



# The Cathedral Connection



1 December 2024  
Vol. 13 Issue 43  
First Sunday of Advent

## REFOCUSING

This weekend we enter the season of Advent, a season of anticipation, and we begin again the church's liturgical year. The focus of our readings in the first two weeks of Advent are on the second coming of Christ at the end of time. Then, on the third Sunday, our focus moves to His first coming in Bethlehem.

Advent is also a time for remembering; a time of invitation, conversion and transformation; and continued witness. As a season it symbolises hope, joy, faith, love and peace, which is highlighted each week as we light another candle on the advent wreath.

Throughout Advent we are reminded that Jesus not only comes to us, but that we are to come to Him.

I know only too well how, in the busyness of the secular world, it can be challenging to find the stillness we need to hear God, especially so in the Advent season. Yet, this week that is what the scriptures this week remind us to do. Jesus tells us to stay vigilant – to be ready for Him and to make ready our way to Him. He reminds us not to let the anxieties of daily life make us drowsy, forgetful, or neglectful of preparing our hearts for him.

I can recall many periods in my life where I have felt distracted and neglectful. However, I have been fortunate during my recent recovery from back surgery to have been gifted with the opportunity of a period to refocus, to be more vigilant. This was a real blessing, as during this period I found myself even more in need of time to sit with and receive God's tender love and guidance.

Like the experiences of many others in our parish and in Wellington in these times of financial constraints, I have been advised that my position as Lay Pastoral Leader is impacted by Archdiocesan changes needed in response to their financial constraints. In response I have accepted redundancy. This will take effect in early March 2025 when the restrengthening and restoration work of the Cathedral winds up. I do not yet know what the next chapter of my life holds, but with vigilance and time God will reveal that to me.

So, as we light the first candle of the Advent wreath this weekend, may we all find comfort and hope in the direction offered to us in the words of scripture, seek the time and space to pause, to listen, and walk in the pathways of God.



**Debbie Matheson**  
Lay Pastoral Leader/Parish Leader

## Readings for the Week

### Sunday Dec 01<sup>st</sup> - First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2; Luke 21:25-28,34-36;

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>** - Isaiah 25:6-10; Matthew 15:29-37

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>** - Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21,24-27

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup>** - Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>** - Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26; Matthew 9:35-10:1,5,6-8

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>** - Baruch 5:1-9; Luke 3:1-6



## OUR MISSION & VISION

**To joyfully share God's love. To be a missionary people united in the hearts of Jesus and Mary**



'We need to be vigilant so that our daily life does not become routine, and, as Jesus says, so we are not burdened by life's anxieties. Today is a good moment to ask ourselves: what weighs on my heart, what weights on my spirit, am I aware or indifferent to the burdens that weigh on the shoulders of [others]? These are good questions as they guard our hearts against apathy, the enemy of the spiritual life.'

Pope Francis, Angelus, [First Sunday of Advent](#) 28/11/2021 '...we know that authentic faith not only gives strength to the human heart, but also transforms life, transfigures our goals and sheds light on our relationship to others and to creation as a whole'.  
*Laudate Deum* 61

**Action:** What does guarding against apathy and indifference look like for you as you begin your 2024 Advent journey?

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 Ōtari (Wilton and Karori).



**METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART**  
TE AHUREWA O TE NGĀKAU TAPU

## PARISH ACTIVITIES



### 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.



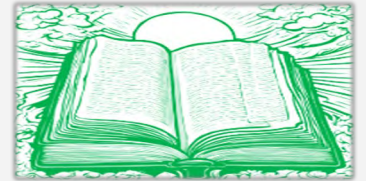
**Divine Mercy Devotions** - Sundays 6pm-6.30pm in the Cathedral. All welcome.

**Rosary** - Every Monday (except Public Holidays) from 11.30am in the Cathedral, all welcome.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** is available on Thursdays in the Cathedral from 7am until 7pm. Everyone is welcome to make a visit during these hours. If you can regularly spare an hour on a Thursday please contact the [parish office](#) to support this special time of encounter with Jesus.

**Scripture Reflection** – held in person every Tuesday at 6pm for 40 minutes. This is an opportunity to come together to pray with and discuss the scripture for the coming Sunday.

Meetings are in the **Cathedral Foyer**.



### Sacred Heart Cathedral Prayer Group - Next Meeting 2 December

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month in Connolly Hall from 7pm to 8.30pm. All are welcome. For prayer requests and enquiries, please email [mcsh.prayergroup@gmail.com](mailto:mcsh.prayergroup@gmail.com)

## ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Coming to the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a wonderful feature of Advent preparation for Christmas.

On **Thursdays 5, 12, 19 December** Reconciliation will be available between **6 – 7pm**. There is also the opportunity to ask one of the priests before/after Mass at other times.



### First week of Advent

*Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man. Pope Francis*

Each Sunday during Advent, one candle on the Advent wreath is lit. The primary colour of Advent is purple which symbolises royalty. As a whole the candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world. The circular shape of the Advent wreath symbolizes God's infinite love for us – it is never-ending, just like the true Light of the World, Jesus, who leads us into eternal life with Him. Each candle has a name assigned to it and symbolises a virtue.

This week we light the first of the purple candles. It is named the Prophecy Candle in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ: It represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah. Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

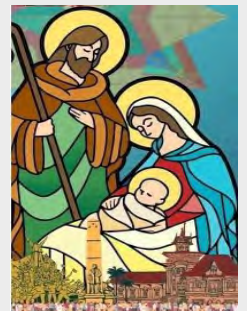
## Christmas Novena Masses (**Simbang Gabi**)

**St. Anne's Church,**  
15-23 December  
7PM

**Our Lady of Grace, Heretaunga**  
15-18 Dec, 7PM

**St. Joseph, Upper Hutt**  
19, 20, 22, 23 Dec, 7PM  
21 Dec, 6PM

**Sacred Heart Church, Petone**  
15 Dec, 5:30PM  
16-21 Dec, 7PM  
22 Dec, 5:30PM  
23 Dec, 7PM



**National March for Life.** You're invited to 'love them both' by attending the NATIONAL March for Life in Wellington on Saturday 7 December. Join people of goodwill from all over NZ in a celebration of life which also peacefully protests the practice and legality of abortion. Gather at Parliament Grounds from 1pm for family-friendly entertainment. The March will go out from Parliament Grounds at 2pm and return again - all activities conclude by 4pm. Learn more at [www.marchforlife.nz](http://www.marchforlife.nz)

# FUNDRAISING

## Cathedral Logo Mugs and Ceiling Wrapping Paper

These items will be for sale after all Masses this weekend. Ideal as gifts or for home use. Check them out! Mugs \$20ea and Wrapping Paper \$10 per roll.



## Pompallier Madonna Cards for sale \$7.50 each.



## Christmas Hamper Raffle

Hamper Raffle Tickets 1 for \$3; 2 for \$5; 5 for \$10  
To be drawn after 7pm Mass Sunday 8 December.



## Fundraiser Bake Sale

7-8 December

Your support for these regular fundraising events is greatly appreciated. Many thanks to the generous bakers who supply these delicious goodies. New bakers are always welcome. Please contact Geraldine Irinco or the parish office (04 496 1700) if you can help.



## Car Boot Sale

You are all encouraged to support the Car Boot Sale on Sunday 8 December, as it will be lots of fun and there will be a wonderful array of food and things to buy, including: pork and chicken bbq, Filipino ethnic food and desserts, fish cakes, mango lasi-drink, vadai, idle & sambar-mixer of dal and vegetables, pansit and Spanish bread, vegetable curry and bread, coffee, juice, smoothies and vegan food, children's clothes, books and toys, plants, macrame, books, household goods, toys, DVDs, clothes, shoes, game boards, books.

If you're keen to declutter and make some money, how about booking a place at the Car Boot Sale to be held in the Sacred Heart School grounds on Sunday 8 December. The cost is \$30 per car.

To secure a place or for any queries, please contact Joy, on [mcsf.fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:mcsf.fundraising@gmail.com) or 0210481216.

## CAR BOOT SALE

Fundraiser for the  
Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

FREE ENTRY FOR BUYERS



**Sunday, December 8th**  
11AM - 2PM

Sacred Heart Cathedral School  
12 Gullford Terrace, Wellington

Car Spots \$30

Special Rate Applies For Commercial Booking Essential

For Enquiries Please Contact:  
Joy - 0210481216  
[mcsf.fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:mcsf.fundraising@gmail.com)



## CLOISTER CAFÉ

at Our Lady's Home of Compassion

**Now open Saturdays**

TUESDAY - FRIDAY 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

SATURDAY 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**FREE PARKING!**

2 Rhine Street, Island Bay, Wellington



## Children's Christmas Gift Appeal

Donations of wrapped Christmas gifts for children in need are able to be placed inside the Christmas Crib until Monday 18 December. Please label each gift with appropriate age and gender the gift would suit. Gifts will be passed on to a local charity.



**"IT'S NOT HOW MUCH WE GIVE BUT HOW MUCH LOVE WE PUT INTO GIVING."**  
Mother Theresa

## COME AND JOIN ONE OF OUR MUSICAL TEAMS IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

So we can joyously lead the congregation in song and praise at Christmas, it would be wonderful to have you join us in preparation for Advent/Christmas.

Just come and join us at Mass or contact **Sr. Marie Gore (022 639 0240)** or **Sadie Laurenson (027 230 9158)** for more information.

**You will be made very welcome!**



## Remembrance and recommitment ceremony (Rā Maumaharatanga) at Korokoro cemetery:

You are welcome to join a peaceful hikoī starting beside the grave of famous chief Wi Tako at the **Catholic Cemetery on the corner of Pito-one Street and Korokoro Rd** on Sunday **1 December 2024**. Assemble at cemetery **from 1:30pm**. Our kaupapa will be to recall and pray for the tipuna interred in this important site and learn about our shared histories. It is also a reminder of the joint kaitiakitanga of this special place, cared for by Wi Tako's descendants, the Love whanau, parishioners from Te Wairua Tapu / Holy Spirit parish, and the Hutt City Council. Wi Tako was buried at Korokoro in 1887 from St Peter and Paul's church in Lower Hutt.

Following the service we will proceed – by foot or vehicle – for 15 minutes to Te Puni urupā in Te Puni Street, then another 15 minutes to Sacred Heart Church, 41 Britannia Street to share stories and a cuppa. Carparking adjacent to Korokoro cemetery. NB: please do not bring food on to the cemeteries, food will be provided at the church.

For details please **contact Gerard Duignan 027 265 6085**

# SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL PARISH

Please keep in your prayers

PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140.  
21 Eccleston Hill, Thorndon.  
Ph: (04) 496 1700  
[cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz)  
[www.mcshwellington.org](http://www.mcshwellington.org)  
[www.facebook.com/MCSHWellington/](http://www.facebook.com/MCSHWellington/)

## Parish Pastoral Leadership Team

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

**Parish 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/>

**SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL,**  
40 HILL ST, THORNDON.

## MASS TIMES

**Weekdays** (Except Public Holidays)

**12.10pm Monday** (Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion)

**8.00 & 12.10pm Tuesday to Friday**


**Saturday 8.30am**

**Vigil (Saturday) 5.30pm**

**Sunday 10am & 7pm**

**Reconciliation:** By appointment.

**Baptism:** by appointment. Please contact the Parish office.

 Sacred Heart Cathedral School The latest edition of our parish school newsletter is available at: <https://sacredhcs.schoolzineplus.com/schoolnews?nid=289>



Ruth Doherty  
Ira Hayes  
Carolina delos Reyes

*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

**December / January Anniversaries:**



- Dec 14 Dan Kelly
- Dec 24 Rebecca Franklin
- Dec 26 Robert Bond
- Dec 28 Frances Gray
- Jan 8 Michael Cecil-Gibson

*For all the dead. Those near and dear to us and those who have no one to pray for them. May their souls and the souls of all the departed rest in peace. Amen.*

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

### Advent is Here!

Today is the beginning of Advent, the time when we prepare for Christmas.



The word "advent" comes from the Latin word that means "coming". In Advent we are preparing for Jesus' coming. We look forward to Christmas, which is the celebration of His first coming and we also look forward to His second coming.



**WOULD I BE READY IF JESUS CAME TODAY?**

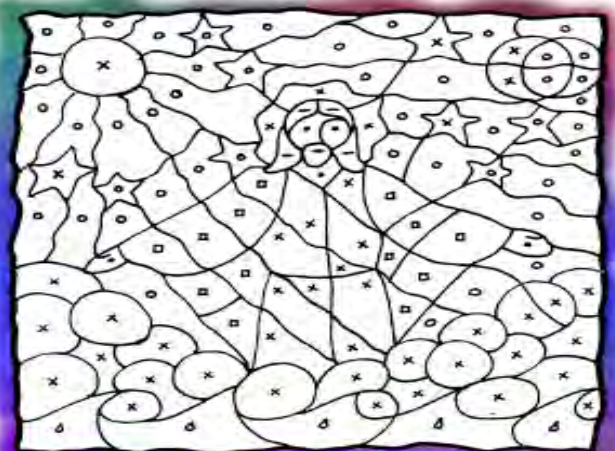
Did you know that the most important thing to have ready for Christmas is a clean soul?

During Advent you can try extra hard to be good. It is also a very good idea to go to confession before Christmas so that your soul will be good and clean when Jesus comes!



### The Kids' Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent  
December 1st, 2024



Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

*In today's Gospel reading Jesus talks about what is going to happen when He comes back at the end of the world.*

Use the code to colour in the picture!

- white
- blue
- skin colour
- black
- red
- dark brown