parish presbytery, 301 Karori Road, Karori, Wellington.

For more details go to the website <http://www.cee-wellington.co.nz/>



DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT

Turkey—Syria Earthquake

Caritas Aotearoa NZ is accepting donations to help the people of south-eastern Turkey and northern Syria, seriously affected by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake and aftershocks of Monday 6 February which toppled hundreds of buildings and killed many thousands of people.

Keep the people of Turkey and Syria in your prayers as they face widespread devastation and loss of life. We're in contact with our partners on the ground as they assess the scale of the damage and critical needs at this time. If you would like to donate, you can do so online through the Caritas Emergency Donation tab at this link: www.caritas.org.nz/donate-online (Please specify that your donation is for Turkey Earthquake) Or donate via the Caritas bank account: 03-0518-0211216-00 (please include your first & last name and put Turkey as the code.)



Auckland Area Floods "Like you, I was shocked to see the destruction the floods brought in such a short time. Like you, I want to help those whose lives have been thrown into disarray. Please join me in providing support to those in need.

My Caring Foundation is accepting donations to help our partner agencies deliver vital help to so many. You can make an **online donation** today so that assistance can get to families quickly." <https://caringfoundation.org.nz/donate-3/> Bishop Steve Lowe, Bishop of Auckland.

Parish Pastoral Leadership Team Travels

Fr Ron is on holiday for February and Debbie is going to Australia for a couple of weeks from 9 February. From the 10th to the 12th Debbie, Fr Ron and Randy Reyes (Pastoral Council Chair) are attending a conference presented by Divine Renovation Australasia. On "Leading a parish from maintenance to mission". *Please keep them in your prayers.*

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 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: 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=203>

Brian Dunn

Gabrielle McLeavey

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



Marie Byrne

June Swain

Wilijono Tanudjojo



Mass offered for

Mons. John Carde
RIP 30 Jan

Catherine Ryan
RIP 30 Jan

ANNIVERSARIES

27 Feb - George Hunt

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



CHILDREN'S CORNER

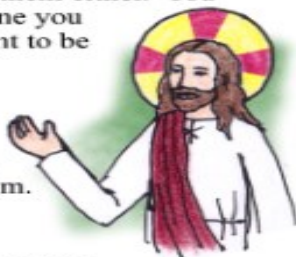
What does Jesus say about the Commandments?



In today's Gospel reading Jesus was talking about the laws of God. Some people thought that He would take away the old law that God had given the Jews. But Jesus said that He didn't come to take away the law. He came to fulfill the law.

The old laws tell us the things that we shouldn't do, like worship false gods or kill people or steal. Jesus is telling us that just obeying the commandments isn't enough. He wants us to do everything out of love. If you really love a person then of course you won't kill them! But He says you shouldn't get angry at them either. You wouldn't steal from someone you love- but wouldn't you want to be generous to them too?

Jesus says that the Ten Commandments are very important, but we have to do more than just obey them. We need to love!



Answer to Word-find: "You will be blessed."

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 12th, 2023



Do not think that I came to abolish the law or the prophets...
Whoever obeys and teaches the commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Some people in Jesus' time thought that He was going to get rid of the old law. What does He have to say about the commandments in today's Gospel reading?

Look at this picture in the mirror to find out!