



The Cathedral Connection



10 March 2024
Vol. 13 Issue 7
Fourth Sunday of Lent

REJOICE?

Today is Laetare Sunday – ‘Laetare’ from the Latin text of the entrance antiphon which would be heard in a choral eucharist, ‘Laetare Jerusalem...’, that is, ‘Rejoice, Jerusalem...’. It’s halfway through Lent, so we can take a wee breather.

But rejoicing is very often ambiguous. The Psalm for today is the well-known ‘By the rivers of Babylon’, recalling the Jewish people’s exile in the sixth century before Christ. The antiphon is taken from Isaiah 66, where the prophet looks forward to the end of the exile. So we have dispossession and restoration. But I imagine that even after the return to Jerusalem, it was hard to forget the exile.

In the southern hemisphere, Lent coincides with autumn, the time of harvest. Jenny and I are fortunate to be able to grow a lot of our own vegetables and fruit, and the harvest is indeed prolific this year. We shall have tomatoes and apples in the freezer to keep us going for months; there is fresh corn, and the chickens are not on strike. On one level, then, I could write about being grateful for the goodness of God and of God’s Earth – and I am grateful.

But Lent also directs us to think of our neighbour – of the cry of the poor and now the cry of the Earth, too. In this month’s WelCom, Mena Antonio of Caritas Aotearoa writes of peace and war, reflecting especially on the fighting in Gaza. I am trying to remind myself that gratitude for one’s own blessings is a bit hollow if one does not also remember the needs of others. Isaiah says something like this in chapter 1: ‘even though you make many prayers, I will not listen... cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow’.

In Laudato Si’, Pope Francis writes of how gratitude might entail ‘a recognition that the world is God’s loving gift, and that we are called quietly to imitate his generosity in self-sacrifice and good works’ ([para 220](#)). In asking us to ensure that we give thanks for food, he suggests that this ‘reminds us of our dependence on God for life; it strengthens our feeling of gratitude for the gifts of creation; it acknowledges those who by their labours provide us with these goods; and it reaffirms our solidarity with those in greatest need’ ([227](#)).

- Jim McAloon



Readings for the Week

Sunday 10th – Fourth Sunday of Lent

2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21

Monday 11th - Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54

Tuesday 12th – Ezekiel 47:1-9,12; John 5:1-3,5-16

Wednesday 13th – Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30

Thursday 14th – Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47

Friday 15th – Wisdom 2:1,12-22; John 7:1-2,10,25-30

Saturday 16th – Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-52

Sunday 17th – Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33

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)

‘This is what we are called to do with greater dedication during Lent: to welcome the light into our conscience, to open our hearts to God’s infinite love, to his mercy full of tenderness and goodness, to his forgiveness.’



Pope Francis, [Angelus](#), 14 March 2021



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 - 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.

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

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

From Pope Francis' 2024 Lenten Message: Lent "is a season of conversion, a time of freedom" because "God does not want subjects, but sons and daughters" and, citing the Book of Exodus, he emphasises that the Word of God addresses each one of us personally today: "I am the Lord, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery". Along these lines, the Holy Father emphasises that "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" because "love of God and love of neighbour are one love".

Lenten Opportunities - Dates Below

Scripture reflection - 6pm in Connolly Hall chapel on the following Wednesdays - 6, 13, 20 March

Stations of the Cross – 7pm in Connolly Hall chapel on the following Fridays - 1, 8, 15 March

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



Reconciliation:

Rite I Reconciliation: Will be available from 30 minutes before the start of the Saturday Vigil and Sunday Morning Masses this weekend, 9-10 March or by appointment through the [parish office](#). (04) 496-1700

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 2pm on Sunday 24 March.

This is our Parish's Lenten opportunity to come together for Rite II Reconciliation.



Royal Commission on Abuse in Care

Te Rōpū Tautoko is the group coordinating Catholic engagement with the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care. Its recent update is that the Commission is due to present its Final Report to the Governor-General by 28 March 2024. If that date is met, the report is likely to be available to the public in early to mid-April. In 2018 when the Inquiry was established, the terms of reference only included State care. Many people asked the Inquiry to broaden the terms of reference, including bishops and congregational leaders.

The Church is ready to review the Commission's Final Report and consider the Recommendations that arise from it during the Inquiry. For further information visit <https://tautoko.catholic.org.nz/>

Charity in Truth

The dignity of the individual and the demands of justice require, particularly today, that economic choices do not cause disparities in wealth to increase in an excessive and morally unacceptable manner, and that we continue to *prioritize the goal of access to steady employment* for everyone. All things considered, this is also required by "economic logic". Through the systemic increase of social inequality, both within a single country and between the populations of different countries... not only does social cohesion suffer, thereby placing democracy at risk, but so too does the economy, through the progressive erosion of "social capital": the network of relationships of trust, dependability, and respect for rules, all of which are indispensable for any form of civil coexistence...

Lowering the level of protection accorded to the rights of workers, or abandoning mechanisms of wealth redistribution in order to increase the country's international competitiveness, hinder the achievement of lasting development. Moreover, the human consequences of current tendencies towards a short-term economy — sometimes very short-term — need to be carefully evaluated.... This is demanded, in any case, by the earth's state of ecological health; above all it is required by the cultural and moral crisis of man, the symptoms of which have been evident for some time all over the world.

Pope Benedict XVI, [Caritas in Veritate/Charity in Truth, para 32](#)



AUCTION ITEMS

Your donation of quality portable items for auction is greatly appreciated.

Let us turn your quality unused goods into cash for the Cathedral. Goods such as: sporting memorabilia, quality jewellery, original art, rings, collectable watches, statues, bach holiday packages etc. After our auction 12th April, any unsold items will be placed (no reserve) on Trade Me with all proceeds going to the Cathedral cause. Contact for drop-off or Wellington pickup: bobhouston@xtra.co.nz



METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL
OF THE SACRED HEART

**A brilliant night out helping
on our journey 'home' again.**

**THE SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL RESTORATION
Gala Dinner, Debate and Auction
in association with L.T. McGuinness Ltd**

The Date: Friday 12th April 2024

The Time: from 6.30pm

The Venue: St Pat's Town (Hall)

The Function: A dinner/auction/debate

The Debate: It's better to be sporty than naughty

The Debaters: Six of NZ's funniest premier performers, including Jim Hopkins, Mary Lambie, Josie Pagani, Ken Laban, Mike Copeland plus one more

The Chair: Rt. Hon. Gerry Brownlee MP

The Prize: The Justin du Fresne Gold Cup

Bookings for sponsorship packages available

GOLD (\$4,000 +gst) includes a table of 10

SILVER (\$2,500 +gst) includes a table of 10

Table bookings (10 people) are being accepted (\$1,200 + gst)

Individual bookings also available \$120 + gst per head.

Sponsorships, tables and enquiries

📧 bobhouston@xtra.co.nz 📞 0274 898017

RSVP: 31 March 24 or until sold out.

Wellington Organ Proms

**Sunday March 10
2.30-4pm
St Mary of the Angels**

International organist Christopher Hainsworth will present a special concert on the Fernie Organ. From Dubois to Mendelssohn and Bach. All proceeds go to the Maxwell Fernie Trust, supporting young New Zealand organists.

Entry by koha.



**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE N.Z.
TE ROPU WAHINE KATORIKA O AOTEAROA**

**WORKING TOGETHER ACHIEVING MORE
KIA MAHI TAHI**

80th Birthday and Conference

Saturday 16/Sunday 17 March 2024

1.00pm Start 5.00 Mass

6.00 Dinner and Entertainment

Sunday workshop with Joy Cowley

Costs Registration \$40.00 Dinner \$30.00

Contact Helen Greig archdio.sec@gmail.com
0275289635

St Bernadette's Church Hall
190 Naenae Road Naenae Lower Hutt

You are invited to celebrate with us

THE SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL RESTORATION

EASTER RAFFLE

Prizes: 1st, 2nd each \$1,000 New World Gift Card

3rd & 4th each \$500 New World Gift Card

Ticket Price: \$5 per ticket, 3 for \$10, a book of 8 for \$20

Tickets available after the Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses *EftPos* available or contact Bob Houston: email: bobhouston@xtra.co.nz

Tell us your requirements and we will forward you the pay-in account details and send your tickets to you. Tickets will be available for purchase after all parish Masses this weekend and eftpos will be available. Please consider selling tickets to family or friends or giving as a nice Easter surprise.

Authorised by the Sacred Heart Cathedral Restoration Committee

BAKE SALE

MCSH Earthquake Strengthening
Fundraiser

NEXT WEEKEND

After the following Masses:

SATURDAY— 5:30pm Mass at

St. Thomas More, Wilton

SUNDAY 10:30am Mass at St. Thomas

More, Wilton and 7:00apm Mass at the

Cathedral Chapel. *Eftpos* available.

Donations of baked goods for sale very welcome.

Our Lady's Home of Compassion, Island Bay — Events

Quiet Day:

In these unquiet times, let's gently reflect on insights from the life and works of Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert and, in peace, draw fresh strength and hope. This Quiet Day, led by Sr Sue Cosgrove, is at Our Lady's Home of Compassion, Thursday 14 March, Rhine St, Island Bay, from 10:30 am - 2:30 pm. Refreshments are provided. There is no fee however a koha is greatly appreciated. To register, please email: sr.sue@compassion.org.nz

Meditation in the Christian Tradition:

Mondays, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Thursdays 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Venue: The Chapel of Our Lady of Compassion, 2 Rhine Street, Island Bay. Join our ancient form of contemplative prayer, deeply anchored in the teachings of the ancient Christian traditions of the Desert Fathers and Mothers. All are welcome.



compassion
te pūaroaha

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cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz
www.mcshwellington.org
www.facebook.com/MCSHWellington/

Parish Pastoral Leadership Team

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

Secretary:

Frank Doherty
Office Hours:
10am-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)
8am 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
7pm: 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=255>



- Barbara Gore**
- Phil Hickey**
- June Swain**
- Arthur Bond**
- Kari Lalonde-Bond**
- Ann Dale**

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:

Ruben Librada Cueto - 29 Feb 2024
Sr Ruth Vella RSM - 2 March 2024
Colleen Hussy - 6 March 2024
(Sister of Monica Franklin)

March Anniversaries:

Casey Foo, 8 March
Marie Byrne, 8 March
John Murray, 18 March
Patrick (Pat) Williams, 19 March
Sr Susanna Kraus RSM, 31 March

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



CHILDREN'S CORNER

For God so Loved the World



When God made the world He wanted the people to be His friends and always live in happiness. But instead of choosing to love God completely, the people sinned. They were cut off from the happiness of God because they chose to love themselves more than they loved God.

But God still loved the people so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to save the people from their sins. Now we just need to choose to believe in Jesus, and to love Him. As today's Gospel reading says, "...so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life."



How can we turn to Jesus so that we can be saved from our sins?
Here are a few things that can help you a lot:

1. When you wake up in the morning, tell Jesus that you are offering everything that happens today to Him.
2. Every day look at a crucifix (a cross with Jesus on it.) Think about how much Jesus loves us. How much do we love Him back?



3. Each night before you go to sleep, think about your day. Did you show your love for God today? If you did something bad, be sorry and think about how can you do better tomorrow.

The Deportation to Babylon

Do you know what happened to the people of Jerusalem when they sinned against God?

These pictures are in the wrong order. Put the numbers from 1 to 6 in the boxes to sort them out!

