



The Cathedral Connection



17 December 2023
Vol. 12 Issue 46
Third Sunday of Advent

Rejoice!

Every year, we celebrate Christmas with very close friends. Very close, that for us they are family. And just like every family, we enjoy exchanging gifts and simple tokens as part of our annual celebration. Fun and exciting as it may be, we thought this year that we would do something more meaningful; something looking outward that we may offer as a gift for Jesus' birth. Instead of buying gifts to exchange, we thought we would pool all that we would spend to buy gifts for each other and donate to charity. Worthy and meaningful, but is it what our Lord really wants, especially during this season of Advent and Christmas?

In his recent talk to the parish prayer group, Fr Alliston Fernandes touched on the story of St Jerome. It is told that on a Christmas night, while St Jerome was meditating about the birth of Jesus, our Lord appeared before him and asked him, "Jerome, what will you give me for my birthday?" It is said that St Jerome replied in ecstasy "I give you my heart.", but Jesus wanted more. St Jerome offered "all the prayers and affection of my heart; all that I have and all that I am", but our Lord still wanted more. Not knowing what else to offer, St Jerome asked "What is it that I can give you?" Our Lord replied, "Jerome, give me your sins, so that I may pardon all of them."

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*. This Sunday, we are called to rejoice in God our Saviour. Rejoice! As in St Paul's letter to the Philippians, 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near' (Philippians 4:4-5). The prophet Isaiah exults for joy in the Lord. And to the Thessalonians, St Paul writes to 'be happy at all times. In the Gospel, John the Baptist witnessed and testified to our Lord Jesus. Through the sacrament of reconciliation, we give Jesus our sins. Through the same sacrament, God cleans our hearts and spirits so that we may have joy in Him. Such joy in the Lord gives us the opportunity to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth as well as for his promised second coming.

By God's grace we are saved. We are saved and we are blessed. We are blessed that we may be witnesses to our Lord. We are blessed that we may be blessings to others. We celebrate God who comes to dwell among us to save us.

Blessed Sunday to all, Randy Reyes.



Readings for the Week

Sunday 17th – Third Sunday of Advent

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

Monday 18th – Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-24;

Tuesday 19th – Judges 13:2-7,24-25; Luke 1:5-25;

Wednesday 20th – Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38;

Thursday 21st – Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45;

Friday 22nd – 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56;

Saturday 23rd – commemoration of Saint John of Kęty, Priest

Malachi 3:1-4,23-24; Luke 1:57-66;

Sunday 24th – Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38;

'Joy must be the characteristic of our faith. Even in dark moments, that inner joy, of knowing that the Lord is with me, that the Lord is with us, that the Lord is Risen. The Lord! The Lord! The Lord! This is the centre of our life, and this is the centre of our joy. Think carefully today: how do I behave? Am I a joyful person who knows how to transmit the joy of being Christian, or am I always like those glum people, as I said before, who seem to be at a funeral wake?'



Pope Francis [Angelus](#) 13 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. Last Rosary for 2023 will be 18th December.

Scripture Reflection This Tuesday 19 December from 5pm-5.45pm is the last opportunity for 2023 to join online through Zoom for nourishment by the Word of God through Lectio Divina. All are welcome. <https://tinyurl.com/3xhax96d> Meeting ID: 848 2624 7342 Passcode: 404496

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Is available on Thursdays at the Connolly Hall Chapel from 7am until 7pm. Everyone is welcome to make a visit during these hours. The last day of Adoration will be 21 December. Adoration will begin again on 1st February 2024



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. Last meeting this year is the 18 December, beginning again on 5 February 2024.

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. To prepare our hearts for Jesus, there is an opportunity for individual Reconciliation following the 8.30am Connolly Hall Mass this **Saturday 16 December 2023**. Individual Reconciliation is also available by contacting the parish office.

An Advent **Rite II Reconciliation** service is being held this **Sunday 17th December 2023 at 4.00pm** in St. Thomas More Church, Wilton.

FAMILY ADVENT SERVICE

A Family Advent Mass is being celebrated during 10.30am Sunday Mass at St. Thomas More church this Sunday 17 December. Thank you to Chrisanthi Inch and her team for assisting our children in the parish to minister to us in this Mass. Please join with our parish families for morning tea will following Mass.



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.

Updated Christmas - January 2024 Eucharistic Timetable: Unfortunately there was an error in the parish timetable distributed last week. There will be no 7pm Mass celebrated on New Year's Eve. Updated times are available on our website: www.mcshwellington.org In a change to 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.

Parish Office Christmas Holiday closure dates

The Cathedral Parish Office will close at 12.00noon next Friday 22 December and reopen 10.00am on Tuesday 23 January. The Parish Office Team, prays that you have very blessed and Holy Christmas and New Year. We thank you for your prayers and support offered again this year. Mass Times are on the parish website: www.mcshwellington.org If you require a priest during the holiday period please phone the Parish Office on (04) 496-1700 for contact details of the on-call Priest.

FAREWELL TO FATHERS RON AND JOY

This weekend at the 10.30am Mass at St Thomas More the parish will farewell Fr Ron and Fr Joy, who are both moving to new roles in next year. Fr Ron has been appointed as Senior Priest in Residence at Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland, and Fr Joy as Parish Priest of Otari parish, working alongside Fr Tikoua Kautu, Assistant Priest.

There will be an opportunity to offer your thanks and farewell wishes to them both over morning tea after this Mass. We thank both Fathers Ron and Joy for their ministry in our parish. Fr Joy leaves the parish on 26th December to go home to India on holiday.

From 1 February 2024 the Cathedral Parish's new Pastoral Leadership team will be Fr Patrick Bridgman, Administrator and Debbie Matheson, Lay Pastoral Leader. Fr Viator Muyuni will be a Priest-in-Residence at Viard House while he completes his Doctorate.

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	



RESPOND TO OUR LADY'S INVITATION! Experience being a pilgrim in [Medjugorje](#). Join **Mir Pilgrimages** who have undertaken 35+ visits and have accurate knowledge of events and personal local connections.
www.pilgrimages.nz | 0274 219 064 | info@mirpilgrimages.co.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.

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

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.



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.

Prayer for the Holy Land

Jesus, protect the innocent and vulnerable, comfort the suffering, and give courage and wisdom to leaders in the Holy Land. Amen.
<https://www.caritas.org.nz/where-we-work/holy-land>.

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>



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
Willijono Tanudjojo
Luke Monaghan

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 Kathryn 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

Who Will Lead You to God?



Today's Gospel reading tells us about Saint John the Baptist, who prepared the people for the coming of Jesus. At first people thought that he might be the saviour they were all waiting for, but he was very clear when he told them that he wasn't- there was one coming after him Who would be the truly great One.

Sometimes we hear about great or important people. We know about movie stars and singers and government leaders. Who are some important people you know of?



Do those people that you've thought about help to bring you closer to God? Do they teach you well and give good example? Or do they lead people away from God by doing wrong things or making fun of God's truth?



We can know which people are really great by thinking about whether they lead us closer to God, like Saint John the Baptist did, or further away from Him. Which sort of people do you want to follow?

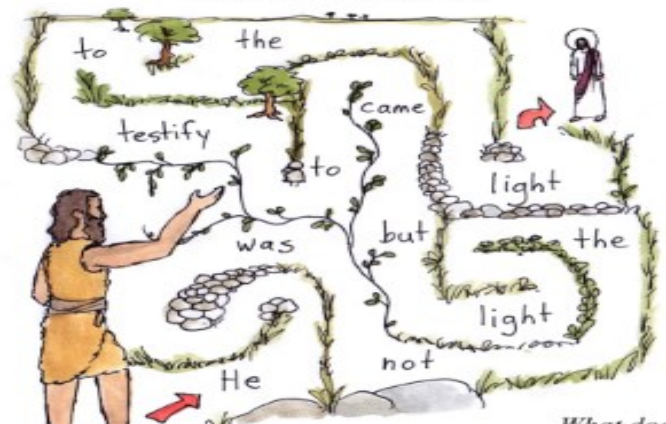


Answer to Word-Find: brokenhearted

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent
December 17th, 2023



What does Saint John the Baptist say about the beginning of the Gospel? Read the words you pass as you go through the maze.

Was the priest who offered Mass today wearing pink vestments? The colour pink, or rose, is a sign of joy. We use it for the third Sunday of Advent because we are happy that we're half-way to Christmas! If you have an Advent wreath, it's time to light the pink candle!

