



The Cathedral Connection



8 December 2024
Vol. 13 Issue 44
Second Sunday of Advent

SHARING THE JOY

Our journey towards Christmas continues this weekend with all our readings promising a glorious future if we but believe in the power of the Lord.

The first reading is from Baruch, and we have a clear and unambiguous message. It was written for Jerusalem and the Jews who have been conquered by the Babylonians. They are weary and despairing, but the writer promises them a new and glorious future with their sons in exile returning 'like royal princes carried back in glory'. They proclaim the power and glory of God, capable of the 'flattening of each high mountain' and the 'filling of the valleys to make the ground level.' The Jews are exhorted to trust in God and believe in his mercy and power.

The sentiment of this is continued in the words of the gospel. Luke returns to the theme of the Old Testament with 'prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low', winding ways will be straightened'. This is to highlight the power of the Lord to even change the landscape should he so wish. The final line gives us something further that we can take here and now and act on. 'And all mankind shall see the salvation of God'. Luke is saying that not only should we believe in the power and glory of God to move mountains but the salvation that comes with belief in our Lord is available to everyone, Jew or Gentile. We need to think what that means in our world today. All peoples, those who already believe in a risen Christ and those who have not had the privilege of hearing the Gospel are offered salvation and glory with the Lord. Those on the peripheral of society, the homeless, the poor and those who are unwell or for many reasons find this time of year particularly challenging are equally entitled to hear the Gospel of the Lord and be given the opportunity to share in the joy of the birth of Jesus. May our actions and words through this time of Advent both acknowledge the power and glory of the Lord, but may we share this joy with all around us.



Jane Kelly

Readings for the Week

Sunday Dec 8th - Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6,8-11; Luke 3:1-6

Monday 9th - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Genesis 3:9-15,20; Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12; Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday 10th - Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday 11th - Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday 12th - Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15

Friday 13th - Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday 14th - Ecclesiasticus 48:1-4,9-12; Matthew 17:10-13

Sunday 15th - Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-18; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18



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 Ōtari (Wilton and Karori).



'The witness of John the Baptist helps us to go forward in our witness of life. The purity of his proclamation, his courage in proclaiming the truth were able to reawaken the expectation and hope in the Messiah that had long been dormant... Jesus' disciples are called to be his humble but courageous witnesses in order to rekindle hope, to make it understood that, despite everything, the Kingdom of God continues to be built day by day.'

Pope Francis, [Angelus](#), 9 December 2018



**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.



Prayer Group

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



This Monday 9 December is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary and our Patronal Feast Day. There will be a Mass at 12.10pm in the Cathedral following the weekly rosary.



Second week of Advent

“May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women.” – Pope Francis

At Mass this Sunday we light the second purple candle on our Advent wreath, known as the Bethlehem candle. During this second week of Advent, we reflect on our lives and focus on becoming better-versions-of-ourselves in preparation for Jesus' coming. We remember the journey Joseph and Mary took from Nazareth to Bethlehem. This candle symbolises peace. It calls us to prepare the way of the Lord. *“This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”* (Luke 2:12, NIV)

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.

Sacred Heart Cathedral December 2024 to January 2025 Mass Times

Saturday Vigil:	5.30pm
Sunday:	10am, 7pm
Christmas Eve 24 December:	11.30pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 25 December:	10am
Tuesday to Saturday:	
26 December to 18 January 2025	8.30am
Monday 20 January 2025:	8.30am
From Tuesday 21 January 2025:	Normal Mass Times Resume

Please check <https://mcshwellington.org/calendar/> for more information.

Christmas Day Mass times

Christmas Mass times across the Archdiocese which covers the Greater Wellington region up to Levin and the Upper South Island will be listed on the Archdiocese of Wellington website mid-December. www.wn.catholic.org.nz

Shine TV – The Christmas Day Mass on Shine TV will be broadcast at 3.00pm for those unable to go to Mass.

Christmas Novena Masses (**Simbang Gabi**)

St Anne's, Newtown 15-23 Dec, 7pm. **Our Lady of Grace, Heretaunga** 15-18 Dec, 7pm.
Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa 15-23 Dec, 7pm. **St Joseph's, Upper Hutt** 19, 20, 22, 23 Dec, 7pm. 21 Dec, 6pm
Sacred Heart, Petone 15, 22 Dec, 5.30pm. 16-21, 23 Dec, 7pm.



EVENTS THIS WEEKEND

Fundraiser Bake Sale

Last Cake Bake Sale of the year at Masses on **Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 December**, and at the Car Boot Sale on Sunday 8 December. All contributions are most welcome and appreciated. Please contact **Geraldine Irinco** or the Parish Office (**04 496 1700**) with queries.



Car Boot Sale

You are all encouraged to support the Car Boot Sale this Sunday 8 December, 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. Please contact Joy at mcsf.fundraising@gmail.com or on **021 048 1216** with any queries.

There will be no morning tea at 10am Mass and everyone is encouraged to join in fellowship at the school grounds. Parking at the school grounds is only for sellers from 8:30am to 2:30pm.

Options for parking:

- St Mary's College will open its gates until 4pm
- Cathedral Parking
- Public Parking at CarePark until 1pm

NOTICES

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 local charities.



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 Laursen (027-230-9158)
for more information.

You will be made very welcome!

Archbishop's Appeal: Support Our Seminarians

Throughout December, Archbishop Paul invites you to contribute to the Archbishop's Appeal, which supports the formation of our Archdiocesan seminarians. Your generous donations will help cover the costs of their education at Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland, as well as their travel to and from the Archdiocese and ongoing pastoral care.

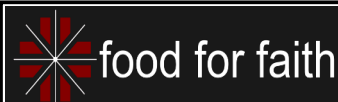
Please consider making a gift to help nurture and support those preparing for a life of service to the Church.

Donations can be made to **02-0536-0003306-13**

Reference: **your name**

Code: **AB Appeal**

HOLY CROSS SEMINARY 2024



FOOD FOR FAITH for Advent.

Sign up at www.foodforfaith.org.nz to prepare for Christmas receiving daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor's Food For Faith website.

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
www.mcshwellington.org
www.facebook.com/MCSHWWellington/

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.

 The latest edition of our parish school newsletter is available at: <https://sacredhcs.schoolzineplus.com/schoolnews?nid=290>



Ruth Doherty
Ira Hayes
Carolina delos Reyes
Alan Scicluna

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:

Wilijono Tanudjojo RIP 28 Nov



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

We Joyfully Wait for Jesus



TURN AWAY FROM YOUR SINS!

Advent is a time of joy, when we happily look forward to the coming of Jesus. Today's Gospel reading tells about how Saint John the Baptist went around telling everyone to repent and prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

An Advent wreath is a symbol of the coming of Jesus, our Light, into the world. It has three purple candles and one pink candle. One candle is lit on the first week of Advent, and one more is added every week until Christmas. Every week it gets a bit brighter because we are getting closer to Jesus' coming at Christmas.

The purple candles stand for repentance- being sorry and making up for our sins. The pink candle represents joy. It is lit on the third week of Advent because we rejoice that the waiting is half over.



Answer to Immaculate Conception Word-Find: HAIL MARY

www.thekidsbulletn.com

The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent
December 8th, 2024



Luke 3:1-6

In Advent we hear about Saint John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, who prepared the way for Jesus' coming. He preached to the people, telling them to repent, and baptized them.

When Jesus came Saint John told the people to follow Jesus because He was the Messiah.

Can you find your way from Saint John to Jesus?