



The Cathedral Connection



03 September 2023
Vol. 12 Issue 31

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

COUNTERCULTURE?

All three of today's readings suggest that the life of faith is, one way or another, to live a life that is different from the world around us. The passage from Jeremiah is only half of a prayer (Jer. 20:7-13) where the prophet questions his calling, realises that he doesn't really have any choice, and remembers that God is with him. St Paul, immediately after exhorting his readers to remember God's goodness and let that shape their lives, reminds them to live in peace and harmony with each other, remembering that everyone has their place in the community. St Matthew has Jesus arguing with Peter, who understandably doesn't want to accept Jesus's words about what was waiting for him in Jerusalem. Jesus used such strong language precisely because Peter's words were a temptation for Jesus himself.

What, though, does it mean to 'not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you'? Some Christian communities have taken this to mean becoming radically isolated sects, sometimes with unfortunate consequences. There are many more positive examples. In the third century after Christ, some men and women left the towns for the Egyptian desert. There, these Desert Fathers and Mothers lived lives of austere simplicity, but people often sought their counsel. Many of their brief and pithy sayings have come down to us: they still make the reader stop and think.

Similarly, monasticism over the centuries has often been understood and practiced as a withdrawal from the world. Thomas Merton, after a typically riotous student life, entered a Trappist monastery in Kentucky at the end of 1941. His 1947 autobiography, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, became a classic conversion story, and sometimes it seemed that Merton congratulated himself on leaving the wicked world. In 1958, though, he had to go to town and in the middle of the street was *'suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness, of spurious self-isolation in a special world, the world of renunciation and supposed holiness... This sense of liberation from an illusory difference was such a relief and such a joy to me'* (*Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*, p. 140).

Merton had realised the value of solidarity, of standing with our neighbours. In a world where, often, the language is that of division and of 'what's in it for me?', that's quite counter-cultural.



Jim McAloon

Readings for the Week

Sunday 03rd September - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 20:7-9; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27

Monday 04th - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday 05th - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6,9-11; Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday 06th - Colossians 1:1-8; Luke 4:38-44

Thursday 07th - Colossians 1:9-14; Luke 5:1-11

Friday 08th - The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Feast

Micah 5:1-4; Matthew 1:1-16,18-23

Saturday 10th - Saint Peter Claver or Saturday memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Colossians 1:21-23; Luke 6:1-5

Sunday 11th - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 33:7-9; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20

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)

'The task of "taking up the cross" becomes participating with Christ in the salvation of the world. Considering this, let us make sure that the cross hanging on the wall at home, or that little one that we wear around our neck, is a sign of our wish to be united with Christ in lovingly serving our brothers and sisters, especially the littlest and most fragile.'

Pope Francis, [Angelus](#), 30 August 2020



YOUR PARISH NOTICES AND EVENTS



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. We look forward to welcoming you.



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.

Divine Mercy Devotions - Sunday 6pm-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 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-9pm. All are welcome.

Anointing Mass: The Mass on every **second Saturday of the month** will be an Anointing Mass. (8.30am in the Connolly Hall Chapel). All are welcome to participate and be blessed and healed by the Lord.



Once again, we have our Fundraising Bake Sale next weekend of **9 - 10 September**. Please do purchase some of the delicious items after the Parish Masses. Baked items for sale will be gratefully received. A huge thanks to all those who work so hard to make these events happen.

Friday 8 September Rosary - Dear Parishioners, A rosary service will be held next Friday (The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary) at 5.30pm at the Connolly Hall. It will certainly be a privilege for us to gather around our Blessed Mother on her birthday, praying the rosary and seeking her maternal help. You are all most welcome!



Children's Sacramental Programme 2023/24

Registration is now open for the 2023/24 programme which begins with **CONFIRMATION** this coming Term 4 followed by **FIRST RECONCILIATION** in Term 1 and **HOLY COMMUNION** in Term 2 of 2024. For your child to be eligible, he/she must already be baptised and be at least 8 years old. The first part of the parent's sessions begin on is on 21 September 2023.

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK 3-9 SEPTEMBER

Social Justice Week in 2023 is the beginning of something new! For the next three years, the focus of Social Justice Week will be on peace and responding to conflict. The overarching tagline is: 'Imagine Peace For All / Pohewatia te Rangimārie mō te Katoa'. Each year there will be a unique focus, and for 2023 it is:

'Peace begins with you! Ka tīmata tonu te Rangimārie i roto i ā koe!'

For more information: <https://www.caritas.org.nz/parishes/social-justice-week>

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand have produced a booklet that can be used to guide you or your study group through a seven-session reflection on peace, conflict, and the different ways we can build personal peace. Each session begins with the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, forming a common link which reminds us of the peace of Christ being fundamental to all other aspects of peace. After this, each session starts with a reflection question to open discussion and contemplation as a group.

Sessions for personal reflection will typically include an exploration of the key theme, a case study or example of that theme playing out in the world, and a discussion of how we can put this into practice through our actions. Further questions for individual or group reflection are found throughout each section.

The booklet can be downloaded here: https://www.caritas.org.nz/s/SJW2023-Reflection-WEB_16062023.pdf For those parishioners with registered email addresses the daily sessions will be emailed out during Social Justice Week. Perhaps you could come together as a family or invite others to join you to form a group.

SEASON OF CREATION

“**Let Justice and Peace Flow**” is the theme of this year's ecumenical Season of Creation, inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: “Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream” (5:24). This is the start of the message of the Holy Father Francis for the celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on 1 September.

Throughout September, Pope Francis invites us to celebrate the Season of Creation as a moment for “ecological conversion”. So, let us accept his invitation, and find ways to lift up the season's theme in our personal and communal prayers.

Pope Francis' full message can be viewed here:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2023/05/25/230525a.html>

More information is available here: https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/adw_community/season-of-creation-2023/

Living Laudato Si' - Caring for Our Common Home Together

“When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person, a human embryo, a person with disabilities – to offer just a few examples – it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected.” #117 Laudato Si'.

LIVING



COMMUNITY NOTICES

BEGINNING THIS WEEK!

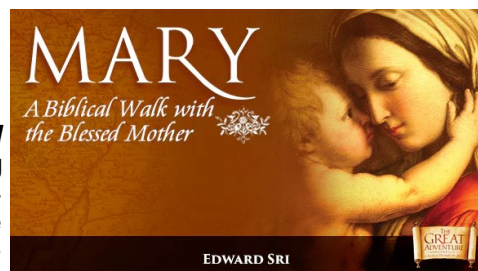
A Powerful Study on the Blessed Mother 6th September - 25th October, Wednesday (8 Wednesday sessions)

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, **Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother** will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of Mary's earthly life, taking you through her joys and her sorrows. You will learn how she works in our lives today, drawing us ever closer to her divine Son. Seeing Mary in this way will change you forever. She will become a part of your daily life and help you to become more like Christ.

Join us for **Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother at St Teresa's, Karori**
6th September at 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm and continuing every Wednesday.

For more information or to register for the study, call the Otari Parish office on **04 476 6131** or email office@otariparish.co.nz

Each session will follow a 30 minute video followed by a short tea break and end with a rich group discussion format.
Registration is a must for admin purposes. Please bring a Bible if you can.



Kaitiaki at Ōtari

Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

Sunday 10th September 2.00pm

A short easy reflective prayer walk in the outdoors.
Afterwards, for the more energetic, explore the Kaiwharawhara Stream to the picnic area and to the slip area beyond, which is being restored.

Start – Ōtari/Wilton Bush Cockayne Lawn Entrance next to Ōtari School Wilton Rd.
Finish – Bring kai for afternoon tea on the Ponga Lawn next to the Alpine Rock Garden behind the Main Entrance Carpark on Wilton Road.

*If it is wet, this event will be held in the Information Centre.

This Ecumenical event has been prepared by members of the Catholic Parish of Ōtari, St Anne's Anglican Church Northland and St Luke's Anglican Parish Wadestown (Adapted from the Season of Creation Ecumenical Prayer Service). Special thanks to the musicians.

FLOURISHING FUTURES: CONVERSATIONS ON IMPORTANT ISSUES.

The panel discussions, composed of astute thinkers (academics, public commentators, politicians, and policy-makers).

Will be hosted at: Wellington Cathedral of Saint Paul
Te Wharekarakianui o Paora Tapu ki te Whanganui-a-Tara

Where: 2 Hill Street, Wellington

"We don't need no education?" Education, Citizenship, and the Common Good

When: Tuesday Sept 12th 5.30pm –6.30pm

Event Link: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/news/events/otago0246671.html>



CHURCH LIFE SURVEY

What is the Church Life Survey?

It is a nationwide survey of church attenders, run every 5 years in line with NZ Census years. Every church is invited to take part. This 2023 survey will have higher participation than the 2018 survey. This is the first time the Wellington Archdiocese has taken part. The Auckland Diocese have been using this survey for many years and Archbishop Paul believes the resulting information will be of great benefit to our parishes and the Archdiocese at large.

The 2023 survey is administered by the Christian Research Association of NZ, in partnership with Wilberforce Foundation and Auckland Church Network. These organisations want to strengthen & support the NZ Church by equipping leaders with quality research & data. The survey questions were compiled by experienced church researchers & leaders from a range of denominations & movements. All information provided is anonymous and no individual names are collected.

Why participate in the Church Life Survey?

- ◆ Our church and parish has significantly changed since the COVID pandemic.
- ◆ The survey provides an opportunity for our leaders to find out who is part of our church and their demographic profile.
- ◆ As our leaders want to listen to your opinions. The survey provides a great method for hearing all the voices in our parish.
- ◆ As our leaders want to be informed in their decision making. The survey provides a robust evidence base for making decisions.
- ◆ The health of our people is important. - The survey provides a snapshot of the spiritual health of our church and parish.
- ◆ You are contributing to a national picture of church life in NZ.

How to complete the survey? *Please note each parish has it's own code so only use the code for your parish.*

Anyone aged 15 or over is asked to respond. There are three ways to access the survey. *Thank you for your participation.*

1. Cathedral Parishioners Only. Please scan this QR Code and follow the instructions provided on the linked website.



2. Cathedral Parishioners Only. Please click on the link below which will take you to the survey website and then follow the instructions.
<https://clsnz.org/chis96Be2rldawic/01GZFP04YARH/SJCPJ6HCCEM4V8/en-rc>

3. If you do not have access to the internet please contact the parish office for other options.

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**

Secretary:

Frank Doherty

Office Hours:

10.00am - 4.30pm Tues, Thurs, Fri.

Parish Pastoral Council Chair:

Ajith Nissangaratchie

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 / Public Holiday

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=235>

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



Gabrielle McLeavey

Raquel Panganiban



Ian & Christine Paterson

June Swain

Wilijono Tanudjojo

Remembering the Dead

Anniversaries:

August

David Shroff (12 Aug)

Robin Adair (21 Aug)

Margot Gresham (25 Aug)

Mike Loftus (28 Aug)

Simon Lai (28 August)

September

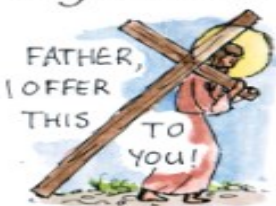
Terry Coles (7 Sep)



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

CHILDREN'S CORNER

If you want to be my disciple...



What would you think if your best friend told you that you would have to die if you wanted to stay friends? In today's Gospel reading Jesus told the Apostles that if they wanted to be like Him they would have to take up their crosses and follow Him.

Jesus was teaching them that this world is a preparation for Heaven. If we make sacrifices for love of God then we will be ready for Heaven. Jesus opened the gates of Heaven to us by dying out of love for God the Father and for us. We get little crosses every day when things make us unhappy. If we offer them to God with love, they are like dying a little bit, and they prepare us for Heaven.



Sometimes we think that we need nice things or to be with fun people if we want to be happy. It's easy to forget that we will never be completely happy here. Next time you feel unhappy, remember that it's a cross that can help you get to Heaven!

Answers to maze on front: Take up your cross and follow me.
www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 3rd, 2023



What did Jesus say that the people would have to do to be His disciples? Find your way through the maze and then use the letters from that path to fill in the blanks.