



The Cathedral Connection



3 December 2023
Vol. 12 Issue 44
First Sunday of Advent

STAY AWAKE

We have heard a lot in the daily gospel readings over the last few weeks about the need to be ready, from Matthew on Sundays and Luke on weekdays. Today's brief passage from St Mark's gospel repeats the message, with Jesus telling the disciples to stay awake and be ready for the master to return. 'What I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

What are we to make of this? The urgency of responding wholeheartedly to the good news is repeated again and again in the gospels (especially in the three synoptic gospels – John is a little different). Part of our response must be, as last week's gospel for Christ the King made clear, in the way we treat other people, address the needs in our community and in our world (Matthew 25). This, Jesus says again and again.

Mark's passage today, like similar passages in Luke, is placed just before the account of the trial and execution of Jesus. As we know, Mark and Luke were probably written a few years either side of the great Jewish revolt against the Romans in the late 60s and early 70s. One American scripture scholar, Ched Myers, suggests that part of Mark's point in the passage is to have Jesus arguing against those who advocated violent resistance against the Roman overlords. 'The discipleship community is exhorted to embrace the world as Gethsemane: to stay awake in the darkness of history, to refuse to compromise the politics of the cross' (*Binding the Strong Man*, Orbis Books, 1988, p. 348).

The first reading for tomorrow is the well-known passage from Isaiah (2:1-5), in which all the nations come to the mountain of the Lord, who will 'wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war'.

You might think, two and a half thousand years after those words were written, it would be good to give them a try. Perhaps this Advent is a time to think about justice and right relationships within our communities and among the nations. As Pope Paul VI said, 'if you want peace, work for justice'.



Jim McAloon

Readings for the Week

Sunday 3rd – First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37

Monday 4th – Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday 5th – Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday 6th – Isaiah 25:6-10; Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday 7th – Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21,24-27

Friday 8th – The Immaculate Conception

Genesis 3:9-15,20; Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12; Luke 1:26-38

Saturday 9th – Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26; Matthew 9:35-10:1,5,6-8

Sunday 10th – Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

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

'The person who takes heed is the one who, amid the worldly din, does not let himself be overwhelmed by distraction or superficiality, but lives in a full and conscious way, with concern first and foremost for others. With this manner we become aware of the tears and the needs of neighbours and we can also understand their human and spiritual strengths and qualities... It is a matter of having an understanding gaze so as to recognize both the misery and poverty of individuals and of society, and to recognize the richness hidden in little everyday things, precisely there where the Lord has placed us.' Pope Francis [Angelus](#) 3 December 2017.

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



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, 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.



Divine Mercy Devotions - Sunday 6pm-6:30pm in Connolly Hall Chapel. All welcome. Last one this year, 17 December.

Rosary - Every Monday (except Public Holidays) from 11.30am in Connolly Hall Chapel, all welcome.

Scripture Reflection - Every Tuesday from 5pm-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.

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.



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.

BAKE SALE

MCSH Earthquake Strengthening Fundraiser

Our final Bake Sale for the year will be **THIS WEEKEND** 2-3 December, after all Masses. All contributions of baking and the like are very welcome. Do come prepared to buy some delicious food. All money raised supports our cathedral restoration.



BUILDING UPDATE — Most parishioners will have received an email update on the cathedral strengthening and restoration project. The essential information is that Crown Infrastructure Partners, which has committed substantial funds to the project, requires a 'soft re-opening' by 30 June 2024 and the project to be completed by 31 December 2024.



Accordingly, the parish leadership has committed to a soft re-opening over the weekend of 7-9 June 2024, the Parish Feast Day, Sacred Heart, being Friday 7 June. Connolly Hall will then return to its function as a meeting space. In the coming week, work on refurbishing the foyer and chapel will begin, and so the parish meeting space will be in Viard House for a time.

Raising the final \$1m for the restoration and \$1.6m for the restoration of the Hobday organ remains a significant challenge in the current financial environment. Even the storage is presently a major cost to the parish. Early in the New Year the parish will be invited to gather to revisit the options for fundraising for an organ.

Do please keep an eye out for requests for assistance to get involved in the reopening activities. If you have any questions please contact the parish office. Our sincere thanks to all who have got us so far.

AN ADVENT REFLECTION

Many of Pope Francis' weekly general audiences include some teaching on a particular theme, going over several weeks. These can be read on the Vatican website at <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences.index.html#audiences>

In Advent 2016 a theme was 'Christian hope'. An extract from 7 and 14 December 2016:

Particularly in this Season of Advent, which is the time of waiting... it is important to reflect on hope. Let us allow the Lord to teach us what it means to hope. Therefore let us listen to the words of Sacred Scripture, beginning with *the Prophet Isaiah*, the great Prophet of Advent, the great messenger of hope...

Isaiah Chapter 52 begins with the invitation addressed to Jerusalem to awake, shake off the dust and chains, and put on the most beautiful clothes, because the Lord has come to free his people (vv. 1-3). And he adds: "my people shall know my name; therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I" (v. 6).

At this point, the prophet includes a song of exaltation:

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, / who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good, / who publishes salvation, / who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns' Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem; / for the Lord has comforted his people, / he has redeemed Jerusalem./ The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; / and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God" (Is 52:7, 9-10)...

We must pray, that each day God may give us hope and give it to everyone: that hope which arises when we see God in the crib in Bethlehem. The message of the Good News entrusted to us is urgent. We too must run like the messenger on the mountains, because the world cannot wait, humanity is hungry and thirsty for justice, truth, peace.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today. The best preparation that we could ever make is to prepare our hearts for Jesus. There will be opportunity for individual Reconciliation on **2nd, 9th, and 16th of December 2023 (Saturdays)** after the 8.30am Mass at the **Connolly Hall**. There will also be an Advent Reconciliation Service (Rite II) on **Sunday 17th December 2023 at 4.00pm** in **St. Thomas More Church, Wilton**.

SIMBANG GABI – A FILIPINO CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Christmas Novena Masses is a four-century-old tradition in the Philippines. It is practiced around the world everywhere there are Filipinos. Filipinos were traditionally farming people, and they greeted the dawn of a new day in the fields while working the land. The missionary fathers decided to integrate the early start to Filipinos' day with preparing ourselves for Christ's birth during Advent, resulting in the Christmas Novena Masses.

During Advent, the missionary friars held nine days of Masses leading to Christmas Day which were celebrated typically at about 4:00 AM when the roosters crow to announce the coming of a new day. Hence, it is called "Misa de Gallo". Now, the Christmas Novena Masses are also known as "Simbang Gabi", which literally means "Evening Mass" (so you don't have to get up for 4am!).

This year the Christmas Novena Masses will be celebrated at St Teresa's, Karori, sharing this Filipino Christian tradition with the whole community. Everyone is invited to experience this preparation for Jesus' birth as one community in Christ.

SIMBANG GABI 2023

7:00 PM @ St Teresas Church, Karori

Dec 15, Friday
Fr Patrick Bridgman

Dec 19, Tuesday
Msgr Gerard Burns

Dec 16, Saturday
Fr Kevin Mowbray

Dec 20, Wednesday
Archbishop Paul Martin

Dec 17, Sunday
Fr Dennis Nacorda

Dec 21, Thursday
Fr Joy Thottankara

Dec 18, Monday
Fr Tikoua Kautu

Dec 22, Friday
Fr Marion Maylon

Dec 23, Saturday
Fr Ron Bennett



Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy - St Nicholas - History, Legend & Culture with Beate Matthies. Monday, 4 December, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Free. Donations/Koha are appreciated. <https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/st-nicholas/> YouTube Recordings Muffin Talk radio programmes are available online at: <https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/muffin-talk/> For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

Enrolment for the Bachelor of Divinity and Graduate Diploma in Theology is still on-going until the end of January. The Certificate and Diploma in Christian Studies are also accepting enrolment for 2024. Semester starts on 19 February 2024. For courses offered on campus, online and each diocese, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/timetables. To enrol, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/apply.

TE KUPENGA
CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE

Caritas Aotearoa invites support for its Christmas Appeal. The theme is 'Enabling Lives of Dignity This Christmas', and you can read more about the work Caritas does in supporting community development at <https://www.caritas.org.nz/christmas>. Not only are donations tax deductible, but they attract matching funding from the New Zealand government's aid programme. The Caritas website includes information about its other work, including in the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Holy Land.

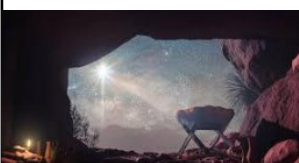


The Bach Choir of Wellington and the Wellington Brass Band present *Tidings of Comfort and Joy*, a feast of festive favourites in a spirited afternoon of glorious harmony with Christmas music for choir and brass band. Saturday, 16 December at St Mary of the Angels, (Boulcott Street), beginning at 2.00pm. Tickets on Eventfinda: \$35/\$40; schoolchildren free.

ADVENT MASS — A Family Advent Mass will be celebrated at our 10.30am Sunday Mass at St. Thomas More church on 17 December. Interested parents whose children would like to participate in various Mass roles are invited to contact Chrisanthi Inch on 021 1896475 cssinch@gmail.com for further information.



St Mary's College International Hosts — St Mary's College have been asked to host quite a few students for 2024. International Students add a cultural as well as a financial benefit to our school. Please ask friends and family if they would like to host. The payment is \$330.00 per week. At the moment St Mary's have full year and term 1 students to home. Please contact Philippa Smyth for information on (04) 473-5554 or email philippa.smyth@stmw.school.nz



An Advent Reflection — "Bringing Advent to Life: Stations on the Way to Christmas", written by Fr James Lyons. Sunday, 3 December, 4.00 pm, St Thomas More Church, Wilton.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 8th December
An Archdiocesan Mass will be celebrated on our Diocesan feast day at St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral, Karori at 7.00pm. During this Mass the Archdiocese will again be entrusted to the care of Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception.

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL PARISH

Please keep in your prayers

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Ph: (04) 496 1700

cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz

www.mcshwellington.org

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/MCSHWellington/)

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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, Thorndon

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=246>

Michael Doherty
Nicholas & Thomas Dyne
(Graham & Rosaleen
Taylor's grandsons)
Barbara Gore
Phil Hickey



Gabrielle McLeavey
Raquel Panganiban
Novatus Rugambwa
Melinda Somera
June Swain
Willijono Tanudjojo

Please remember these and any others in the Parish who are ill. If you know of anyone confined to their homes or who needs a visit with Holy Communion, please contact the parish office.

Remembering the Dead

December Anniversaries:

Dan Kelly (Dec 14)
Rebecca Franklin (Dec 24)
Robert Bond (Dec 26)
Frances Gray (Dec 28)



January Anniversaries:

Michael Cecil-Gibson (Jan 8)

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

CHILDREN'S CORNER

*Advent is Here!
Jesus is coming!*



Advent is here! It's time to begin preparing for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

Jesus came the first time long ago in Bethlehem. Now He comes to us every time we go to Mass, in Holy Communion. But we celebrate Jesus' coming in a special way at Christmas time.

Advent is the time to get ready for Christmas. We get our houses ready by cleaning and decorating. We get our souls ready by cleaning out our sins when we go to confession, and by learning and thinking about Jesus.



Here are some things that will help you get ready for Christmas:

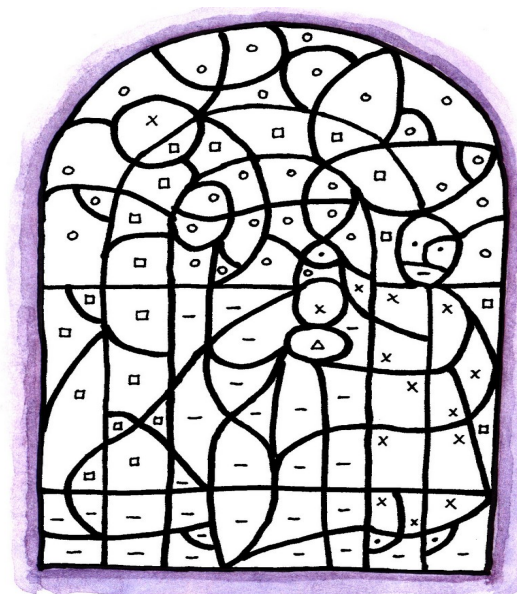
~ Light a candle on an advent wreath when you say your prayers every day.

~ Read a book about Advent or Christmas.

~ Go to Confession before Christmas.



~ Do nice things for people. Remember that anything you do for someone else you do for Jesus!



In the Gospel, Jesus tells us to always be ready. Here's someone waiting for his master to return...

Use this code to colour the picture in:

- DARK BLUE
- SKIN COLOUR
- ◻ GREY
- × WHITE
- BROWN
- △ RED