



The Cathedral Connection



18 February 2024
Vol. 13 Issue 4
First Sunday of Lent

Being intentional

In the season of Lent, we are invited to be intentional in our discipleship to grow closer in our relationship with God. The season guides us into, a period of reflection, repentance, and ongoing transformation of our lives, to prepare us to continue to do the work Jesus asks of us as His disciples. Discipleship involves a lifelong process of transformation.

Today's readings remind us of the divine presence in the created world. In the Gospel, Jesus invites us all to choose a change in lifestyle. He invites us to turn away from whatever inhibits our full flourishing and turning towards God.

The second readings during Lent assert the importance of baptism as the entryway into the paschal mystery of Jesus. Reflection on our baptismal promises reminds us of our commitment to Christian discipleship, and of the power of saying 'Yes!' to God's call.

As disciples, a chosen people, we are called to proclaim Christ's call to repent and believe. We respond through the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through these practices we receive an opportunity to be intentional, to seek to grow closer to God, to conform our hearts, minds, and actions to God. These practices invite us to change our ways, to start living a new way, to choose actions that lead us closer to and what is of God, and through almsgiving bless others.

Throughout this Lenten season, I pray that we all, as intentional disciples, will choose to build into our Christian lives extra time in prayer to discern what change in lifestyle the Spirit is leading us to; what steps and actions we could choose that will lead us closer to Jesus and conform our life with His; and how we can allow God to use us during this season so that we may continue to be a blessing to others.



Debbie Matheson
Lay Pastoral Leader

Readings for the Week

Sunday 18th – First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

Monday 19th – Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18; Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday 20th – Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday 21st – Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32

Thursday 22nd – 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19

Friday 23rd – Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday 24th – Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48

Sunday 25th – Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18; Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10

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)

'It is time to act, and in Lent, *to act also means to pause*. To pause *in prayer*, in order to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan *in the presence of a wounded brother or sister*. Love of God and love of neighbour are one love. Not to have other gods is to pause in the presence of God beside the flesh of our neighbour. For this reason, prayer, almsgiving and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying, in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us. Then the atrophied and isolated heart will revive. Slow down, then, and pause!'



Pope Francis, [Message for Lent](#) 2024.



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 - Resumes this Wednesday and then on Sundays 6pm-6:30pm in Connolly Hall Chapel. All welcome.

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

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. Resumes this Monday 5 February.

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.



If anyone is interested to commit to an hour of Adoration on Thursdays on either a weekly or fortnightly basis please contact **Sr Marie Ph 022 639 0240** or mariegore023@gmail.com

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

Reconciliation:

Rite I Reconciliation: Will be available from 30 minutes before the start of the Saturday Vigil and Sunday Morning Masses on the following weekends: 24-25 February, 2-3 March, and 9-10 March.

Rite II Reconciliation: A Special Rite II Reconciliation service that combines with our Children's Sacramental Programme First Reconciliation will be held at St Joseph's Church, Mt Victoria at 2.00pm on Sunday 24 March. All parishioners are invited to attend.

Lent



Lenten Reflection: The 40 days of the Lenten season commemorates Jesus' time spent fasting in the desert and enduring the temptations. It is set aside as a period of preparation for us as we journey towards the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During the Lenten season we are encouraged to spend extra time with the Lord in prayer, by reading Sacred Scripture, serving through the giving of alms and doing something extra to assist others in need; and practice self-control through fasting.

Our parish is offering opportunities for you to come together to read, explore and pray with each coming week's Sunday Gospel reading, and to communally pray the Stations of the Cross. The times for these are:



Scripture reflection - 6.00pm in Connolly Hall chapel on the following Wednesdays

21st, 28th February

6th, 13th, 20th March

Stations of the Cross – 7.00pm in Connolly Hall chapel on the following Fridays

16th, 23rd February

1st, 8th, 15th March

If you are not able to commit to every session please do join us whenever you are able.



Palm Sunday Palms:

Before the Cathedral closed in 2018, many of you may remember our Palm Sunday celebrations where we had very large palm fronds that were used as part of the Palm Sunday Procession. (See photos). If anyone is in a position to supply us with twelve of these large fronds can you please contact the parish office as soon as possible to organise. Many thanks.



Last Weekend: Unfortunately due to an accidental communications cable being cut late last week, the parish had no telephone, internet or file server access. Thus we were unable to produce a newsletter. You will be pleased to know that with the swift work of some dedicated people we are now fully connected again.



The Sacred Heart Cathedral Restoration Gala Dinner

Your support is sought for a function to be held from 6.30pm on Friday 12 April to help raise the final \$1m required to complete the strengthening and restoration of our Metropolitan Cathedral.

- The Function:** A dinner with auction and debate.
- The Debate topic:** It's better to be sporty than naughty.
- The Debaters:** Six of NZ's funniest premier performers.
- The Chair:** Rt. Hon. Gerry Brownlee MP.
- The Debate prize:** The Justin du Fresne Gold Cup.
- The Venue:** St. Pat's Town College Hall.

Your support is requested in the form of:

Sponsorship packages:

- GOLD (\$4,000 +GST), includes a table of 10
- SILVER (\$2,500 +GST), includes a table of 10

Table bookings:

Table for 10 people, \$1,200 +GST

All enquiries and bookings to: bobhouston@xtra.co.nz, mobile: 0274 898017

BAKE SALE

MCSH Earthquake Strengthening Fundraiser

THIS WEEKEND

EFTPoS available

After the following Masses:

SATURDAY

5:30pm Mass at St. Thomas More, Wilton

SUNDAY

10:00am Mass at St. Teresa's, Karori

10:30am Mass at St. Thomas More, Wilton

7:00apm Mass at the Cathedral Chapel, Connolly hall, Thorndon

Donations of baking for sale are greatly appreciated.

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

Bible Stories - What do they mean?

Join us in unravelling Bible stories and looking for answers within a group, and with Bible Scholar Kieran Fenn fms.

Sundays, 03 Mar, 07 Apr, 05 May 2024, 5-6pm (Zoom). Koha

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/01/19/bible-stories-what-do-they-mean/>

The Mystery of Miracles

Mondays, 08/15/22/29 April 2024, 7-8.30pm

\$25/session or \$80/series, incl. study material.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/01/11/the-mystery-of-miracles/>



TITIPOUNAMU
Study & Joy

Te Rōpū Tautoko

The group coordinating Catholic engagement with the Royal Commission

Update on the "Assessment of the Implementation of Safeguarding Culture Standards of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand"

As announced in 2023, GPCS Consulting have been appointed to undertake an assessment of the Implementation of Safeguarding Culture Standards of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand

The output of the assessment will be a report provided to Te Rōpū Tautoko (TRT) to be considered by the Mixed Commission and the National Safeguarding and Professional Standards Committee. It is the Mixed Commission that will determine the response to conclusions and recommendations arising from the report. A summary of the final assessment report will be published on the TRT website.

The assessment started in November 2023 and will be completed, through the publication of the summary assessment report, by June 2024. The assessors have begun meeting various stakeholders online and will be in Aotearoa New Zealand from 14-24 February.

The terms of reference for the assessment can be downloaded here (<https://catholic.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7c916b655c8814bc0beda91c5&id=f4b0336463&e=52aa23c50d>) are published on the Tautoko website.

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

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Ph: (04) 496 1700
cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz
www.mcshwellington.org
www.facebook.com/MCSHWWellington/

Parish Pastoral Leadership Team

- Fr Patrick Bridgman
Cathedral Administrator
- Debbie Matheson
Lay Pastoral Leader

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: Nikolai (Nik) Solia

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=252>



Barbara Gore

Phil Hickey

June Swain

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

February Anniversaries:

Stanley George 22 Feb

George Hunt 27 Feb

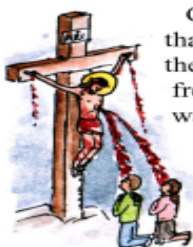
For all the dead. Those near and dear to us and those who have no one to pray for them.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

God Washes Away our Sins

In the time of Noah, the people had forgotten about God. They only cared about themselves. They didn't care if they sinned against God or against each other. Only Noah and his family still remembered God and tried to do what was right.



God let a flood destroy all the people other than Noah's family. He wanted to wipe out the sins of the world and give people a fresh start at living in peace with Him. He washed the sins away with the great flood.

But the people still sinned, just like we do even after we have been baptized. So Jesus did something that would have the power to take away all the sins that are ever committed. He died on the cross, letting His blood wash away our sins. Now all we have to do is be sorry and turn to God and accept the forgiveness that He is waiting to give us in Confession.



Answers: Front page: Noah's ark
Inside: He was tempted by the devil.

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

First Sunday of Lent
February 18th, 2024



What was the story mentioned in today's first reading that talks about God washing away the sins of the world and making a covenant with His people?

Connect the dots to find out what the story was about!