



The Cathedral Connection



10 December 2023
Vol. 12 Issue 45
Second Sunday of Advent

There is a Season...

Last Sunday we began a new church year, beginning with the Season of Advent. We are now in Year B, and the Gospel of Mark.

Mark's Gospel is often under-rated, compared with Matthew and Luke. It is considerably shorter than the others, and was even seen at one time as an abridged version of Matthew!

Nothing could be further than the truth. Mark is written earlier than Matthew and Luke and it shows! Mark mentions details that are eye witness accounts in a way that Matthew and Luke simply cannot. It is also true that both Matthew and Luke have access to Mark's Gospel, and make good use of it. Their own accounts would be severely depleted if it were not for Mark's influence on their own writings. Enjoy Mark this year. It is a beautiful gospel.

We are also in the Season of Advent – only 22 days this year. Advent is when we prepare for the great Feast of Christmas. It is an inner journey. There are many ways we can prepare. Even if you cannot get to daily Mass, you can always download the Mass readings and just reflect on them. I try to spend time by myself and be with the Lord. I think of Mary and what she must have been thinking as she carried Jesus in her womb, waiting for the time for him to be born. Can we not prepare ourselves in the same way!

This particular year is also a time for goodbyes and welcomes. Both Fr Joy and myself will be leaving the Cathedral Parish. I am going to Holy Cross Seminary as senior-priest-in-residence and Fr Joy is taking my place as Parish Priest at Otari Parish. The Cathedral parish will be welcoming Fr Patrick Bridgman as Administrator. You will be blessed indeed to have Fr Patrick with you. Finally I would like to acknowledge Debbie Matheson and the Leadership team. It's no secret that Debbie does a fantastic job, supported by a great Team. You are indeed a fortunate parish.

God bless
Fr Ron



Readings for the Week

Sunday 10th – Second Sunday of Advent

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

Monday 11th – Saint Damasus I, Pope

Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26;

Tuesday 12th – Our Lady of Guadalupe

Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14;

Wednesday 13th – Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30;

Thursday 14th – Saint John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor

Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15;

Friday 15th – Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19;

Saturday 16th – Ecclesiasticus 48:1-4,9-12; Matthew 17:10-13;

Sunday 17th – Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28;

'At times the yearning we feel toward the Lord is too weak and it almost seems that God is silent... Think about God's tenderness. God is not a bad father, an unkind father, no. He is tender. He loves us so much, like the Good Shepherd, who searches for the last member of his flock. It is love, and this is conversion: a grace of God. Begin to walk, because it is he who moves you to walk, and you will see how he will arrive. Pray, walk, and you will always take a step forward.'

Pope Francis [Angelus](#) 6 December 2020



OUR MISSION & VISION

To joyfully share God's love. To be a missionary people united in the hearts of Jesus and Mary

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)



METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL
OF THE SACRED HEART

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.

CATHEDRAL PARISH PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS FOR 2024

We have received the welcome news of the appointment of Fr Patrick Bridgman as Administrator of the Cathedral Parish from 1 February 2024. Fr Patrick, together with Debbie Matheson, our Lay Pastoral Leader form the new Pastoral Leadership Team of the Cathedral Parish. Fr Viator Muyuni has also been named as Priest-in-Residence at Viard House while he completes his Doctorate.

A Bishop of a Diocese is himself always the Parish Priest of the Cathedral. He delegates the pastoral care of the parish to the Administrator and the Pastoral Team. Hence Fr Patrick's title is Administrator of the Cathedral Parish. Though recently the term Parish Priest has been used in our parish it was done so for ease of understanding.

We are very grateful to Fr Ron, who has for several years been Moderator of the Cathedral Parish. He has been incredibly generous in his ministry assisting the pastoral work among us and sharing his priestly wisdom. From 2024 he has been appointed to Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland to take up the role of Senior Priest in Residence.

We also thank Fr Joy Thottankara who has been our Assistant Priest this year. Fr Joy has been appointed as Parish Priest of Otari parish, working alongside Fr Tikoua Kautu, Assistant Priest. We look forward to working with him again next year, in a different way. Fr Joy is going home to India for a holiday from 26th December.

There will be a parish opportunity to offer our thanks and farewell to both Fathers Ron and Joy after our 10.30am Sunday Mass at St Thomas More Church on 17th December. From this weekend there will be farewell cards in the entrance at all Masses for you to pen a personal note, or you may send one into the parish office and we will add to the card.

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 **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.**

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.

Christmas - January 2024 Eucharistic Timetable: Please check the Church Notice Boards for details of our Christmas and January Mass Times. Details are also available on our website: www.mcshwellington.org Unlike previous years there will be weekday Mass available in our Connolly Hall Chapel at 8.30am on each Tuesday through Saturday until our normal Mass timetable resumes on Tuesday 23 January. We are very grateful to Fr Viator for celebrating these Masses for us.

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 Marlon Maylon
Dec 23, Saturday Fr Ron Bennett	

Healing Service: Fr John Rea will conduct a Healing Service on Tuesday 12 December 2023 at the North Porirua Baptist Church 69f Discovery Place Whitby at 7.30 pm in the downstairs meeting room. All are welcome. Bring all those who need Jesus' healing.

ADVENT MASS — A Family Advent Mass will be celebrated at our 10.30am Sunday Mass at St. Thomas More church next Sunday 17 December. Interested parents whose children would like to participate in various Mass roles are invited to contact Chrisanthi Inch on 211896475 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

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.

Titipounamu Study & Joy

Christmas Story with Prof Thomas O'Loughlin:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2021/12/23/the-christmas-story/>

YouTube Recordings

YouTube and Muffin Talk recordings are available online at:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/muffin-talk/>

Our next Zoom sessions will be in February/March on the theme of Miracles.



TE KUPENGA CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
Enrolment for the Bachelor of Divinity and Graduate Diploma in Theology is still ongoing 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.

Carols with the Angels @ St Mary of the Angels:

Join the Cuba St Salvation Army Brass Band, Wellington Young Voices, and the musicians of St Mary's for a carol concert in our beautiful church. Wednesday December 13th, 7pm. Free entry, all welcome.

Donations for Sacred Heart Cathedral Strengthening and Restoration Campaign can be made to this bank account number: **02-0506-0138488-025**

Particulars: Your surname and initials . **Code:** Your phone number. **Reference:** REOPEN

Credit Card Donations can be made here: <https://www.cathedralcampaign.org.nz/donation-form>



Parish Office Christmas Holiday:

The Cathedral Parish Office will close at 12.00noon on Friday 22 December and reopen at 10.00am on Tuesday 23 January. On behalf of the entire Parish Office Team, we pray you have very blessed and Holy Christmas and New Year and thank you for your prayers and support in so many ways. Check the website for Mass Times: www.mcshwellington.org If you require a priest during this holiday time please phone the Parish Office on (04) 496-1700 where details of the on-call priest will be provided.

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/MCSHWellington/

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=247>

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



Gabrielle McLeavey
Raquel Panganiban
Novatus Rugambwa
Melinda Somera
June Swain
Wilijono 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

Recently Deceased
Christine, Sister of Catherine Wilson



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

Prepare the Way of the Lord!



The readings in today's Mass remind us that we are preparing for the coming of Jesus. The first reading says, "A voice cries out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord!'" Saint Paul,

in the second reading, tells us to conduct ourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for the day of the Lord.

In the Gospel reading we hear about Saint John the Baptist preparing the people for the coming of Christ.

What can we do to prepare for the coming of Jesus, which we remember especially at Christmas?



First, we should try to be holy like Saint Paul says. We should pray and do good. Then, we should make sure that we have repented of all our

sins, like Saint John the Baptist taught the people. Finally, we should tell people about Jesus! The first reading tells us, "Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God!"



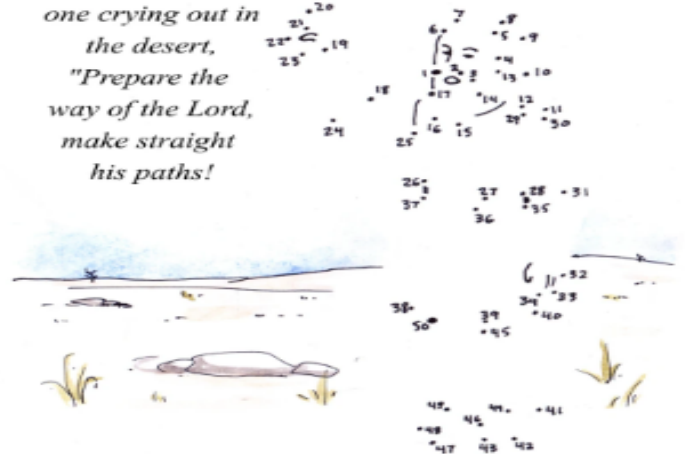
Answers to Search 40 Word Find: The Messiah is coming!
Answer to front page: Saint John the Baptist.

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent
December 10th, 2023

I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths!"



What did God send before Jesus to prepare the people for His coming? Connect the dots to find out!