



The Cathedral Connection



30 April 2023
Vol. 12 Issue 14
Fourth Sunday of Easter

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

When we told people that we were moving to New Zealand, the first two things they would ask was, “are you going to support the All Blacks?” and secondly, “do you know that there are more sheep than people in New Zealand?”

The reference to sheep in this Sunday’s second reading and Gospel makes you wonder whether Jesus may have lived in New Zealand as it seems that using the analogy of sheep to get a message across resonated with his followers at the time.

There are many themes that flow from the readings today, ranging from Jesus promising us his love and care to us being his followers as a Church community - just as a flock of sheep that is led by its shepherd.

Of all the readings today, the Responsorial Psalm is my favourite, not because it is the basis for one of my favourite hymns but because of the beautiful imagery it portrays of a loving God. In the very first sentence of the Psalm, the Psalmist makes the point that like a Shepherd who leads and cares for his flock, God is our Shepherd who cares for us, loves us and leads us if we chose to follow him. By using the word “my” the Psalmist reinforces the message that while we may be part of a flock, the relationship we have with God is a personal one that we need to nurture and cherish.

These days we find our lives filled with anxiety, the need to be connected and all the other pressures of modern day living. The Psalmist writes that we “will want for nothing” if we recognise God as our Shepherd. He notes that when “we grow tired – he restores my soul; when I’m anxious – thy rod and staff will comfort me.” These are indeed words of encouragement, but to believe in them, we need to trust God because this is what real faith is all about.

We all look for the “hand of God” in our struggles but sometimes it is right in front of us, and we miss it. When we experience difficulties, a good starting point is to surrender your problems and fears to God through prayer. I always find it quite a relief when I can share a problem at work with a colleague because nine times of out ten, they have a similar problem or just that through the mere sharing of the problem I feel that a load has been lifted off me. In the same way, spending time sharing your inner thoughts, fears and joys with God each day not only helps you grow in faith but allows you to talk to someone who loves and cares for you without any judgement. So, give it a try – you have nothing to lose.

Finally, while we have seen many sheep since arriving in New Zealand, it is not enough to convince me that they outnumber humans and as regards supporting the All Blacks, I will let you know after the Rugby World Cup in October.

Clint Ramoo - Finance Chair



Readings for the Week

Sunday 30th – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14,36-41; 1 Peter 2:20-25; John 10:1-10

Monday 1st May – Acts 11:1-18; John 10:11-18

Tuesday 2nd – Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30

Wednesday 3rd – 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; John 14:6-14

Thursday 4th – Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20

Friday 5th – Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6

Saturday 6th – Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14

Sunday 7th – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

Jesus, Good Shepherd and door of the sheep, is a leader whose authority is expressed in service, a leader who, in order to command, gives his life and does not ask others to sacrifice theirs. One can trust a leader like this, as the sheep who heed their shepherd’s voice because they know that with him one goes to good and abundant pastures. A signal, a call suffices, and they follow... guided by the voice of the One whom they feel as a friendly presence, strong and mild at once, who calls, protects, consoles and soothes.— Pope Francis, Angelus, 7 May 2017

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 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 at the 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.

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

NAMING OF NAMES

Name tags for ministers at weekend Masses

Our names carry deep personal, familial, cultural, and historical connections. We believe that our Lord God has called us by our name - "Fear not, for I have redeemed thee; I have called thee by thy name; thou art Mine." (Isaiah 43:1). God calls us by our name because He wants us to have that deep, personal relationship with Him. Our parish community can be even stronger if we are able to call each other by name.

From the weekend of 6/7 May 2023 we are introducing the practice where all Ministers involved in our weekend liturgies wear a name tag. Name tags create a warm, inviting environment. Bearing our names and the insignia of the parish, conveys a message of welcome and the sense of the readiness to assist, both parishioners and guests alike. It conveys the message that we are happy to welcome all to our community. It facilitates an opportunity as a conversation starter, an ice breaker for those who don't find it easy to introduce themselves. We hope that this support and enhance our welcoming community spirit.

CATHEDRAL FUNDRAISING CONCERT

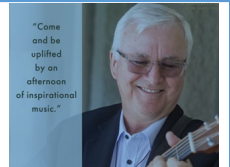


A Cathedral Fundraising Concert with Fr Chris Skinner SM

Sunday 11 June, 2:00-4:00pm, St Peter & Paul's Church, Lower Hutt

Tickets \$30 + booking fee at www.trybooking.co.nz/NZH or the QR code below:

Our last concert with Fr Chris was a great success—be sure you don't miss out on an afternoon of excellent music.



A Retreat for Mothers – "In the Potter's hands" As a mother, you always put the needs of your loved ones before your own. Today you are invited to come away, to rest and be blessed by the God who lovingly shaped you. Join us on Saturday 6th May 2023 from 10:00am to 3:30pm Our Lady's Home of Compassion, Rhine Street, Island Bay. Please register with Lucienne Hensel by Friday 28th April. l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz or 04 496 1715 / 021 164 5800

Living Liturgically – Bringing the Liturgical Year to life in the rhythm of the parish." This interactive workshop led by Fr Patrick Bridgman is for everyone involved or interested in Liturgy. Venue: St Francis of Assisi Parish Church, Johnsonville. Saturday 20 May, 10.00am-12 midday. Tea and coffee available from 9.30am. To register please email Christine at c.walkerline@wn.catholic.org.nz

This Weekend there is a special collection for Vocations.

Your support for this cause on the weekend of 29-30 April is greatly appreciated.

For those of you with 'giving envelopes' there is a brown coloured envelope in your envelope pack you can use with the details of the Special Collection on it. Please ensure you put your giving number on the envelope. If you give by cash in the plate, please place your cash in an envelope and write 'special collection' on the outside. If you give by automatic payment to the parish planned giving programme, you can still give electronically by using the same bank account you currently use, but you do need to change the transaction details for this one-off transaction to show the following:

Particulars = Your Initial and Surname

Code = Your Planned Giving Number (please contact the parish office if you are unsure of your number), and

Reference = "Vocations" (this is to ensure that your donation goes to the specific cause).

"May the LORD reward your work, and your wages be full from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge." Ruth 2:12

Thank you 

DIVINE RENOVATION

In February Randy Reyes, Parish Pastoral Council Chair, Fr Ron and I attended a Divine Renovation conference where we immersed and schooled for three days in the principles of a parish renewal programme that refocuses Christians on our baptismal missional calling - 'go and make disciples' (Matt 28:19-20), leading parishes from maintenance to mission, where parish renewal is experienced through evangelisation and formation that intentionally facilitates opportunities for people to enter into a relationship with God, and to draw closer to God.



Divine Renovation

Parishes who have been following the Divine Renovation model for many years shared their successes and challenges. They also shared some of the tools available to assist parishes wishing to move to a more focussed, mission-orientated outlook. While mission underpins the Divine Renovation model, it is not about a parish being solely mission orientated. All parishes need to look to both maintenance and mission. The Divine Renovation model prioritises and supports intentional participation in parishes and communities wishing to equip themselves to focus on Jesus' Great Commission to 'go and make disciples.'

Throughout the conference there were many references to how western societies now live in a 'post-Christendom' era. Wikipedia defines this as "when Christianity is no longer the dominant civil religion of a society but has gradually assumed values, culture, and worldviews that are not necessarily Christian" – where Christian convictions have/are declining in influence.

Divine Renovation proposes that a new model/way of evangelisation is now needed. It offers that our response to the Great Commission in a post-Christendom world is a model where people first need to belong, then to believe, and then to behave (act). This is opposite to what has previously occurred when people first believed, then behaved, and then belonged. This ordering greatly resonates with me, as this was my own experience 21 years ago, where I was accompanied and then received into the Catholic Church in England.

I believe the Divine Renovation-inspired response to our Great Commission – to go and make disciples – invites me, and invites us, to focus our mission on meeting people (Christians and non-Christians) where they are in life. Our witness to the Great Commission through accompaniment offers us concrete and intentional opportunities to make people feel welcome, learn about them, and invite them into our community, our family – to witness our faith, to share and explain our Christian values, our beliefs. As those we accompany grow their relationships with Jesus, our community, and others, their growth provides us also with opportunities to grow in our own faith, which also happens naturally by osmosis.

Fr Ron, Randy, Sr Marie and I wish to explore ways our parish could embrace an identity of missionary conversion, of hope, of growing disciples. If you are hungering to grow deeper in your relationship with Jesus and to be intentional in casting our parish net out into the deep, to be "fishers of people", and if this concept/model of mission and outreach resonates with you, please contact the parish office or one of the above people.

Debbie Matheson, Lay Pastoral Leader/Parish Leader Sacred Heart Cathedral

PARISH MINISTRIES — HELP WANTED

In last week's newsletter we thanked Victor and Sheebah Tipple for their many services in the parish. They will soon be leaving us to travel to Ireland. The Finance Committee needs new members; as Victor says, serving on this committee is an excellent opportunity (especially for those with an accounting/finance/administration background) to play a pivotal role in stewarding the parish's finances.

Another ministry which needs people is that of Mass Co-Ordinator for the 10:30am Sunday Mass. For each weekend Mass, a Coordinator arrives 20-30 minutes before the Mass begins, to support the Mass through the coordination of the volunteers rostered for the Mass, seeking further volunteers if necessary. Guidelines for the role are provided and full training will be given.

If you are interested in either of these ministries, or others within the parish, please get in touch with the parish office, or with Debbie, one of the committee chairs (Clint Ramoo, Randy Reyes, or Jane Kelly) or, for the Mass Co-Ordinator role, Fr Joy, Fr Alliston, Debbie or the parish office.

Inviting all 13 to 23 year olds to Voice for Life Youth Wellington's Movie Night 'Wonder' a boy born with genetic facial differences who enters a mainstream elementary school for the first time. Saturday 13 May, St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall, 6:00pm-8:00pm. Food and drinks provided, and make sure to BYO pillows and blankets! RSVP to Helena 020 4108 6611 or message VFL Youth Wellington's Instagram account (@vflyouthwelly).



The annual O'Shea Shield competition will be held next weekend, May 6th and 7th, at St Mary's College. This prestigious competition involves eight events, including debating, public speaking, religious drama, scripture reading and religious questions, and involves approximately 280 secondary school students from the 17 Catholic secondary schools in the Wellington and Palmerston North Archdioceses. Information at <https://www.stmw.school.nz/Quick-Links/oshea-shield-2023-homepage-1> All welcome.



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

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.



The latest edition of our parish school newsletter is available at

<https://sacredhcs.schoolzineplus.com/schoolnews?nid=214>

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

Brian Dunn

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

Erina Harding

Gabrielle McLeavey



Dan Phelon

Judith Shroff

June Swain

Wilijono Tanudjojo



Mass offered for

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

The Good Shepherd



The readings in today's Mass talk about Jesus the Good Shepherd. In Jesus' time, and still in some parts of the world today, there would be flocks of sheep grazing in the pastures. The shepherds were the people who looked after the flocks and made sure none of the sheep got lost or hurt or attacked by wild animals.

The Church is the flock of Jesus, and He is the Good Shepherd. He guides the people in the Church so that their souls will not be hungry- He gives us grace, just like a shepherd makes sure his sheep have lots of grass to eat!

Like the shepherd protects the sheep from danger, Our Lord also protects us from harm. In the "Our Father" we ask God to deliver us from evil. When our souls are hurt by sin, the Good Shepherd heals us with forgiveness in Confession.



Answer to puzzle on front page:
I am the gate.
Answer to Fill-in-the-blanks:
know his voice.

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 30th, 2023



$4+4=$ $6-2=$ $5+4=$

$6+4=$ $9-2=$ $1+4=$

$3+3=$ $7-3=$ $2+8=$ $6-1=$

4=A 5=E 6=G 7=H 8=I 9=M 10=T

What did Jesus say about the sheepfold?
Figure out the math questions and then fill in the blanks with the letters the numbers represent.