



The Cathedral Connection



26 February 2023
Vol. 12 Issue 5
First Sunday of Lent

Lent - A New Beginning

Since 2014 I have walked the 'Camino de Santiago' 5 times. It is a walk to northern Spain, where it is believed the bones of St James the Apostle are to be found. It is the journey, not the destination that is important. For me it has always been an opportunity to get to know myself better, what I am about, and where I am going. I always come away recharged.

I think Lent is like that also. A chance to recharge the batteries. We know we are at heart good people – God doesn't make junk – but we also know we are not quite the people God intended us to be. Lent is the opportunity to be again that person that God calls us to be.

The readings for Ash Wednesday call us to prayer, personal sacrifice, and almsgiving (giving money or food to others - Cyclone Gabrielle comes to mind here). Today's Gospel from Matthew, sees Jesus rejecting temptations put to him. Our temptations may not be so dramatic, but each of us have our own 'demons' that would stop us being the person we are really called to be. Lent is a time to confront and overcome our own personal demons.

Last weekend, I attended the 'Divine Renovation Conference' in Sydney, with Debbie Matheson and Randy Reyes. It was a wonderful experience of renewal and we will talk more about that in the weeks ahead.

Ultimately though, parish renewal must start with personal renewal. That is what the Season of Lent is about.

Fr Ron



Readings for the Week

Sunday 26th	First Sunday of Lent Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
Monday 27th	Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18; Matthew 25:31-46
Tuesday 28th	Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15
Wednesday 01st	March Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32
Thursday 02nd	Esther 4:17; Matthew 7:7-12
Friday 03rd	Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26
Saturday 04th	Saint Casimir Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48
Sunday 5th	Second Sunday of Lent Genesis 12:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9

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)

"Each year during Lent we are reminded that 'goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day'."

Pope Francis, [Message for Lent](#)



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-5.40pm 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.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

is available every Thursday in Connolly Hall Chapel from 7am until 7 pm. Everyone is welcome to make a visit during these hours. Many people have expressed gratitude for this haven of peace in their day.

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

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 there will be Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm in Connolly Hall chapel. If you are willing to lead a session or would like more information please contact Sr Marie, Clint, or Randy. All are welcome.

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 – Lent is a season to renew our spiritual lives and particularly draw nearer to the Lord through Prayer. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange writes: “Besides the Holy eucharist, the true food of the saints is to be found in the Scriptures.” In fact, the first Sunday of Lent challenges us with these words: “Human beings do not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.” (Mt4:4)

An ancient form of prayer is *Lectio Divina* (Sacred Reading) or listening attentively to God’s voice through the Scriptures. Why not join us **every Thursday in Lent from 6.00pm to 6.45pm** in the **foyer of the Sacred Heart Cathedral** to read, meditate, and pray through the Sunday readings for Lent. It will transform your life for as Isaiah states: “So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” (Isa 55:11)

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.

CAN YOU HELP?

Do you have some free time during weekdays? We are looking for two people to join our hospitality ministry as Cathedral Guardians. Currently the role is from 11.00am to 1.30pm weekdays and the vacancy is for every second Thursday. It is not onerous at all, and you get the opportunity to spend time in our Chapel. We need 2 people to start on 23 March or earlier if possible. Full training will be provided. Please contact the parish office cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz or (04) 496-1700 for more information.

Donations for Sacred Heart Cathedral Strengthening and Restoration Campaign can be made to this 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 and please mention it to your friends too.



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.

HOLY HOUR

You are invited to come to a Holy Hour on Tuesday 28 February at the Connolly Hall Chapel beginning at 7.30 pm to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. This will be the first one for this year. Included in the hour will be prayers, praise and worship, scripture reading and silence, concluding with Benediction. All are welcome.

“Receive Holy Spirit Power.” Through the Holy Spirit you come to know God and experience His Love; enabling love of God, yourself and others. *Current of Grace Conference 2023* at El Rancho. 24-26th March. Register here:

www.currentofgraceconference.info

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

Online Sessions (Evening):

Genesis – In the Beginning...

Part 1: The Creation Story (incl. study material) with Kieran Fenn fms.

Monday, 27 February, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/01/16/genesis-in-the-beginning/>

Part 2: Creation of Adam from Whēnua... (Michelangelo) with Dr Christopher Longhurst.

Monday, 06 March, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM.

Fee: \$25 (NZD)/session or \$40 (NZD)/2 sessions

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/01/22/the-creation-of-adam/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz



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

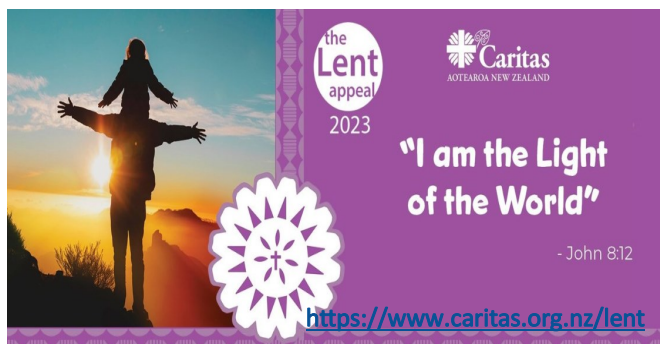
Catholic Social Services (CSS) are looking for someone who is passionate about enabling former Refugees to get a great start in their new

life in Aotearoa NZ.

CSS collaborates with Red Cross, other Catholic parishes and community groups in the Wellington area in 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



Engaged Encounter

This is a weekend experience for couples intending to be married. Weekends for 2023 are 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.)



Cyclone Relief Appeal

If you are able to make a donation, you can do this through the Caring Foundation's donation page <https://caringfoundation.org.nz/donate-3/> or online to the Foundation's bank account: **BNZ 02-0100-0242648-00** (Please use your surname and initials as reference, and Cyclone as a particular.) To receive an emailed receipt please email info@caringfoundation.co.nz to let us know you have made your donation.



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 is available from the Parish Office or our little shop in Connolly Hall at \$20.00 per copy.

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 Joy Thottankara: **Assistant Priest**
- Fr Alliston Fernandes: **Supply Priest**

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 Lenten

Notices inside 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=205>

Brian Dunn

Gabrielle McLeavey

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



Marie Byrne

June Swain

Patricia Schleicher

And all members of our parish families who are struggling at this time.



Mass offered for

Josefa Trivino RIP 14 Feb
Philippines



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 Happens in Lent?

In today's Gospel story, Jesus goes out into the desert to fast and pray for forty days. In the forty days of Lent, the Church asks us to fast, give alms, and pray.



In Lent we don't eat meat on Fridays. Many people give up things like candy or dessert for all of Lent. When we give up food that we like, it reminds us that food isn't the only thing we need- we need God too!



Giving alms means giving money or things to the poor or the Church. God lets there be people who need our help so that we can become better by helping them!

The third thing that we should do in Lent is praying. You could say an extra prayer every day- maybe an "Our Father" or a "Hail Mary" when you wake up or before you go to bed. Another good idea is reading a bit from the Bible, because when we read the Bible we let God speak to us.

What are some little things you could do for Lent? Try to do things that will help you think a bit more about God every day.



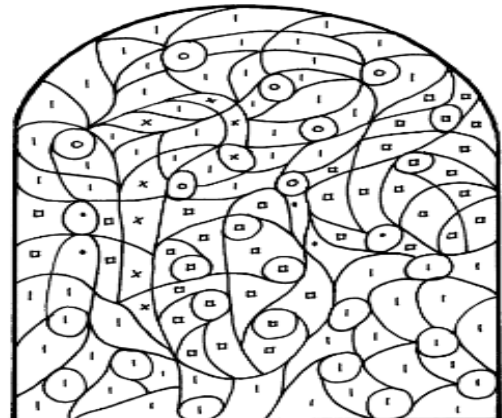
Answers to picture puzzle inside: top: 4, 6, middle: 5, 1, bottom: 2, 3.

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

First Sunday of Lent
February 26th, 2023

Today's first reading tells us about sin. Use the code at the bottom to colour in the spaces and find out what the story was.



■ blue
○ red

■ green
• skin colour

* brown