



The Cathedral Connection



19 March 2023
Vol. 12 Issue 8
Fourth Sunday of Lent



Blindness

In the Gospel this week, we see how the Pharisees “suppress the truth by their wickedness” (Romans 1:18) because they refused to believe in the miracle of the curing of the man who was blind since birth. We live in times when the truth is so easily buried or twisted by misinformation, sensationalism, political correctness, and wokeness. Fiction is being peddled as fact, and fact is relegated to the darkness of obscurity, if not oblivion. History is being rewritten to serve the agenda of those who seek to oppress the marginalised, the poor. Many are blind to the truth of our Lord because

they are unwilling and unable to change their lives. Many are shackled in darkness to the trappings of lies, of bigotry, of hate.

In contrast, we see how the man who was cured of his physical blindness was also cured of his spiritual blindness. We see his faith grow as he goes from “The man called Jesus”, to “He is a prophet”, then “He is one who does God’s will”. When Jesus first healed the blind man, he didn’t see Jesus. His obedience, following Jesus to wash in the Pool of Siloam, cured his physical blindness. His encounter with our Lord gave him a steadfast spirit that he was able to stand against the Pharisees. Ultimately, the once blind man said, “Lord, I believe” and worshipped Jesus.

We encounter our Lord in every person we meet, in every moment of our lives, and in every word of scripture. When we encounter our Lord we should open not just our eyes, but our hearts and minds as well. “If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” (Psalm 94:8) Like the blind man, obedience is the first step. Following our Lord, keeping our eyes on him and not allowing ourselves to turn a blind eye from the truth; can lead us to a spiritual awakening and shine our Lord’s light in our hearts.

“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32)

Randy Reyes
Parish Pastoral Council Chair



Readings for the Week

Sunday 19th – 4th Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Monday 20th – Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary solemnity

2 Samuel 7:4-5,12-14,16; Romans 4:13,16-18,22 ; Matthew 1:16,18-21,24

Tuesday 21st – Ezekiel 47:1-9,12; John 5:1-3,5-16

Wednesday 22nd – Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30

Thursday 23rd – Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47

Friday 24th – Wisdom 2:1,12-22; John 7:1-2,10,25-30

Saturday 25th – The Annunciation of the Lord solemnity

Isaiah 7:10-14,8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38

Sunday 26th – 5th Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

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)

“We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life.”
Pope Francis, [General Audience, 03/06/2020](#)



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

Come and Be Reconciled with Yourself, Others and God!

We began our Lenten journey with the invitation of prophet Joel: “Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing” (Joel 3: 13) and have progressed to the fourth week of our preparation for the feast of Easter. Lent certainly is a time of cleansing and nurturing holy desires and deepening our longing for God. The best way to cleanse us is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is the tangible expression of a loving Father’s desire to find his children again. The Church encourages us to confess at least once a year and to receive Holy Eucharist during the Easter time. The parish is offering you an opportunity for Reconciliation Rite II on Sunday 2nd April at 4.00pm. “Come now, let us talk this over, 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” (Is 1: 18).

Preparation for Palm Sunday—Friday 31st March, St Thomas More Church 7.00pm

Stations of the Cross, Flax Cross making & shared dessert/supper

Come along to St Thomas More Church for a Stations of the Cross service. After this we will make flax crosses from arakeke (NZ flax) for Palm Sunday. There will be people to demonstrate how these are made. When enough crosses are made everyone can enjoy dessert/supper. Please bring some kai to share. The flax crosses will be used by all Masses on Palm Sunday. The crosses will help us express the Easter story and are beautiful to keep even when they dry out. Mark this date in your diary and come along for some prayer and fellowship. This is a wonderful opportunity to mix and mingle with our brothers and sisters in Christ so do please come along.



Stations of the Cross – Each Friday during Lent at 7.00pm in Connolly Hall chapel. If you would like to help lead 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** this and next weekend. Rite II Reconciliation will be celebrated as a Pastoral Area **at 4.00pm on Sunday 2nd April at St Thomas More church.**



Caritas Lenten Reflection – Every Thursday in Lent from 6.00pm to 6.45pm in the foyer of the Sacred Heart Cathedral for the Caritas Lenten reflection programme. Using the “*Lectio Divina*” method. If you are unable to join us, you may like to gather your own group or family together and use this resource <https://www.caritas.org.nz/s/LRP-2023.pdf>

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.



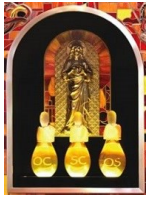
Recollection – **Saturday, April 1st, 9:30am to about 12:30noon at Connolly Hall chapel, 10 Guildford Terrace, Thorndon.** The days from Palm Sunday to the Easter vigil are considered the holiest in the liturgical calendar as they commemorate the last days of our Lord Jesus’ life on earth, His passion and death. In order to prepare ourselves to enter to this great mystery of God’s love for us the parish is organizing a half day recollection so as to enter into Holy Week in a spirit of prayer and reflection. Do come for a time of praise and worship, reflect on talks, adoration and an opportunity to avail yourself of the sacrament of reconciliation.



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, **03-0518-0211216-03**, Please include the following information with your donation:

Particulars: Your first and last name, **Code:** Lent **Reference:** Your street address or email address.

HOLY WEEK



CHRISM MASS - Monday 3rd April 7.00pm at St Teresa's Pro Cathedral, Karori.
Archbishop Paul Martin SM will be presiding.

This Mass manifests the unity of the priests with their bishop. Here the bishop blesses three oils — the oil of catechumens, the oil of the infirm and holy chrism — which will be used in the administration of the sacraments throughout the diocese for the year. All are welcome.

Cathedral Parish Palm Sunday and Easter Triduum Masses / Liturgies

- Sunday 2 April: 10:00am - Palm Sunday Mass in St Teresa's Pro Cathedral, Karori (*no 10.30am Mass*)
- Thursday 6 April: 7:00pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper in St Teresa's Pro Cathedral (*No 8:00am or 12:10pm Masses*)
- Friday 7 April: 10:00am - Stations of the Cross in Connolly Hall Chapel, Thorndon
3:00pm - Commemoration of the Lord's Passion in St Teresa's Pro Cathedral
- Saturday 8 April: 7:00pm - Easter Vigil and Mass of the Resurrection in St Teresa's Pro Cathedral (*No 8:30am or 5:30pm Masses*)
- Sunday 9 April: 10:30am - Easter Sunday Mass of the Resurrection in St Thomas More Church, Wilton (*No 7:00pm Mass*)

Easter Raffle



3 Hampers to be won!

Tickets are available at
\$2 for 1 ticket
\$5 for 3 tickets

Draw date : 2 April 2023

All proceeds will go to the
Sacred Heart Cathedral Restoration Project



EASTER HAMPER RAFFLE

Tickets for our Easter Hamper Raffle are available for purchase after our Vigil and Sunday Masses.

As illustrated in the poster, there are three hampers to be won, so be in - \$2 for 1 ticket, or \$5 for 3 tickets!

All proceeds are for the Cathedral Restoration Fund, and the raffle will be drawn Palm Sunday weekend.

Bake Sale

100% of proceeds will help with the
SH Cathedral Restoration Project



18 & 19 March 2023, after the Masses

- 5:30PM Saturday (St. Thomas More, Wilton)
8:30AM Sunday (St. Thomas More, Wilton)
10:00AM Sunday (St. Teresa's Church, Karori)
10:30AM Sunday (St. Thomas More, Wilton)
7:00PM Sunday (Connolly Hall Chapel)

SONRISE SERVICE



Hosted by The Street Church in conjunction with the Council of Wellington Churches

Email: city@thestreet.org.nz

Phone : 04 385 7315

“My grace is sufficient for you ...”

2 Corinthians 12:9

Filipino Chaplaincy — Wellington

**A LENTEN RECOLLECTION
by Fr. Bernard Espiritu SVD on
GRACE.**

25th March 2023 (Saturday)
St. Martin de Porres, Avalon
From 1:30pm followed with
Holy Mass at 5:15pm



St. Therese of Lisieux said, “Everything is grace.” How can we make room for grace in our lives?

Volunteer Refugee Resettlement Coordinator

This volunteer role requires a commitment of up to 8 hours per week. 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 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. 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

Catholic Social Services
people helping people āwhina tātou

