



The Cathedral Connection



15 December 2024
Vol. 13 Issue 45
Third Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist

As the new liturgical year begins, we pick up Saint Luke's Gospel. Luke gives a fair bit of space in his opening chapters to Mary, and a similar amount to John the Baptist. John the Baptist is one of my favourite saints, and I have always thought of him as the saint of Advent. Luke and Matthew both pay him some attention, and I have found his uncompromising, 'get yourselves sorted out', message appealing. Those near and dear to me might say that's because I'm also good at telling others to sort themselves out...

Often, I think of John the Baptist's message in similar ways to how I think of the Sermon on the Mount and Matthew 25 ('whatever you did to the least of these, you did to me') – that is, as Pope Francis has said, as the Christian's identity cards. The messages are not complicated. Just very, very, challenging.

It's been said that Luke's Gospel pays particular attention to women. Certainly, the angel telling Zechariah that he and his wife Elizabeth, in their old age, were to have a son, can be read as a lovely story of God's goodness. And Luke tells us that their neighbours shared their joy that 'God had shown her so great a kindness'. But I can't help wondering if those same neighbours had for years looked askance at Elizabeth, 'whom men called barren'. This, alongside the Magnificat, is a story of liberation, and perhaps especially of liberation of and by women.

In his Angelus address, three years ago for this Sunday, Pope Francis noted that John's message is that you bring the kingdom of God where you are. At a minimum, you do your job honestly and conscientiously, and you share what you have with those in need. But there is more. There is an urgency to John's message. We have to change, now. We just cannot go on like this.

Our world is in crisis. All the evidence is that there are crises of climate change, of pollution, and of biodiversity – this last is a scientific word for the fact that human activity is compromising the rest of the natural world. As Pope Francis said of humans driving other species to extinction, 'we have no such right'. Wars rage. Some few men command obscene wealth while many, even in 'developed' countries like Aotearoa, struggle to live from day to day.

John the Baptist can seem like an angry man. 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the retribution that is coming to you?'. But we need such urgent voices, calling us to a change of heart and mind, so that the valleys will be filled in, the rough roads made smooth, and all the world shall see the salvation of our God.



Jim McAloon

Readings for the Week

Sunday 15th - Third Sunday of Advent

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

Monday 16th - Numbers 24:2-7,15-17; Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday 17th - Genesis 49:2,8-10; Matthew 1:1-17

Wednesday 18th - Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-24

Thursday 19th - Judges 13:2-7,24-25; Luke 1:5-25

Friday 20th - Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38

Saturday 21st - Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45

Sunday 22nd - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45



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).



"What then shall we do?..." The Gospel reminds us of something important: life has a task for us. Life is not meaningless; it is not left to chance. It is a gift the Lord grants us, saying to us: discover who you are, and work hard to make the dream that is your life come true! Each of us — let us not forget this — *has a mission to accomplish*. Let us ask ourselves as well: what would be good for me to do for myself and for my brothers and sisters? How can I contribute to the good of the Church, to the good of society?

Pope Francis, [Angelus](#), 12 December 2021.



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 - On Sunday, 22 December. Resumes on Sunday, 2 February 2025.

Rosary - Every Monday (except Public Holidays)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is available on Thursdays in the Cathedral 7am—7pm. Everyone is welcome. 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

Scripture Reflection evenings have finished for the year and will resume **on Tuesday 21 January 2025**, in the Foyer of the Cathedral. Do come and try it.

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

LAST CHANCE! - 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.



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

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:	<i>Normal Mass Times Resume</i>

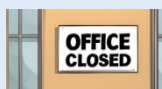
Please check <https://mcshwellington.org/calendar/> for more information.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

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



Next Thursday 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.



The Parish Office will be closed next Thursday 19 Dec from 1.30pm and will re-open Friday morning. The office will also be closed for the Christmas Break from 12noon 24 December 2024 and reopen at 10am Tuesday 21 January 2025. *Wishing you a very happy and holy Christmas and 2025.*

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



Christmas Novena Masses (Simbang Gabi) Begin this Sunday

- 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.

Beautiful 2025 Bible Diaries

are now available for sale. These make a beautiful gift and at only \$20ea you can buy one for yourself and one for a friend. Available after Mass or during the week from our little foyer shop.





Third week of Advent

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:8–11, NIV)

This Sunday is "Gaudete Sunday" and the liturgical colour changes to rose pink. Hence, this third candle in the advent wreath is pink. It symbolises rejoicing (Joy) and is known as the Shepherd's candle. During the third week of Advent, we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day. We reflect on the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem and the joy they felt at the birth of Jesus. How is Jesus inviting you to experience greater joy this Advent?

The O Antiphons an Advent prayer 17 - 23 December

The **O Antiphons** serve as a powerful way to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ and hold a significant place in the final week of Advent. For over a thousand years, the O antiphons have been part of the prayer of the church. The prayers have their origins in the 8th century and are traditionally sung or recited during the Vespers (evening prayers) in the Liturgy of the Hours. Nearly 600 years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah wrote about him. Early Christian writers saw this as prefiguring Christ's coming. Throughout many passages in the Book of Isaiah, Jesus is referred to with many different names and titles. Known as the O Antiphons, we pray with these different names and titles during the last week of Advent. Each antiphon addresses Christ with a different title, reflecting various aspects of His identity and mission. They invite us to reflect on His profound wisdom and leadership, the fulfilment of the promises made to Israel, and His role as the key to salvation. They also remind us of the hope and light that Christ brings into the world, as well as His ultimate reign as King. You might like to pray with these each evening from 17 December.

DECEMBER 17 Bible Verse: And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear (Isaiah 11:2-3)

Antiphon: O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

DECEMBER 18 Bible Verse: But with righteousness he shall judge the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins. (Isaiah 11:4-5)

Antiphon: O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

DECEMBER 19 Bible Verse: In that day the root of Jesse shall stand as an ensign to the peoples; him shall the nations seek, and his dwellings shall be glorious. (Isaiah 11:10)

Antiphon: O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

DECEMBER 20 Bible Verse: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

Antiphon: O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

DECEMBER 21 Bible Verse: But there will be no gloom for her that was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. (Isaiah 9:1)

Antiphon: O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

DECEMBER 22 Bible Verse: He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. (Isaiah 2:4)

Antiphon: O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

DECEMBER 23

Bible Verse: Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

Antiphon: O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL PARISH

Please keep in your prayers

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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=291>



- Ruth Doherty
- Ira Hayes
- Carolina delos Reyes
- Alan Scicluna
- Sue Alexander

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
- Nigel Phillips RIP 7 Dec
- Maria Orfea Sison Cueto RIP 7 Dec

December / January Anniversaries:

- Dec 11 Perlinda Irinco
- 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

Pointing the Way to Jesus



In today's Gospel reading we hear about the people being filled with expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Saint John the Baptist told the people how to prepare for his coming- by doing good and repenting of their sins.

At first the people thought that John the Baptist might be the Messiah. But Saint John was only a messenger. We can think of him as a sign-post pointing the way to Jesus. People came to see and hear him,



and he showed them the way to God.

How can you be like Saint John the Baptist and show other people the way to Jesus?



Answers to Crossword Puzzle:
Across: 1 peace 3 shall 5 thanksgiving 9 near 11 all 13 sisters 15 Christ Down: 1 petition 2 again 4 have 6 kindness 7 guard 8 God 10 your 12 Lord 14 in 15 to

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15th, 2024

I AM BAPTIZING YOU WITH WATER, BUT ONE MIGHTIER THAN I IS COMING. I AM NOT WORTHY TO UNLACE THE THONGS OF HIS SANDALS.

HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WITH FIRE.



Luke 3:10-18

God sent Saint John the Baptist to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus. What did he say when some of the people thought that he might be the saviour? Look in the mirror to find out!