



# The Cathedral Connection



16 April 2023  
Vol. 12 Issue 12  
Second Sunday of Easter

## FEEDING THE MULTITUDES

One of the readings for Mass in the coming week - on Friday — is St John's account of the miracle of the loaves and fish. This is the only miracle that is related in all four gospels - Matthew 14, Mark 6, Luke 9, and John 6; Matthew 15 and Mark 8 have a second occurrence of the miracle.

The story is familiar, perhaps almost too familiar. Like all stories in the gospels, it's a story with a point, or perhaps several points. One point is that the story echoes similar accounts in the Hebrew scriptures of abundant food appearing in scarcity through God's goodness. Examples are the manna in the desert, or when Elisha fed a hundred men with twenty loaves, among other such feats. More generally, the Hebrew scriptures emphasise again and again that through God's goodness the earth provides for all our needs. (Incidentally, the Gospels record several miracles involving large catches of fish; as a recreational fisher I sometimes find myself wishing for another one.)

In John's account, Jesus makes a distinction between ordinary food and the bread of life. Then, too, from the early nineteenth century some scripture scholars suggested that if the feeding of the multitude 'really happened' then it was a matter of Jesus persuading an anxious, fearful crowd to look into their own backpacks and share what they had. In sharing, then, there's plenty for everyone. Some modern writers still prefer a 'literal' miracle. Rosemary Radford Ruether, however, reflecting on Matthew's version, which tells us that the crowd was 5000 men 'to say nothing of women and children' wrote that of course the men didn't know where they'd get food – it was the women who'd thought of that.

I think there's room for all these ways of understanding the story, and more. My own thought is that we certainly need to hear a story about the importance of sharing (and of not wasting food!). The importance of sharing is also stressed in today's second reading from Acts.

Shortly after these events, John has the people coming back to find Jesus again. He tells them that they should not concentrate on perishable food but on the bread of life, and on doing God's work – that is, to quote the New Zealand scripture scholar Sr Kath Rushton, 'to complete the works of God by hearing both the cry of the earth and the cry of the marginalised'.



Jim McAloon

### Readings for the Week

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Acts 4:23-31; John 3:1-8**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Acts 4:32-37; John 3:7-15**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> – Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-36**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> – Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15**

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Third Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 2:14,22-23; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35

The Christian response to the storms of life and history cannot but be mercy: compassionate love among us and toward everyone, especially those who suffer, those who have greater difficulties and those who are more abandoned... Divine Mercy comes from the Heart of Christ, of the Risen Christ... May Christian mercy also inspire fair sharing among nations and their institutions.—Pope Francis, Angelus, 19 April 2020.

### 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)

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 7pm. Everyone is welcome to make a visit during these hours. Many people have expressed gratitude for this haven of peace in their day.

## Thank you!

The financial year ended on 31 March, and consequently receipts for planned giving and other donations are being sent out.

Thank you to all parishioners and friends for your ongoing support with gifts of money, goods, time, and prayer.

## OUR PARISH FUNDRAISING BAKE SALE

The next Cathedral Restoration Fundraising Bake Sale is next weekend, **April 22 and 23**.

Your support of this regular fundraising activity for the Sacred Heart Cathedral strengthening and restoration project is greatly appreciated. Many thanks to the generous bakers who supply these delicious goodies. New bakers are always welcome. Please contact Geraldine Irinco or the parish office.



Please remember to bring cash!

**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](http://www.cathedralcampaign.org.nz) and please mention it to your friends too.



### THE LOOSE THREADS— AN EXHIBITION OF HANDWORK AND CRAFT

The Loose Threads exhibition opens up the Sisters of Compassion archives to the public, focusing on fibre art created by the Sisters. Including vestments, blankets, carpets and more, these works include pieces from Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert, as well as Sisters currently based at Island Bay.

Saturday 15 April - Saturday 22 April, 9:00 am till 4:00 pm  
Ryan Room, Our Lady's Home of Compassion, 2 Rhine Street, Island Bay, Wellington.



compassion te pūaroaha

### Meditation in the Christian Tradition

Monday, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm and Thursday 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

An ancient form of contemplative prayer, deeply anchored in the teachings of the early Christian desert fathers and mothers.

### Mass/Morning Prayer

Wednesday—Thursday 8:30 am

### Miha—Māori Mass

Every Sunday, 11:00 am—12:00 pm

### Taizé

7 April, 7:00 pm—8:00 pm

Join us in a reflective time with simple songs and scripture that bring us to stillness and silence.

**Venue:** Our Lady's Home of Compassion, 2 Rhine Street, Island Bay. For more information contact ph. (04) 383-7769 or [events@compassion.org.nz](mailto:events@compassion.org.nz) ALL are welcome.

Covid and other respiratory illnesses are still around. 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.

## POPES AND PEACE

This month Pope Francis asks us to join him in prayer for 'a more widespread culture of non-violence' and less resort to arms. The Pope recalls his predecessor St John XXIII's landmark encyclical, *Pacem in Terris – Peace on Earth*, which was issued on 11 April 1963, Holy Thursday of that year.

Written in the aftermath of the October 1962 confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union over Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba - a crisis in the resolution of which Pope John played a small but important part - *Pacem in Terris* laid down this: "justice, right reason, and the recognition of human dignity cry out insistently for a cessation to the arms race. The stock-piles of armaments which have been built up in various countries must be reduced all round and simultaneously by the parties concerned. Nuclear weapons must be banned."

While not denying the right to self-defence, John's teaching was unambiguous. War is evil. The arms race is evil. *Pacem in Terris* was effectively Pope John's last testament; he was terminally ill and died nine weeks later. Incidentally, it's not often remembered that the young Father Roncalli was an army padre in the First World War. On war, the pope knew what he was talking about. John's successor, St Paul VI, often spoke out for peace, and in his message for the World Day of Peace in 1972, Pope Paul put it with devastating simplicity: 'If you want peace, work for justice'.

Justice in communities, justice within nations, justice between nations. Easter means many things, but among them is the rejection of that earthly, ego-driven power which seeks to dominate and to control other people, and the earth itself.

*Pacem in Terris* can be read here.

[https://www.vatican.va/content/john-xxiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_j-xxiii\\_enc\\_11041963\\_pacem.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-xxiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_j-xxiii_enc_11041963_pacem.html)

**The Divine Mercy Feast celebration** will be held at Sacred Heart Church, Petone on Sunday 16 April at 2pm. All welcome. (There will be no Divine Mercy Devotion at Connolly Hall this Sunday.)

You can bring : Holy objects to be blessed and Holy books you wish to donate or exchange

The devotion arises from mystical experiences of a Polish nun, Faustina Kowalska, in the 1930s, and was included in the calendar by St John Paul II.

The Scriptures are filled with examples of how to trust in God and ask for His mercy: the psalms; the faith of Abraham and Moses who pleaded and "bargained" with God; the man who persuaded his friend to get up in the middle of the night to lend him some bread; the persistent widow who secured justice from the unjust judge; the Canaanite woman who "argued" with Jesus about her right to His mercy; and the witness of Mary, whose appeal for mercy at Cana led Jesus to perform His first public miracle, thus acknowledging that His time had indeed come.

John Paul II echoed this scriptural message with a new urgency for our own times: "At no time... especially at a moment as critical as our own — can the Church forget the prayer that is a cry for the mercy of God... The Church has the right and the duty to appeal to the God of mercy 'with loud cries' " (*Rich in Mercy*, 15).



### The Divine Mercy Prayer

O Lord, I want to be completely transformed into Your mercy and to be Your living reflection. May the greatest of all divine attributes, that of Your unfathomable mercy, pass through my heart and soul to my neighbour.

Help me, O Lord, that my eyes may be merciful, so that I may never suspect or judge from appearances, but look for what is beautiful in my neighbours' souls and come to their rescue.

Help me, O Lord, that my ears may be merciful, so that I may give heed to my neighbours' needs and not be indifferent to their pains and moanings.

Help me, O Lord, that my tongue may be merciful, so that I should never speak negatively of my neighbour, but have a word of comfort and forgiveness for all.

Help me, O Lord, that my hands may be merciful and filled with good deeds, so that I may do only good to my neighbours and take upon myself the more difficult and toilsome tasks.

Help me, O Lord, that my feet may be merciful, so that I may hurry to assist my neighbour, overcoming my own fatigue and weariness....

Help me, O Lord, that my heart may be merciful so that I myself may feel all the sufferings of my neighbour.....

May Your mercy, O Lord, rest upon me.

O Jesus, I want to live in the present moment, to live as if this were the last day of my life. I want to use every moment scrupulously for the greater glory of God, to use every circumstance for the benefit of my soul. I want to look upon everything from the point of view that nothing happens without the will of God. God of unfathomable mercy, embrace the whole world and pour Yourself out upon us through the merciful Heart of Jesus.

### Easter House Blessing

It is an age-old Catholic tradition to bless our homes during Easter season to invoke God's blessing and protection on the family. It is also an opportunity for the parish leadership to get to know more about the family and the community. The parish is offering you a chance to have your home visited and blessed by your priest during this Easter season. Those families that are interested in such blessing can either contact the parish office or note down on the sheets available at the church foyers.



# SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL PARISH

Please keep in your prayers

PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140,  
Ph: (04) 496 1700

[cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz)

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

[www.facebook.com/MCSHWWellington/](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**

## 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 the Parish office.



Cardinal John Dew - *Who is recovering from back surgery*

Brian Dunn

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

Erina Harding



*Lord, Hear Our Prayer*

Gabrielle McLeavey

Dan Phelon

June Swain

Wilijono Tanudjojo



## Mass offered for

Fr Michael Lloyd RIP 13 April. Priest of the Archdiocese.



## Anniversaries this month:

Bruce Popplewell (6 April)

David Romanos (13 April)

Rosaline Coyle (24 April)

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

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

## Divine Mercy Sunday

Today, besides being the second Sunday of Easter, we also celebrate the feast of Divine Mercy. It is the special day when we remember the mercy of God.

Mercy is when a person treats another better than they deserve. God does not owe us anything, since everything we have comes from Him. When we sin we offend God, but because He is merciful He forgives us when we are sorry.

Jesus' dying on the cross was the biggest act of mercy. He gave up His life so that we could be forgiven of our sins and go to Heaven! Thank God today for all He has given you, especially giving up His life so that you can go to Heaven!



Here are some easy prayers you can say to ask God to be merciful to us:

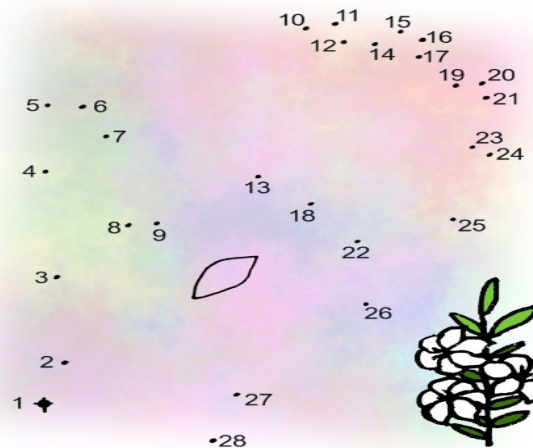
**Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Have mercy on us!**

**Jesus, I trust in You!**

Answer to Word-Find: My Lord and my God!  
[www.thekidsbulletin.com](http://www.thekidsbulletin.com)

## The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Easter  
April 16th, 2023



*Saint Thomas wasn't there the first time Jesus came to the Apostles after He rose from the dead. What did Thomas say he would have to see before he believed that Jesus was alive? Connect the dots to find out!*

