



The Cathedral Connection



24 December 2023
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Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dear Parishioners,

Another year is passing us by. There have been ups and downs, joys and sorrows, moments of ease and worry. But the grace of the Lord has seen us through them all. May God's name be glorified! As I pen down these few lines for the last newsletter of the year, which also happens to be my last message, what wells up in my heart is **GRATITUDE**... Gratitude to God and to every member of Sacred Heart Cathedral Community for all that you have been to me during my very short stint of ministry in your midst. With a grateful heart, I pray along with St. Paul: "My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). **Thank you one and all!**

This weekend we light the **fourth candle** in the advent wreath which is purple in colour representing **Peace** and is called the "**Angel's Candle**." The angels sang at the birth of Jesus: "**Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.**" May our hearts find favour with God that we may come to possess the peace and joy that Jesus brings at his birth.

On Monday, we will be celebrating Christmas. The birth of Jesus Christ was an event that the whole world waited and longed for so long. Christmas reminds us of how God showed His Mercy to the mankind by choosing to send His own Son to save a sinful world. Talking to the Personnel of the Holy See and of the Vatican City State with their families on December 14, 2014, Pope Francis said: "This is the true Christmas: the celebration of the poverty of God, who emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant (cf. Phil 2:6); of God who set himself to serve at table (cf. Lk 22: 27); of God who hides from the wise and understanding, and who reveals Himself to babes, to the simple and the poor (cf. Mt. 11:25); of the 'Son of Man who came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many' (cf. Mk 10:45).

Christmas reminds us that God shared His love by giving us His Son. Christmas above all, Pope Francis said, is the celebration of peace on earth brought by the Baby Jesus: "Peace between heaven and earth, peace between all peoples, peace in our hearts; the peace sung by the angels: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men of good will" (cf. Lk 2:14). A peace which needs our enthusiasm, our care, to warm cold hearts, to encourage downcast souls and to light up lifeless eyes with the light of Jesus' face.

Let us respond to God's love joyfully by sharing our health, wealth, talents and blessings with our brothers and sisters in whom we encounter the Babe of Bethlehem and come to experience and possess His lasting peace!

*The parish leadership team and parish office staff would like to wish you all
A Joyous Christmas and A Prosperous New Year 2024*

May the Baby Jesus of Bethlehem bless you all!
Fr. Joy Raphael



Readings for the Week

Sunday 24th – Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Monday 25th – Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18;

Tuesday 26th – Saint Stephen, the first Martyr - Feast

Acts 6:8-10,7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22;

Wednesday 27th – Saint John, Apostle, Evangelist - Feast

1 John 1:1-4; John 20:2-8;

Thursday 28th – The Holy Innocents, Martyrs - Feast

1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18;

Friday 29th – commemoration of Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr

1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35;

Saturday 30th – 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40;

Sunday 31th – The Holy Family

Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19; Luke 2:22-40;

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)

'Let us invite him among us, into our homes, into our families. And also — everyone knows this well — let us invite him into our frailties. Let us invite him, so that he may see our wounds. He will come and life will change.' Pope Francis [Angelus](#) 03 January 2021



Meri Kirihimete 2023



Parish Office Christmas Holiday closure dates

The Cathedral Parish Office is now closed and reopens 10.00am on Tuesday 23 January.

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.

Fr Joy leaves the parish on 26th December. Thanks and welcome to all priests presiding at our Masses in his absence, Fr Viator, Fr David, Fr James and Monsignor Gerard.

And unto us a child is "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

May the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, bring you and your loved one's joy and peace at Christmas.

Christmas/January Mass Schedule

The Mass schedule is available on the parish website www.mcswhellington.org and copies are available in the church foyer. Normal Mass schedule resumes on Tuesday 23rd January. Monday Rosary and Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion in Connolly Hall Chapel will resume on Monday 29 January. There will be no 7.00pm Mass in Connolly Hall chapel on Christmas or New Years Eve.

Connolly Hall Guardians and Chapel opening times December 2023-January 2024

Thank you to all our guardians who generously arrive on their appointed day to offer hospitality and assistance to all who arrive at Connolly Hall during the week. Your assistance to our Priests for daily Mass and warm welcome is a blessing for us all. The guardians are now taking a well deserved holiday break, returning on Tuesday 23rd January, therefore Connolly Hall Chapel will only be open for 8.30am daily Mass until the guardians return.

Cathedral Connection newsletter

The newsletter editing team and the parish office are now on summer holiday break. The first newsletter for 2024 will be published the weekend of 27/28 January.

Hospitality

Thanks to the many groups/families who provide the Sunday morning parishioners with hospitality after Mass. These lovely people are also taking a well deserved break over the holiday period. Hospitality will resume from Sunday 28th January 2024.



Sunday Divine Mercy Devotions - Will resume on Sunday 4 February 2024 from 6pm-6:30pm in Connolly Hall Chapel.

Monday Rosary - Will resume on Monday 23 January 2024 from 11.30am in Connolly Hall Chapel.

Anointing Mass: The 8.30am Mass on the **Second Saturday of the month** will be an Anointing Mass. First Anointing Mass in 2024 will be 10 February 2024.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Will resume on Thursday 1 February 2024 and continue each Thursday in Connolly Hall Chapel from 7am until 7pm. Everyone is welcome to make a visit during these hours.

Sacred Heart Cathedral Prayer Group

Will resume on Monday 5 February 2024. From then on they meet on 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month in Connolly Hall Chapel from 7.30pm-9pm. All are welcome.

Family Advent Mass - Thank you to Chrishanthi Inch and her dedicated team for preparing Tamariki in our parish to lead our liturgical ministries at last weekend's Sunday Mass. Our thanks again to the Tamariki too for their ministry of service which they carried out with such joy and energy. The children's ministry brought an extra brightness and joy to our Eucharistic celebration.

The Sacred Heart Cathedral Restoration Raffle Results - Thank you to all parishioners, groups and families who supported this raffle. Our deep gratitude to our parish fundraising team for their engagement with other parishes, their commitment of time to get to this stage of the fundraising campaign and the dollars raised from this raffle. Special thanks to Bob Houston their guide and raconteur. Bob is emphatic that *"the job has to be done"* and his energy is very infectious.

Winning Ticket numbers are:

Prize No. 1 Ticket 8248
Prize No. 4 Ticket 9320
Prize No. 7 Ticket 3345

Prize No. 2 Ticket 7683
Prize No. 5 Ticket 94

Prize No. 3 Ticket 1440
Prize No.6 Ticket 5199

Please continue to support this team in 2024. New team members are very welcome, contact the parish office.