



The Cathedral Connection



17 March 2024
Vol. 13 Issue 8
Fifth Sunday of Lent

“Producing Much Fruit”

“Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit”. This was the sentence that spoke to my heart as I listened to this week’s Gospel being proclaimed and reflected on at our parish Lenten reflection session in Connolly Hall on Wednesday. For me, these sessions ‘produce much fruit’.

Reflecting further on this statement, I pondered on not only of the consequences to myself, but also of how – together as community – “dying to self” shapes us in our thoughts and actions. How might we lean more fully into this invitation?

As we continue to walk gently through this Lenten season may we be generous in gifting to ourselves time to be still and listen to what the dying to self really means. Let us reflect on how our actions of faith shape our conscience, and how we discern and live out God’s deepest desires for us; recall the wonderful things that we all do – individually, and as a community; remembering the ways that we have shown (and hope to show) how our dying to self may give life for others, like Christ?

In these waning days of Lent, may we all courageously open our hearts to ready ourselves for the joy of the new life of Easter. To prune the vines, compost the soil, water the roots, remove the weeds, sow the seeds, drive away the birds – all in preparation to produce much fruit!

Acting with responsibility and integrity, how can we all use the time we have on Earth to produce much fruit? What action are we going to take this week to “produce much fruit”, individually or communally?



Debbie Matheson

Readings for the Week

Sunday 17th – Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

Monday 18th - Daniel 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62; John 8:1-11

Tuesday 19th (St Joseph) – 2 Samuel 7:4-5,12-14,16; Romans 4:13,16-18,22; Matthew 1:16,18-21,24

Wednesday 20th – Daniel 3:14-20,24-25,28; John 8:31-42

Thursday 21st – Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59

Friday 22nd – Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42

Saturday 23rd – Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56

Sunday 24th – Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1-15:47

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)

“Precisely then, in trials and in solitude, while the seed is dying, that is the moment in which life blossoms, to bear ripe fruit in due time. It is in this intertwining of death and life that we can experience the joy and true fruitfulness of love, which always, I repeat, is given in God’s style: closeness, compassion, tenderness.”



Pope Francis, [Angelus](#), 21 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

Lenten Opportunities

Scripture reflection - 6pm in Connolly Hall chapel on Wednesday, 20 March

Stations of the Cross – 7pm in Connolly Hall chapel on Friday, 15 & 22 March

All are welcome.

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".



Reconciliation

Rite I Reconciliation: Available 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 Palm Sunday 24 March. This is our Parish's Lenten opportunity to come together for Rite II Reconciliation.



Congratulations!



Parishioner Jane Kelly has been named as a finalist in the Heritage category of The Post 2023 Wellingtonian of the Year Awards.

As Chair and Principal of TEAM Architects New Zealand, Jane has led the restoration of Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Thank you Jane for the dedication and skill you have brought to the Cathedral Restoration. You are a champion!

THIS WEEKEND

After the following Masses:

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

SUNDAY 10:30am Mass at St. Thomas More, Wilton and 7pm Mass at the Cathedral Chapel.

Eftpos available.

Donations of baked goods for sale very welcome.

BAKE SALE

MCSH Earthquake Strengthening Fundraiser

Collections/Donations – End of financial year

The 31st of March 2024 is not far away, and with it comes the end of the tax year. We are beginning to set everything in place for the preparation of the Planned Giving and Donation tax receipts that will be produced in April.

Now is an appropriate time to consider if you are able to gift a little extra, or to bring your giving up to date prior to the 31st March. Doing this offers you the opportunity to claim a percentage of your giving as a rebate now in 2024, rather than waiting until 2025.

If you want to make any changes to your receipt, name, initials, or change to a joint receipt or would like to become a donor through planned giving, by envelope or online giving, please contact the [parish office](#). *Thank you so much.*

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL RESTORATION GALA DINNER, DEBATE, AND AUCTION

Tickets now
available online:

[https://www.trybooking.com/
nz/RHS](https://www.trybooking.com/nz/RHS)

Or scan the
QR Code:



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.

GOD REIGNS
NO DOUBTS

JOSHUA
CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Last Days!

Joshua Wellington invites men to join them on Thursday 21 March at 7:30pm at the 'Loaves and Fishes' next to the Anglican Cathedral of St Paul followed by supper.

Speaker: Michael Powell on "God reigns - no doubts"

Want to know more? Ring David Monastra 027-4477-280 or email: joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

THE SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL RESTORATION EASTER RAFFLE

Prizes: 1st & 2nd each \$1000 New World Gift Card

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

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

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

Tell us your requirements and we will forward you the pay-in account details and send your tickets to you. Please consider selling tickets to family or friends or giving as a nice Easter surprise.

Authorised by the Sacred Heart Cathedral Restoration Committee

ST JOSEPH - THE JUST MAN

On Tuesday 19 March, we celebrate the feast day of St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In his Gospel, Matthew describes St Joseph as "just". Mary's future husband, faced with the inexplicable pregnancy of his fiancé, does not consider his wounded pride or dignity. Instead, his first thought is to save her from popular animosity or, worse still, from the stoning to which she risks being condemned. He does not want to repudiate her publicly but intends divorcing her informally and in secret. It's precisely at that moment of understandable anguish and suffering that the love of God comes, in the shape of an Angel, to encourage him. The Angel inspires Joseph to make the right choice, which is always to overcome fear. These are the words of the Angel: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name Him Jesus".

Joseph does not appear in any of the four Gospels that recount the public life of Jesus, nor at His crucifixion on Calvary, nor at the Resurrection. It is fair to presume, therefore, that he died before Jesus began his preaching. According to tradition, Joseph died with Mary and Jesus by his side – which is why he is also invoked as the Protector of the Dying. It is the wish of every one of us to leave our earthly home in the company of Jesus and His Mother.

From [Vatican News](#)



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

- 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=256>



Barbara Gore

Phil Hickey

June Swain

Ann Dale

Arthur Bond

Kari Lalonde-Bond

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:

Denis O'Neill - 15 Feb

Ruben Librada Cueto - 29 Feb

Sr Ruth Vella RSM - 2 March

Colleen Hussy - 6 March

(Sister of Monica Franklin)

Teresita "Terry" Tuason - 7 March

March Anniversaries:

Casey Foo, 8 March

Marie Byrne, 8 March

John Murray, 18 March

Patrick (Pat) Williams, 19 March

Pat Schleicher, 22 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

Unless a grain falls to the ground and dies...



Jesus knew He was going to die soon. It made Him sad, but He knew that He had to do it. He told the apostles, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." Because Jesus died, we can be freed from our sins and live!

Have you ever tried planting seeds? The little seeds are hard and dry and seem to be dead. We put them into some damp soil, and cover them up. After a few days you can see little sprouts coming out of the soil, and soon there are little plants growing! Maybe your Mom or Dad can help you plant some seeds this spring.

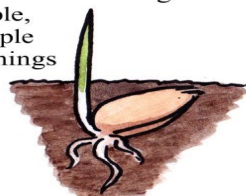


Our Lord was telling His friends that He had to be like a seed. He would die and be buried, and then after a few days, come back to life! And like a plant that grows and produces more seed, the Church would grow from Jesus and bring other holy people, saints, into the world. Saints are people that are ready to give up their good things and even their lives for love of God, just like Jesus.

Are you ready to be a saint?

Answer to Word Find:
Salvation.

www.thekidsbulletin.com



The Kids' Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 17th, 2024



In today's Gospel reading Jesus says, "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

Can you find your way from this grain of wheat to the new seeds at the top?